

INSTAGRAM: There will be a new site starting shortly. Ruth Thom is spearheading it. Samantha will be managing it. When it is up and running a link will be put on Facebook and on the website. Instagram will be used to promote informational posts for the BLCA.

NEWSLETTER: JUNE 26th is the deadline for submitting articles for the newsletter.

DIRECTORY: The directories were complete and picked up today. Scott R. and Brad K. will hand deliver within the next 2 weeks. Directories can only be put into residents extra black plastic newspaper boxes, not in any residents US Mailbox, due to the federal law. Directories will be available at the Palmer General Store and some will be mailed to various residents.

SUNSHINE: No cards mailed out this month.

Adele will send a Thank you card to Roger Johnson and the Palmer Township for the donation for fireworks display. Adele asked that we do not dissolve the "Sunshine mailings" because she likes to do this duty as a committee member. The discussion about dissolving the committee was tabled until a future meeting.

TLID: Scott R. stated that Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) spraying was completed in May and they will determine the outcome later this Summer. The TLID will be developing their budget at their general August meeting. Water testing started in May/June and will continue weekly through September for our regular water testing with additional testing for the Alum Feasibility Study that the BLCA received the \$50,000 grant for in 2023.

COLA: Shelly AP & Scott R. Had a meeting on June 7, 2023. During the 2023 Legislative session the Omnibuzz bill was adopted by the Senate with a few negotiated additions such as the addition for ice fishing cleanup efforts, approval of reimbursement of approx. \$27 million dollars to SWCD in aid payable between 2023-2025. Which some funding will be used for additional funding for AIS prevention & creating a AIS Management Plan, AIS Inspectors, research centers for AIS testing specimens, boat launch repairs, ditches, culverts and streams with the DNR and within the Palmer Township. SWCD is trying to create a program that all COLA's can partner to use the same testing center to possible cut down on costs and transporting efforts. MN COLA has a new website with large amounts of information.

MNCOLA.org. Funding AIS rakes at launches was tabled for a future meeting.

Scott R. - Rum River & Mississippi Watershed Comprehensive Plan kicked off with their initial meeting in May with their citizen advisory committee made up of citizens from diverse backgrounds from farmers, lake property owners to even a bakery owner. More information to follow.

HEALTHY LAKES: There are 6 Gentle Footprint projects developing right now with 2 projects from last year on hold. 4 of 6 site visits have been completed and plans are being generated between Franny (SWCD) and Bre (MNL). The Healthy Lakes Plant bank has approved 7 projects and have 1 pending awaiting applicant responses and further funding. Applicants must be a BLCA member and forms are on the BLCA website. Bre and/or Franny will do a site visit to determine what plants/seeds are best for project areas.

Ruth T. The first annual Youth Paddle was a success. There were 2 families that participated with a total of 7 children of varying ages. There was plenty of equipment for the children to try-out. Ruth and Naomi provided donated, chips/snacks, water and juice pouches for the children and had yard games for them to enjoy while they waited to try water equipment or when they were done. Parents were very

appreciative and gave positive feedback. It was discovered during the event that these families did not live on a lake, but the children wanted to come out and enjoy the water equipment and are looking forward to next years event. Hopefully next year will be a large event/turn-out and Ruth and Naomi will submit advertising materials at local schools before the end of the 2024 school year and promote the event more heavily for 2024.

Ruth T. stated that Cameron G. resigned from the HL Committee and will be replaced by Bre Bauerly as a co-chair and who is also our rep. with MN Native Landscapes (MNL).

WATER TESTING: Walt M. reported that testing started in May and continues weekly. Testing for PH, Sediment, Temperature and oxygen levels. A new “van dorn” testing machine was provided for collecting water samples from 1ft from the bottom and top of the lakes for the Alum Feasibility study. Walt stated they are looking for more volunteers for water testing because it takes several hours and having multiple people makes it easier to collect the numerous samples needed weekly. Because it takes several months for funding to go through, the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) paid the most recent testing bill according to Dan C. (SWCD).

BIG ELK PARK: There has been vandalization at the buildings. They will be building new buildings. Lots of planting planned. The Native American tribes must be present every day.

AUGUST MEMBERSHIP MEETING: Shelly AP> suggested to have a guest speaker from the 1W1P presentation, Steve McComas, the Water Detective at our membership meeting. She will contact Steve and see if he is available and check on booking costs.

JULY 4TH EVENTS: The boat parade will be Saturday July 1, 2023 beginning with the line up at 11:45am to get numbers and register your boat. Gary Anderson will lead the parade on Big Elk. The upper 3 lakes need volunteers to lead the parade. Rules and Regulations were created by Shelly AP. and approved by the committee. The R & R's will be posted on Facebook approx.. 2 weeks prior to the boat parade and they will also be handed out to participates in their parade packet from our registration volunteers so every participate has a paper copy to read prior to the parade.

WATER GUARDS: Ruth T. it was brought to her attention at a HL meeting that a 19yr. female water guard, which are trained/hired through the DNR and paid with DNR & BLCA funds, was being harassed at one of our lakes boat launches. This female individual brought it to her supervisors attention and Shelly contacted Cole P., Palmer Township board members and Dan C. to make them aware of this situation as well. Dan C. informed the BLCA that this has been occurring at other launches as well and is on law enforcements radar and they will watch for this type of behavior in the future.

Motion to adjourn the meeting 6:03pm: Margie M. - second Scott R.

Respectfully submitted:

Shelly Alger-Peyton for Debbie Stacey, Secretary