

BLCA BOARD MINUTES November 11, 2023 – Monthly Meeting 8:30am

P Shelly Alger-Peyton, President

P Tom Nordin, Vice President

P Robin Uchanski, Treasurer

A Vacant, Secretary

Brad Kipp **P**

Bre Bauerly **P**

Adele Musterman **P**

Rosalie Musachio **P**

Margie Macauley **P**

Guests: Scott R., Walt M.

Meeting was called to order at 8:32am

Introduction of board members

Motion to accept agenda as presented – motion – Adele M., second – Margie M. – motion passed.

Motion to accept past meeting minutes – Brad K., second - Robin U., motion passed.

FINANCIALS: Robin presented the financials through October 2023.

- Robin is double-checking transactions back to 2021 and will report if any discrepancies are found.
- Liability insurance invoice was paid, our COLA membership was paid and it was decided to not send in the MN Conservation Waters membership since we have not been paid members for the last 3yrs.
- Paypal login issues have been resolved by Brad K. and we can have 6-8 users with our account settings, at this time Shelly AP., Robin U., Brad K. and Bre B. will have access and Brad K. will give the login information to the 3 account members.
- Motion to accept the financials as presented – motion – Brad K., second Margie – M., motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Membership**
- As of October, membership is at approximately 260 members.
 - It was decided that Brad K. will print all membership forms and bring to the Dec. meeting and 3-4 volunteers (Shelly, Robin, Adele, Brad and others TBD) will assist with the Jan. BLCA membership packet mailing prep after the Dec. 9, 2023 mtg.
 - We are still in need of a secretary on the exec. board, talk to neighbors, friends, etc. for a volunteer.
 - Bre B. looked into an option for an online BLCA membership form submission that is compatible with our website program.
 - WPforms Pro was found to be compatible and will give us options to customize a membership form including all of our donation categories and volunteer preferences.
 - Cost is \$99 for 1yr. subscription, motion to subscribe to WPforms Pro - made by Shelly AP., seconded by Margie M., motion passed. Bre B. will handle subscription and submit receipt for reimbursement.

- Facebook:** - Things are going well and currently there are approximately 3800 members. If anyone notices anything inappropriate or questionable, inform Shelly AP. or Ruth T.
- Instagram:** - There is a new site editor, Samantha Pulmski. Send her any information or videos that you would like posted.
- Newsletter:** - Brad K. will email out the newsletter last week of every month, have any pictures, articles to him before the 3rd week of each month.
- Website:** - Bre Bauerly took over the website editing and is working on cleaning up information overload issues. Doug Solem is the editor for the TLID link and will be adding information about the "Point Intercept" survey that is on a 5yr. cycle and costs \$1900.00 annually, Rush Lake was completed in 2023 and Lake Julia will be surveyed in summer of 2024.
- Directory:** - We are still in need of an editor(s) to replace Roger and Lynn Miller. Talk to neighbors, friend, etc. for interest. Dave M. expressed interest in possibly volunteering.
- Sunshine:** - No activity this month.
- TLID:** - TLID is going to see if any committee members of the BLCA, TLID or Healthy Lakes would like to take the U of M 101 AIS Identification class which is 4-6 weeks in length and the TLID will apply for a similar grant as 2022 to get tuition paid. Shelly AP., Todd L. and Doug S. expressed interest.
- Doug S. is going to look into different skimmer companies for picking up floating dead weeds and algae in the Spring and mid-Summer and contracting with local farmers to pickup nutrient rich weeds. He will report findings to the TLID and BLCA for consideration.
- COLA:** - Shelly A.P. – Watershed Advisory Board will meet in Nov. Scott R. is our SC COLA rep., 1W1P committee meets quarterly to discuss plan and Dan. C. will send out updates and the COLA is looking at creating a "Shared Water Testing Committee" to create a plan to have all COLA members use one lab for water testing to cut down on costs that will meet in Nov.
- Healthy Lakes:** - Bre B. – Additional approved BLCA funds will need to be transferred to the Healthy Lakes Plant Bank Program in the Spring of 2024 for individuals on the waiting list and for additional applications.
- Ruth T. researched the Lake Steward Program through the MN Lakes and Rivers program (MLR), that the BLCA is a paying sponsor of. It was suggested that the BLCA purchase 20 aluminum Lake Steward signs that are \$50 each, however ½ is paid for by MLR with our sponsorship and ½ would be paid for by the BLCA for a total of \$500. Each BLCA paid sponsor would take a survey about their property that would be specifically generated by MLR's for the Briggs Lake Chain and it rates their property and conservation/lake steward involvement. This would give participants a result of being a good lake steward and they would then earn a sign for their lakeshore or they would need additional suggestions and then get involved in the Healthy Lakes Plant Bank, Gentle Footprint and/or SWCD conservation programs to become a MLR's Lake Steward and earn a "Lake Steward" sign for their lakeshore. The 3 HL's volunteers to head this new MLR's program are Ruth T., Bre B. and Naomi K. - Motion to give Healthy Lakes \$500 to purchase 20 MLR's Lake Steward signs was made by Brad K., second by Rosalie M. – motion passed.

Water Testing – Walt M. – Testing results will be available in January 2024.

- Walt will present results at a Palmer Township meeting, because the Township pays for the water testing annually.
- BLCA pays for Walt's milage to drop-off water samples 2 times per month.
- Walt will attend the COLA meeting in Nov. to discuss water testing locations, the BLCA has used Instrumental Labs in Fridley for the last 16yrs. and has had good results and Walt will let the COLA know about our experience.
- The water testing volunteers and backups from 2023 have volunteered again for the 2024 season.

Big Elk Park – Tom N. was not present for an update.

EVENTS & PROGRAMS:

Ice Day on the Chain 2024 – February 10, 2024 – Shelly AP. - volunteers are needed for setup on Friday, February 9th, event day and Cleanup on Sunday, February 11th. Budget discussion will take place again at the 2025 annual meeting in August.

Lighted Train on the Chain – Saturday, December 2, 2023 – Robert Sinclair heads up this event, watch the BLCA Facebook page for details.

4th of July Fireworks & Boat Parade – July 4, 2024 is on a Thursday, it was decided we give "Res Pyro" our preferred choices for fireworks as: 1st choice - Saturday, July 6th & 2nd choice – Friday, July 5th, Shelly AP. will email them to schedule and confirm.

McDonald's Meats Brat/Porkchop sale – Brad K. will look into the dates when the BLCA has to have their choices sent in so we don't miss the deadline, choices dues approximately every February. We typically requested Thurs. – Sat. and the end of June was normally profitable.

OLD BUSINESS:

Neighborhood Watch on Briggs Chain – Should this be regenerated? Who will chair this group?
- This was tabled for this meeting and will be revisited in the future.

BLCA Goals and Objectives for 2024 were presented - no discussion/revisions were suggested, and a motion was made to accept 2024 Goals & Objectives - Shelly AP., seconded by Robin U. – motion carried.

By-Laws revision discussion - will be tabled and discussed at June 2024 membership meeting and any revisions approved at the Annual meeting in August 2024.

Schedule Steve McComas for a Spring presentation 2024 - Shelly AP. reached out and waiting to get details.

Need a volunteer(s) to put out/remove high water signs as needed throughout the Spring/Summer months - High Water statue number needs to be updated on each sign before Spring 2024. Scott R. will create a map as to where signs need to be posted during high water events.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discuss possibility of getting volunteers to setup a weekend/weekday schedule to deliver ice fishing etiquette fliers & garbage bags to all ice houses on all 4 lakes throughout the ice fishing season, Shelly AP. will generate/find a flier to deliver to fish houses through the ice fishing season along with orange/yellow garbage bag costs.
- Need a volunteer to update "Welcome Walker" packet for 2023/24 for new residents. Shelly will email original document to volunteer for editing.
- Shelly AP. will put together "Welcome Packets" for board members to distribute to new community members that move to the lake/neighborhood. Packets will include: Welcome Walker packet, membership form, Gentle Footprint & Health Lakes Plant program information, anything else?
- Who pays for dumpsters at boat launches? Shelly AP. is checking into this question and it is possible that the township pays for the dumpsters, but she will find out.
- Need a volunteer(s) to move porta potties and/or work with the Township to move these up to dry land on all 3 or 4 lake accesses every Spring to avoid the potties tipping over during high water and spilling into our lake water and then returning them to their original locations once water recedes, Shelly AP. will see if someone can contact Nelson Sanitation in the Spring and/or if a community member can move the units.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelly Alger-Peyton, President

Upcoming November/December Meetings

BLCA Board Meeting:	2 nd Saturday of the month – Dec. 9 th at 8:30 am
Clear Lake Township Board:	3 rd Tues of the month – Nov. 21 st at 7:00 pm
Healthy Lakes:	1 st Thursday of the month – Dec. 7 th at 6:30 pm
3 Lake LID meeting:	1 st Monday of the month – Dec. 4 th at 6:00 pm
Palmer Township Board meeting:	2 nd Monday - Dec. 11 th at 7:00 pm