

BLCA BOARD MINUTES NOVEMBER 9, 2024

Palmer Town Hall

Present:

Shelly Alger-Peyton, President

Pete DeJongh

Rosalie Musachio

Brad Kipp

Adele Munsterman

Dave Baughn

Bre Bauerly

Guests:

Walt Munsterman

Scott Ruiter

Andrew & Janet Stowe

Bob Sass

President Shelly Alger-Peyton opened the meeting at 8:38 am

Agenda presented. Motion to accept the agenda was made, seconded and motion passed.

Minutes were presented for approval. A motion to accept the minutes was made and seconded. Motion passed

Financials were discussed. The second half of the Alum feasibility grant was approved and will be received before the end of 2024. A motion was made to accept the financials and seconded, motion passed.

Membership. There are 228 members. Brad brought colored paper to vote on for the 2025 placards for members. The color voted on by the board was orange. Volunteers that have offered to help: Dave B, Pete D, Shelly, Adele. Need a location to prepare membership mailing.

Facebook There are 4600+ members on Facebook. We have 3 admins for the Facebook page.

BLCA Website Bre handles our website and is updating as needed. Financials are updated quarterly on the website. Online forms and payments will continue to be on there. The renewal for our online forms program is due for 2025 in the amount of \$99.00. A motion was made to pay the renewal, a second was made, motion approved.

Directory Dave M. is compiling a list of advertisers, if you know of anyone who could advertise in the directory, contact Dave M. The target release date for the 2025 directory is before Memorial Day.

Newsletter. Brad needs any information for the newsletter to him by November 25th.

Sunshine mailing. Adele is still sending cards. Please let her know if you know of anyone who should get a card.

TLID Bob S. reported that James Johnson through Freshwater Scientific completed the Eurasian Milfoil survey for this year and it was found that all lakes are clear of this AIS. The TLID is working on a new Management Plan, last one was completed in 2018. James Johnson is going to come to a TLID meeting and explain the results from 2018 and future options. Grant paperwork has been completed for 2024. The annual report has been filed with the State of MN and Palmer Township. Josie, a newly elected TLID member, has had to step down due to personal reasons, so there is an open position on the TLID if anyone wants to step up to be a representative.

COLA Shelly emailed out a motion regarding a geo-fencing grant program after this meeting due to receiving late email information. The grant program is through the Keep It Clean non-profit organization and the MN Star and Tribune. Geo-fencing is a digital marketing tool that creates a defined virtual boundary around a specified area(s). When smartphones (having location services enabled) enter this designated zone, targeted advertisements will be delivered to their devices. The BLCA voted and passed a motion to participate in this grant program totaling an expense total of \$500 for the BLCA. Total cost of the program is \$2,000, Keep It Clean is offering a grant of \$1000 and the COLA will pay \$500 as well. Similar programs such as this range from \$60,000+. This grant program will be able to get out the lake conservation message of Clean up before/during/after ice fishing outings message on all 4 of our lakes & launches from mid December 2024 through Feb./March 2025.

Healthy Lakes reported that the carp survey is complete. A Stantec rep will present to the healthy lakes committee on November 14th via Zoom so viewers can sit at home and watch. Ruth will make a posting on Facebook about the Zoom meeting so viewers can request the link and it will also be published in the Dec. newsletter.

Bre also states there is \$226 left from the Plant Bank that she will use for a Spring free tree/shrub give away similar to last years give away program.

Water Testing. Walt reported on water testing and end date of October 22nd for the year. Clarity in October from the Secchi discs in Julia was 2ft, Rush 8ft, Briggs 9ft and Elk did not test, which is unusual for this time of year, it should be clearer. Final report will be available soon.

Elk Lake Park Rosalie reported that there is one walking trail at this time and will not have a second trail this year. There is a place to park and signage where to enter. The one walking trail will be plowed during winter months. No meeting in December.

Events The 4th of July falls on a Friday this year and it was decided that we would have our boat parade on Saturday July 5, 2025 and Shelly will contact Res Pyro to try and schedule our fireworks display for that evening as well.

McDonald's Meats Brat Sale fundraiser 2025 - Bre will watch for the email to submit our preferred dates for this fundraiser which are typically sent out in February.

Old Business

Do we want to re-start the neighborhood watch around the lakes? Questions are: who will take the lead and chair? What would the date be and how will the BLCA support it.

How to get more people to attend the meetings. Looking for volunteers to join a membership committee that will create a meeting/presenter schedule. It was decided to have 4 membership meetings that have a special theme. Ideas were a presentation on Loons, plant giveaways, master gardener presentations, meet and greet with Sherburne County. The membership meeting committee will start a calendar so people know what's at each meeting.

Also need a volunteer to update the Welcome Walker book.

We need to come up with more fundraising ideas and will need volunteers for the ones we currently have. Some of our events are Ice Days, Highway 25 clean up, Garage sale, Shoreline planting assistance, McDonald's meats sale, Membership meeting, 4th of July parade and fireworks display, Palmer food booth, Palmer parade entry.

New Business

Volunteers are needed for the "Annual Membership Meeting Committee."

Need to draft the 2025 committee goals & objectives. These will be approved at the December meeting.

Review volunteers/events/committee chairs for the 2024/2025 events:

Membership mailing prep – Brad K. & Tom N.?

Ice Day on the Chain – Shelly AP.

McDonald's Meats brat/chop sale – Bre B. & Shelly AP.?

4th of July boat parade & fireworks – Brad K. & Gary A.?

Palmer Day parade entry & food booth – Brad K.- parade? - Lyf & Shelly (food booth)

No new volunteers were found at this meeting.

Discuss possibility of getting volunteers to set up 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. Geo-fencing is being discussed at the COLA meeting in November for the ice fishing season.

Need a volunteer to update "Welcome Walker" packet for 2024/2025 for new residents. Shelly will email the original document to the volunteer for editing.

Need a volunteer or volunteers to put out and remove high water signs as needed throughout the Spring/Summer months. Signs are currently in BLCA closet at the Townhall. Scott R. volunteered to put out & remove highwater signs for upper 3 lakes. Shelly will contact Gary A. for Big Elk signage.

Do we order new signs with new wording/logo/color? A discussion about ordering new signs was completed and one suggestion was to have the amount of the misdemeanor fine listed on the sign, however no motion was made to order new highwater signage. A discussion about property owners contacting the Sherburne County non-emergency number to report boaters not obeying the no-wake ordinance was suggested, this will in-turn create a log of more reported illegal activity which will show that the Briggs Chain needs more Law Enforcement presence on our lakes during these highwater ordinance times.

Any interest in ordering BLCA shirts/merchandise?

Meeting adjourned at 9:54am

Upcoming meetings

BLCA	2nd Saturday of each month at 8:30
Clear Lake Township Board	3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm
Healthy Lakes	1st Thursday of the month at 6:30 pm
T-Lid meeting	1st Monday of the month at 6:00 pm