

**BLCA BOARD MINUTES    December 14, 2024    Palmer Town Hall**

**Present:**

**Shelly Alger - Peyton, President**

**Tom Nordin, Vice - President**

**Adele Munsterman, Secretary**

**Lake Reps: David Baughn, Bre Bauerly, Brad Kipp, Rosalie Musachio, Bob Sass, Brad Thom**

**Absent: Pete DeJongh, Charisse Max**

**Guests: Walt Munsterman, Scott Ruiter**

**President Shelly Alger-Peyton called the meeting to order at 8:38 A.M.**

**Motion made and seconded to accept the agenda. Motion passed.**

**Board members reviewed the minutes from the November 9, 2024, meeting. Motion made and seconded to accept the minutes. Motion passed.**

**The Financial Report was discussed. Both a long and a short version were handed out. Everything has been set up with the bank for our new Treasurer to be ready for 2025. Receipt of a \$5,000 amount from an alum study grant is still pending. Motion made and seconded to accept the Financial Report. Motion passed.**

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership: There are 228 BLCA members, to-date. Brad Kipp reported that the forms for 2025 have been printed. Volunteers will be needed to help with the stuffing of envelopes for the annual mailing. They will be sent out to all area residents mid-January.**

**Newsletter: The deadline to submit items to Brad Kipp for the January newsletter is December 23.**

**Directory: Please give ideas for advertisers for the 2025 edition to Dave Maier.**

**Sunshine Committee: Thank-you notes will be sent to those people who finished their terms on the BLCA Board in 2024.**

**T-LID: Bob Sass reported that one position is open on the TLID Board. He thanked Bre Bauerly and Ruth Thom for doing an excellent job on the Alum Report. The priority for 2025 will be carp management first, then alum. Grant proposals for 2025 have been submitted.**

**Two ideas were discussed: 1. A CARP CORNER in the BLCA newsletter, with a monthly update. 2. Ask the DNR if informational cards about carp could be ordered and handed out at Ice Day in February.**

**COLA: Shelly Alger - Peyton regularly attends the Zoom meetings of the Coalition of Lake Associations. She reported that the position of Secretary on that Board is open.**

**There was discussion of AirBnB and VRBO properties around the lakes. The SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District) is looking at the issue. Plans are to organize a meeting of owners of those properties to educate them about conservation and AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species). BLCA Welcome Walker packets will be given to the owners.**

**There will be a Watershed Planning Meeting on December 5 to discuss policies and procedures, as well as how \$1.5M in funding will be spent.**

**Geo-fencing will be done on all 4 of our lakes (but not on the channels), from December through February/March. Our participation in the program will be funded by a \$1,000 grant received from the Keep It Clean non-profit organization and the Star Tribune, plus \$500 from the COLA and a \$500 contribution by the Briggs Lake Association. Let's get out the word about cleaning up before/during/after ice fishing!**

**The MAISRC (MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center) at the U of M campus in St. Paul will offer a free tour of its lab at 6:30 P.M. on May 7, 2025. There is a 25-person limit for registrants.**

**Healthy Lakes: Bre Bauerly reported that plans for 2025 include a continuation of the free plant/shrub giveaway, certification of 8 more Lake Stewards, and making more funds available through the BLCA Plant Bank.**

**Water Testing: The lab report for 2024 will be out in February. Walt Munsterman will make a presentation of test results at a future Palmer Town Board meeting and at a BLCA Board meeting.**

**There was a discussion about crayfish in our lakes, discovered when docks were taken out this fall. They are considered non-edible and an invasive species.**

**Big Elk Lake Park: Rosalie Musachio reported that there will be no December meeting.**

**Events:**

**Lighted Train Parade:** The weather was great this year! Twenty-four units participated in the event.

**Ice Day on the Chain:** Scheduled for February 8, the day before the Super Bowl. Volunteers will be needed for both set-up on Saturday morning and clean-up on Sunday morning. Shelly Alger - Peyton will make BLCA Membership Forms and other handouts available.

**There was discussion of the BLCA having 4 General Membership meetings in 2025, with the goal of increasing attendance and participation. A motion was made and seconded to set the following dates as General Membership Meetings: May 10, June 13, July 12, and August 9. Motion passed. As usual, the monthly BLCA Board meetings will precede the General Membership meetings. Tentative ideas for educational themes and guest speakers include:**

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<b>Saturday, May 10</b>	<b>Summer Kick-off</b>	<b>U of M Master Gardener, Spring planting, rain gardens</b>
<b>Friday, June 13</b>	<b>BLCA Picnic</b>	<b>Update on MN laws, Water/boating safety</b>
<b>Saturday, July 12</b>	<b>Mid-summer</b>	<b>DNR representative, speaking about loons and/or eagles</b>
<b>Saturday, August 9</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Report about carp management BLCA Board Elections</b>

**Shelly Alger – Peyton announced that volunteers will be needed to update the Welcome Walker folders, and to post the High-Water signs, when needed next spring/summer. Let her know if you can help.**

**Tom Nordin and Scott Ruiter have volunteered to post the new ice fishing signs that explain the MN law about penalties for littering.**

**New Business:**

**Board members were encouraged to review the BLCA By-laws. If there are any changes proposed for 2025, the following schedule must be followed:**

**June meeting – Propose By-law changes**

**August meeting – Vote on By-law changes at Annual Meeting**

**Rosalie Musachio asked that Zoom meetings be considered, especially in the case of a vote needed by the BLCA Board on an urgent issue.**

**Discussion of the date of the February BLCA Board meeting scheduled for the same day as Ice Day. Shelly will check on the availability of the Town Hall for February 1 or 15, as an alternative.**

**Discussion of future events: The Boat Parade will be on July 4. Brad Kipp again offered to drive his convertible in the Palmer Day parade.**

**Brad Thom tentatively offered his home as the site to stuff envelopes on December 30. Time TBD.**

**Discussion of an idea proposed by Chuck Heinemann, to set up a Call Chain to do a weekly wellness check on single/elderly area residents. No action taken.**

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 A.M.**

**Upcoming meetings**

<b>T-LID (Three-lake LID)</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month at 6:00 P.M.</b>
<b>Healthy Lakes</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month at 6:30 P.M.</b>
<b>Palmer Township Board</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month at 7:00 P.M.</b>
<b>BLCA Board</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month at 8:30 A.M.</b>
<b>Clear Lake Township Board</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 7:00 P.M.</b>