

BLCA BOARD MINUTES MARCH 14, 2026 PALMER TOWN HALL

Present: Shelly Alger-Peyton, President; Adele Munsterman, Vice-President; Charisse Max, Treasurer; David Baughn, Pete DeJongh, Dave Jacobsen, Rosalie Musachio

Absent: Bre Bauerly, Brad Kipp, Dave Maiers, Tom Nordin, Brad Thom

Guests: Jesse Max, Walt Munsterman, Scott Ruitter, Ice Day Organizers Forrest and Karl.

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 A.M. by President Alger-Peyton.

A motion was made and seconded to adopt the proposed agenda. Motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve minutes from the February 14, 2026, Board meeting, as submitted. Motion passed.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Forrest and Karl, the organizers of last month's Ice Day, gave a re-cap of the event and reported expenditures for 2026.

Payments for 60 memberships were received in February, totaling \$2,440. Incoming donations totaled \$4, 140. Total income for the month ending on 2/28 was \$6, 571.07.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Financial Report for February, 2026. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Membership: To-date, there are 152 paid BLCA memberships. Some difficulties were reported with paying online. Dave Jacobsen will investigate the use of Venmo. A reminder to Board members: Welcome Walker packets are available to give to new area residents. Talk to Shelly if you need some.

Social Media: No report.

Newsletter: Items for the April edition are due to Brad Kipp by March 22.

Communications: The BLCA Website has been updated.

Palmer Directory: No report.

Sunshine Chair: Cards and stamps were purchased to replenish the supply.

TLID (Three-lake Improvement District): No grants were received from the DNR for this year. Big Elk Lake has some grant money remaining from last year. An alum grant proposal was written and will be submitted to the State. A Hot Link button to the Carp Solutions report received last month can be found under **Invasive Species** on the BLCA website. There are an estimated 18,000 carp in the upper three lakes. (Big Elk Lake was not included in the study.) The migration patterns of the carp tagged last summer will be traced.

SC COLA: The Sherburne County Coalition of Lake Associations will meet on March 18, on Zoom. A volunteer is needed to attend some of the COLA meetings, sharing the

responsibility with Shelly Alger-Payton. Talk to Shelly if you are interested. SC COLA sponsors are needed to assist the COLA with lake association conservation efforts.

HEALTHY LAKES: The Saturday, June 13, BLCA meeting will be held at the Palmer Park pavilion and will include a pancake breakfast. Tables will be set up with educational materials for attendees to pick up. Cole Petroski from the Sherburne County Sheriff's Office and Trent Seamans from the DNR will be the guest speakers. The BLCA Plant Giveaway will be held the same day.

Registration is open for the Shoreline Training program being offered at the Sherburne County History Center in Becker on Thursday, March 26, 9:00 A.M. to Noon. Kailee Vick is the contact person for questions and registration.

WATER TESTING: Scott Ruiter reported on test results of the water samples taken from May to October, 2025. Phosphorus levels were up in Rush and Briggs lakes, but stable in Lake Julia and Big Elk Lake. Chlorophyl A (green algae) levels were up in all four lakes after the 4th of July. Scott thanked the volunteers for their weekly time commitment to collecting water samples. Palmer Township will continue to pay for the lab tests and tracking of the results.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: No report. The committee has not met.

TWO INLETS PARK: Deconstruction of the final structures is in progress, but funding is needed. Planting of the Oak Savannah continues.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND PROGRAMS

The form to apply for a brats/pork chops fund-raiser at McDonald's Meats has been submitted and accepted, dates TBD. Many volunteers will be needed to staff the sale over a weekend!

Please note the dates for this year's events:

May 2: Palmer Township Clean-up Day

May: Highway 25 Roadside Clean-up: Date TBD

May 7-10: Briggs Lake Chain Garage Sales

May 9: Fishing Opener

June 13: BLCA Plant Giveaway, Palmer Park

Friday, July 3: Fireworks Show at 9:30 P.M./dusk

Saturday, July 4: Boat Parades at Noon

August 8: BLCA Annual Meeting

August 12: Hand-pulling of Purple Loosestrife (AIS)

OLD BUSINESS:

A BLCA Secretary and a Membership Co-Chair are urgently needed! There are still open committee and lake rep positions. Talk to Shelly Alger-Peyton if you are willing to help!

The calendar of guest speakers for the Spring and Summer BLCA meetings will be posted once it has been completed and all speakers have been confirmed. If there is anyone in the area who could make a 20-to-30-minute presentation about gardening after the April 11 BLCA Board meeting, please contact Shelly Alger-Peyton. Is there a Master Gardener available?

Dan Cibulka of the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) will send out Watercraft Inspector quotes for 2026. A rate-increase is anticipated. The BLCA has budgeted \$3,000 but may need to add to that amount.

Shelly Alger-Peyton is waiting to hear from Ron Rademacher for the Spring dates for fish stocking on the four lakes.

NEW BUSINESS:

High Water Alerts: Steve Demeules will continue to measure the lake water levels, should they rise. Scott Ruitter will post High Water/No Wake signs, as needed. Brad Kipp will send out Emails to residents of Big Elk Lake and/or the upper three lakes, based on water levels.

President Alger-Peyton will get a price quote for 7 or more new signs "Why Join the BLCA?" The old ones have deteriorated and need to be replaced.

Following the discussion of Ice Day, a motion was made and seconded for the BLCA Board to adopt a resolution that clarifies its role as a sponsor of the event. Motion passed.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Adele Munsterman, Acting Secretary