



Minutes
BCLA Annual Meeting Spring Fling
Saturday, June 17, 2023

President Sam Blattenbauer called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Sam welcomed everyone to the YMCA Camp for the 2023 Spring Fling annual meeting of the Big Cormorant Lake Association.

Secretary Ramona Borke presented the minutes from the 2022 Spring Fling meeting. Copies were on the tables and she reminded everyone that the minutes for all the meetings were on the website. Ramona called for a motion to accept the minutes. Ed Schafer moved to accept the minutes and Karen Bueling seconded. Approved.

Jeff Strand presented the Treasurer's Report. Copies of the 2022 Year End Report and the 2023 Report January to the present were on the tables for review. Jeff reported that there were 208 members to the present and this number will go up after today. There are 682 listings in the database. Questions from members were clarified by Jeff. We have a balance on hand of \$59,097.77 (\$13,580.81 Unrestricted Checkbook Balance and \$45,516.96 Certificate of Deposit). Karen Beuling moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Mike Foley seconded. Approved.

Sam indicated that BCLA Board Members Jeff Strand, Steve Busch, Tom Riedman, Brit Skolness, and Mike Kelly are up for re-election. Tom Riedman is stepping down. Tim Krieg was presented as a candidate to replace Tom. Becky Ulven moved to accept the slate of Board Members. Chip Skauge seconded. Passed.

Sam thanked Reneece Strand and Ramona Borke for their work in putting the new Directory together.

Speakers

Becker County Sherriff's Department, Jeron – The Sherriff's Department is at the accesses and will get out on the lake as much as possible. There are only 3 of them on water patrol for the county and they have to be ready to go should an emergency arise. Water jets are the most regulated craft on the lake. A water permit is needed to operate crafts over 25 HP for 12-17 year olds. You must be off the lake one hour before sunset. Stay 50 yards from anyone. Jeron answered questions from members. Sam presented the Sherriff's Department with a donation for \$1000 for the Dive and Rescue program and \$1000 for the Canine program as a donation from the BCLA.

Lake Park Audubon ALERT – They have 14 volunteers that are first responders in emergency situations. They can usually get to a location sooner than EMS, usually within 5-6 minutes, and provide the lifesaving services until EMS arrives. They do not transport victims. They received over 150 calls in 2022. Dialing 911 activates them and they are in communication with EMS throughout the process. They rely totally on donations and grants to fund their program. Sam presented Lake Park Audubon ALERT with a \$1000 donation from BCLA.

YMCA Camp Cormorant, Ty and Kelly – A new winterized cabin has been constructed with bathrooms and a maintenance shed. Ty works the camp and Kelly is the year-round director. They plan to expand winter programs and rentals. They answered questions from the members. One thing they ask is that no one walk or use golf carts on the grounds while camp is in session. You can schedule a tour. Sam presented the YMCA with a \$1000 donation from BCLA.

Becker County Soil and Water Conservation – Sam addressed the group regarding boat inspections. The Watershed has made a \$5000 donation to Big Cormorant for the boat inspectors at each access. Lyle Hansen sets this up each year.

Watershed – Ellis Peterson informed the group about funding for Blue Water Bay for dredging the channel between the Bay and Big Cormorant. The Watershed has received grants for this project as well as funding from the Blue Water Bay property association to eliminate or slow down the erosion of the peninsula. Ellis also informed members that if they have a project within 50 ft of the lake to contact the Watershed for a permit and that they may be able to help them in some way. The Outlet at the south end of the lake has been cleaned. We are at 4.5" below OHW.

BCLA Foundation – Tim Krieg introduced the Board members: Shirley Montgomery, Lyle Hansen, Nancy Schafer and Carla Blattenbauer. Their mission is to preserve and protect the land and water resources for all to enjoy now and in the future. They are ready to fight to keep AIS from invading our lake. They have grants available if you have a project you want to do. Contact a board member. Everyone will be receiving a letter about donating to the foundation. You can also make a donation on-line at bigcormorantlake.org.

DNR Fisheries – Nathan Olson informed the group about stocking walleye fry, electrofishing and gill net survey results. Nathan answered questions from members.

Water Testing – Merle Zimmerman reported that water testing is done 5 times a year. Water clarity results May 22 were 20' in Pikes Bay and 16' in the Big Lake. These were unusual for spring so testing was done again June 3. Results then were 37' in Pikes Bay and 44' in the Big Lake. In the fall, Big Cormorant was 11.8" below OHW. On May 26 the lake was at 2.16 below OHW, June 8, 3.6 below OHW and on June 16 after several days of high temperatures and wind the lake was 4.56" below OHW.

Adopt-A-Highway – Merle Zimmerman encouraged members to come out and help with the ditch clean up along County Road 5 from the recycle center to the public access on the west and along the north shore to Tradewinds Road. Vests are provided along with donuts and water! 12 people helped out on the first clean up. The next date is July 8. The dates for the next 3 years are in the Directory. Please come and help!

Clothing – Susan Willard reported that clothing sales at the meeting were going well.

Boat Parade – Jenni Barr announced that the boat parade will be July 4 starting at the North Access and we will now alternate directions each year. This year we will travel counterclockwise and go along the west shore first. Thank you to Beverage Wholesalers for the new banners.

Fireworks – Butch Anton organizes the fireworks show and decides when it will be. We will post on the website and on Facebook when we know.

Door Prizes – Sam thanked the Cormorant Store and Cormorant Bottle Shop for donating door prizes for our meeting today.

Buoys – Brit Skolness has worked hard to get all the buoys put out this year. One was found along Point des Isles. Brit will take care of getting it put out again.

Beach Captains – Tonya Matson thanked the Beach Captains for all they do to get up-to-date information. She will get information and Directories to the Beach Captains soon regarding who are members and who needs a Directory yet.

Old Business – none

New Business – Concerns were raised about Swanies Resort putting a dock for 8 boats in Bull Frog Bay. Sam reported that a permit from the DNR is needed for commercial use. The Watershed has dredged the channel into Big Cormorant but is unable to cross the land to do it anymore. It can not be dredged below the OHW, only for water flow not for boat passage.

Sue Stephens moved to adjourn. Tom Schaffer seconded. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ramona Borke, Secretary