



Minutes for BCLA Annual Meeting Saturday, June 17th 9AM @ Community Center

Sam Blattenbauer called the meeting to order at 9:01AM

Sam asked board members to introduce themselves and then presenting guests and agenda items.

1. It was moved by Ron Balvitsch and seconded by Bill Noel to waive the reading of the minutes from 2016 annual meeting in the interest of time. Minutes are on the website. Motion carried.
2. Randy read the treasurer's report with 356 dues paying members this year prior to the start of the meeting. Full Treasurer's report attached. Karen Bueling moved and Susan Willard seconded approval of the treasurer's report. Motion carried.
3. Karl Koenig from Becker County Soil and Water Conservation District gave a report on AIS for Big Cormorant and the area. Of new concern is Starry Stonewort, which is a dense algae growth which was found in MN in 2015. It can impede boats and swimmers on lakes as it grows. So far they are able to suppress growth but they can't kill it. This again is spread by boats and humans so our inspections will help keep it off Big Cormorant. They are looking for volunteers for a statewide search of lakes on August 5th. Training materials will be provided. Another new concern is Spring Water Fleas. They are a small crustacean now in MN. There was also some discussion of how zebra mussels have impacted the lake. The U of M is working on controls, but it's a long term process as they determine how other life is impacted. The free decontamination equipment is primarily at Big Detroit and Melissa which doesn't help boats closer to Big Cormorant. The group requested they look at using North Access for more decontamination.
4. Ben Wideman from Becker County Sheriff office introduced himself as the new officer who will be patrolling Big Cormorant. His primary focus will be safety on the waterways.
5. Steve Busch reported that walleye numbers were going down and new gill netting will be August this year. They will only stock lakes with numbers under 11.
6. Lyle Hansen reported donations to the BCLA Foundation are up and thanked everyone for the support. The Foundation has helped with AIS inspection costs and purchase of lighted buoys. In 2016 there were 3,696 boats inspected at Big Cormorant public accesses. DNR also pays a portion of this service along with a donation from Watershed.
7. Sam reported for Watershed regarding the tree planting support and the erosion projects currently underway on Upper Cormorant and Leaf, both of which flow into Big Cormorant. The water level is currently 7 inches under the average high water mark. Sam and everyone present also thanked Lyle Hanson for all he does with DNR, Watershed and BCLA Foundation. Sam reported that there is a permit to dredge the opening of Bull Frog Bay. There were supporters on both sides of dredging and not dredging, but this is again a DNR project so we have no say.

Paula Stromstad brought up potential beaver problems on the lake. Sam will report to Watershed since they deal with trapping if they impede natural water flow on the lake.

8. Sam presented the slate of officers up for reelection: Reuben Tschritter, Steve Busch, Tom Riedman and Jeff Strand. Jay Peterson was nominated to fill Brant Wilson's seat on the board. Lyle Hansen moved and Aaron Stenerson seconded election of slate of board members presented. Motion carried.
9. Aaron Stenerson reported the Boat Parade will begin at 10 AM on the 4th from the North Access.
10. Sam reported that Butch Anton has all of the buoys out with the lit ones at the islands.
11. Other business:
 - a. The township is contemplating a park area in Cormorant Village and will welcome any suggestions or help.
 - b. Barbs Hansen wanted to recognize and thank everyone who worked on the new BCLA Directory. Nice job and lots of work!
12. Motion to adjourn by Greg Nelson with second by Bruce Green. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned!