



**Minutes
BCLA Annual Meeting Spring Fling
Saturday, June 15, 2024**

President Sam Blattenbauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Sam welcomed everyone to the YMCA Camp for the 2024 Spring Fling annual meeting of the Big Cormorant Lake Association.

Secretary, Ramona Borke, presented the minutes from the Spring Fling 2023 meeting. Copies of the minutes were distributed before the meeting and are also on the website. Ramona called for a motion to accept the minutes. Susan Willard moved to accept the minutes; Rhonda Wilson seconded. Approved.

Jeff Strand presented the Treasurer's Report as of June 10, 2024. We have a balance on hand of \$59,458.08 (\$12,280.94 Unrestricted Checkbook Balance and \$47,177.14 Certificate of Deposit). Jeff called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. John Stevens moved to accept; Tim Krieg seconded. Approved.

Sam announced that Tonya Matson term on the Board of Directors is up and she has decided to not run again. Lyle Hansen is retiring from the board. Rick Duval was presented as a candidate to fulfill Lyle's remaining year and Dianne Irwin to replace Tonya for a three-year term. Rich Maras moved to accept the new candidates to the Board. Paul Willard seconded. Approved. Sam presented Lyle with a gift certificate to the Cormorant Pub for his 19 years of service to the Big Cormorant Lake Association.

Speakers

Becker County Sheriff – Sheriff Todd Glander and Deputy Shawn Godde informed the members that the Sheriff's Department covers all lakes in Becker County with one full time and three part time deputies. Sheriff Glander talked about Boating Safety, Search and Rescue and answered questions from members. We were reminded that the hours for jet skis is 9:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset. Also, any garbage brought on the lake must go off the lake with you. Sam presented the Sherriff's Department with a donation of \$1000 to the Search and Rescue program and \$1000 to the Canine program.

Boat Inspections – Karl Koenig explained that they check boats to minimize the transport of AIS from one lake to another. It is more difficult to control invasive plants than animals. Busy accesses are monitored for AIS by volunteers. Starry Trek will be on August 10 this summer to check for invasive species at the accesses. Contact Karl if you can help. Currently the closest Starry Stonewart is to Big Cormorant is in Hubbard County.

Becker Soil and Water – Logan talked about a grant funding program available that will reimburse 75% of your expenses for shoreline restoration.

Big Cormorant Lake Foundation – Tim Kreig recognized Lyle Hansen for his service on the Foundation Board of Directors. Lyle was one of the founders. BCLAF is partnering with Becker Soil and Water on the grant program for shoreline restoration. They will contribute \$500 per lake property owner toward their shoreline restoration project. Complete the application and be approved by Soil and Water to qualify. This starts July 1. Tim reminded members to donate to the Foundation through the website or through the mailings sent out in the spring.

Lake Park Alert – Marie explained that they cover the west side of Big Cormorant and the 14 volunteers are there to assist until the ambulance arrives. They are funded by donations and grants. They have monthly trainings and the donations are used for training, supplies, insurance, fuel costs, etc. Sam presented them with a \$1000 donation from BCLA.

Habitat and DNR Fisheries – Mike Habrat spoke about stocking fry fish and electro fishing in Big Cormorant. The last stocking was this spring. The plan for next year is to collect more data on walleye.

YMCA Camp – Kim announced that this is their 121st year and were named the Best Camp in the Fargo-Moorhead area. They have eight weeks of camp and there are only a few openings left. Kamp Kasey is next week. They have winter camps now also. They are looking to add a new dining hall as the current hall is too small for the size of the camps. Weekend rentals of the camp facilities are available. Sam presented the YMCA Camp with a donation of \$1000 from BCLA.

Watershed – Ellis Peterson thanked Lyle Hansen for his years of service on the Cormorant Lakes Watershed Board. He reminded everyone that the Watershed needs to be contacted for any major projects with 50 feet from the lake shore. They are still working on the project Blue Water Bay access road project. It is taking longer than expected to complete.

Water Testing – Merle Zimmerman reported that the water clarity in May was 35' in Pikes Bay, 44' in the big lake and in June it was 38' in Pikes Bay and 41' in the big lake. We were 8.4" below the OHW in May and in June 2.9' below the OHW. The results are on the BCLA website.

Adopt-A-Highway – Merle Zimmerman informed the group that the ditches were picked in May and the next date is July 13. Merle invited anyone that is available to come and help. Vests, donuts and water is provided.

Clothing – Susan Willard explained that there is no new clothing this year in order to try to clear out the inventory we have. Next year there will be new items and welcomes ideas from members. She said she has had a request for children's clothing. In the past it has not sold very well but would like to hear from members what they want.

4th of July Boat Parade – Meet at the north access to begin at 10 a.m. We will go clockwise (to the east) this year. In case of inclement weather at 10 a.m., we will postpone the parade until 2 p.m. Watch Facebook for information.

Buoys – The buoys by the Y Camp floated away in the recent storms. They have been found and will be put in soon. Until then, be careful when boating around that area.

Beach Captains – All beaches have a captain. It is important to get your information updated with your beach captain. Beach captains met Friday evening for a meet and greet. The gathering was successful and we plan to do it again next year.

Old Business – Members were reminded that dead leaves add phosphorus to the lake and enhances week growth. Do not dump or rake your leaves into the lake. If you see someone doing this, let them know it is bad for the lake. And paint brushes are not to be cleaned in the lake either.

New Business – It was suggested that signs be posted at the accesses about the jet ski hours. We have tried to have signage there and the DNR doesn't allow it. It was then suggested that the boat inspectors remind everyone launching jet skis of the hours.

Ed Schafer made a motion to authorize the BCLA Board of Directors to consider a resolution to make storage units improve the looks around the units by planting trees and shrubs. Discussion: members have observed that a number of storage units/garages being built in lakes area and are taking away the beauty of our area. They would like BCLA to let the county know we would like to see improvements made. Seconded by Fred Sternhagan. Passed. The Board will discuss this at their meeting in September.

Lyle Hansen moved to adjourn. Seconded by Gail Smith. The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ramona Borke, Secretary