



Minutes
BCLA Annual Meeting Spring Fling
Saturday, June 21, 2025

President Sam Blattenbauer called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Sam welcomed everyone to the YMCA Camp for the 2025 Spring Fling annual meeting of the Big Cormorant Lake Association.

Secretary, Ramona Borke, presented the minutes from the Spring Fling 2024 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. Mike Kelly moved to accept the minutes; Jane Rutter seconded. Approved.

Jeff Strand presented the Treasurer's Report as of for 2024. We have a balance on hand of \$55,076.50 (\$6,958.40 Unrestricted Checkbook Balance and \$48,118.10 Certificate of Deposit). Jeff called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Rick Olson moved to accept; Rich Maras seconded. Approved.

Election of Board Members

The terms are up for Sam Blattenbauer, Rick Duval, Jenni Barr, Carmen Link and Tonya Matson. They all agreed to serve another term. Sam called for a motion to approve this set of candidates. Paula Stromstead moved to accept; Brit Skolness seconded. Approved.

Speakers

Becker County Sherriff – Nick, Boat & Water Deputy along with Jack and Ty from the Sherriff's Office informed members that there are four Boat and Water staff to cover all the lakes in Becker County. They discussed the new boat operator permit. Minnesota will require operators 21 years of age and younger to possess a valid watercraft operator's permit for motorboats and PWC. The law will be phased in over 3 years. Anyone under the age of 12 may operate a motor boat with less than 75 hp if accompanied by a competent adult on board. People born after June 30, 2004 will need a permit to operate a boat starting in 2025. This permit will gradually apply to older age groups over the next few years. Visit the website at www.dnr.state.mn.us for more information and to take the test.

They also advised members to call the Sherriff's office if they see anyone chasing loons. Boats that stay here in MN more than 60 days must be registered in MN. Jet ski hours are 9:30 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset. Docking lights should not be used for navigation at night. BCLA presented the Sherriff's Department Canine Unit and the Dive & Rescue Unit with checks for \$1000 each in appreciation of their services.

Becker County Soil and Water – Karl Koenig talked to the members about AIS Prevention Programs. They provide the Boat Inspectors at each access. A decontamination unit will be placed at the West Access next week. He warned people that anyone taking their boat to Canada to be sure to run their boat through it. Invasive plants are bigger problems to our lakes and they will be monitoring for these at the accesses. StarryTrek will be held again on August 9 and members can volunteer to participate. They have a grant program that can assist landowners with 75% of the cost and design of restoring their shorelines with native buffers to stabilize soil and reduce shoreline erosion. They warned against blowing leaves into the lake as this puts phosphorus into the lake and promotes weed growth.

Lake Park Alert – Sierra, Heather, and Mark updated members that they are a group of 12 volunteers that field over 100 calls a year and are funded by donations. They were presented with a check for \$1000 in appreciation for their service.

Water Testing – Tim Krieg explained that the water clarity is tested in Pikes Bay and a in the Deer Point area. Most recent results are 31' in Pikes Bay and 31' on Big C on June 15. Depth is checked at a point by the North Access.

Most recent on June 15 is 8.7" below highwater mark. We received a comment to "better than expected and improving with 99.9% confidence for phosphorus and chlorophyll.

BCLAF – Tim Krieg reported that the Foundation works with the Becker Soil and Water Shoreline Restoration Program to also award up to \$500 towards their project. They are looking for another Board member. Donation letters will be coming out in the next couple of weeks.

YMCA – Kim welcomed everyone to the Y Camp. They have added wheelchair access and have heated cabins for winter rental. They are now offer year-round rentals. Kamp Casey is in its 40th year and starts this week. A donation of \$1000 was given to the YMCA Camp in appreciation of its services.

DNR Fisheries – Mike Habrat gave a report about the walleye stocking program. It was a successful program in Big Cormorant.

Watershed – Sam Blattenbauer reported that the rip rap project in Blue Water Bay will be completed this year. He reminded everyone that permits are needed for any projects within 50' of the shore. They are available online and are free.

Ditch Cleanup – The ditches will be cleaned on September 13 starting at 9 a.m. Meet at the recycling center at the corner of Cty 5 and 6. Vests, donuts, and water are provided.

4th of July Boat Parade – Gather at the North Access. Parade will begin at 10 a.m. and travel counterclockwise (to the west) this year. If inclement weather, it will begin at 2 p.m. Watch Facebook for updates.

Buoys – Brit Skolness said that one was lost in the recent storm by the Island. It was recovered and will be placed as soon as possible. Be sure you always stay outside the buoys, do NOT between them!

Beach Captains – Mike Kelly reported that we are looking for a Beach Captain on Mapelodge Beach.

Old Business

There will be no fireworks on the North Shore this year as Butch Anton has retired and is no longer doing the fireworks show. If anyone is interested in taking his place, contact Butch.

Ed Shaffer asked about a follow-up to the motion last year for a resolution to the county to improve the looks around storage units going up around the County. Sam informed the members that a letter was sent to the county regarding this. No response was received.

New Business

A question was asked how much sand a property owner is allowed to dump along their shoreline. It was believed 10 yds two times over the lifetime of the property was allowed. It must be approved by the Watershed District.

Adjournment

Brad Thom moved to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Rich Maras. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:29 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ramona Borke, Secretary