



**Minutes**  
**BCLA Annual Meeting Spring Fling**  
**Saturday, June 18, 2022**

President Sam Blattenbauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Sam welcomed everyone to the YMCA Camp for the 2022 Spring Fling annual meeting of the Big Cormorant Lake Association.

Secretary Ramona Borke presented the minutes from the 2021 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. Rick Olson moved and John Blattenbauer seconded. Approved.

Jeff Strand, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. Copies were on the tables for review. We have 275 paid members to date. Jeff reported a balance of \$62,120.21 in our accounts (\$17,097.59 in checking and \$45,022.62 in CD). Jeff answered questions from members then called for a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Rhonda Wilson moved and Paula Stromstead seconded. Approved.

Sam indicated that BCLA Board Members Sam Blattenbauer, Lyle Hansen, Jenni Barr, Merle Zimmerman, and Aaron Stenerson are up for re-election. Aaron Stenerson is stepping down. John Stephens was presented as a candidate to replace Aaron. Ed Schafer moved to accept the slate of board members. Tom Riedman seconded. Passed.

### **Speakers**

**Becker County Sherriff, Todd Glander** – Sherriff Glander introduced Brad Houglum, a Water Safety Deputy. A Water Safety Deputy is out on the lake to educate people and promote basic boating safety. Five tips as outlined in the Minnesota Boating Guide 2022 are 1) Wear your life jacket, 2) Stay sober, 3) Tell a friend where you are going and when you will be back, and bring a phone or VHF radio. If you are not back, they should call 911. 4) Be weather aware. Delay your trip or head to shore, go slow in rough water, and 5) Take a boating safety course. The Boating Guide booklet was made available to members at the meeting. The BCLA donated \$1000 to the Dive and Rescue Unit and \$1000 to the Canine Division. Sherriff Glander accepted the donations.

**Lake Park Audubon ALERT** – Marie and Sierra represented the organization and explained what they do. They have two quick response units that responds to calls and give first aid and emergency treatment. They do not transport. They have 14 volunteers that respond to about 150 calls per year, half in the lakes area. BCLA donated \$1000 to their organization and they accepted the donations on behalf of the Lake Park Audubon ALERT.

**YMCA Camp Cormorant** – Kim Belgard, YMCA Camp Director reported that there will be a new bathhouse built on the lake this summer. Camp Kasey, a camp for children with cancer, starts this week and counselors are training today. Rentals are available May through October from 4 p.m. Fridays to Noon Sundays. BCLA donated \$1000 for a 9-Square game for the camp. Kim accepted the donation.

**Becker County Soil and Water Conservation** – Karl Koenig reported that they provide funds for watercraft inspectors at 21 lakes around Becker County. Big Cormorant has inspectors at both accesses Thursday through Sunday. A decontamination unit is located at the West Access. The Inspectors mission is to contain and prevent the spread of invasive species. Karl reminded the members that used equipment that has been in infected waters must be out of the water for 21 days before moving to another body of water. Anyone is planning to use their boat in another body of water should run the boat through the decontamination unit before launching. Karl also reported that the Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring Program looks for new populations of invasive species plants at Public Accesses in August and September. Starry Stonewort is one of those species that multiplies very

rapidly. Karl also warned members that blowing leaves and grass into the lake feeds the lake with phosphorus, that grows algae and clouds the water. Please do not do this!

**Watershed Board** – Ellis Peterson reported that the lake level is at the Ordinary High Water Mark. This was established in the late 1980's or early 1990's. They have people that go out on foot or in boats to inspect the shoreline. Permits are free by contacting the Watershed to repair your shoreline. They work with Soil and Water on restoration projects. Water clarity is currently at 37 feet on the big lake and 26 feet in Pikes Bay (that is higher than the ceiling in the meeting room!)

**Airbnb** – Kathy Thom, resident on Tradewinds Beach for over 50 years reported on experiences they have had with an Airbnb property next door to them. Issues have developed and she wanted members to be aware as this could happen to them. Becker County has no regulations. She has been invited to be on the Becker County Zoning Advisory Board. Discussion followed. Some have had no problems or complaints with short term rentals. Several agreed that short term renters have no buy in to the lake and guidelines are needed.

**Sportsman's Club** – Gus gave a brief history of the Sportsman's Club and their activities. They were involved in lake preservation when they started (winter 1979-80) and now promote youth events, in particular outdoor activities. They still support wildlife preservation. They raise funds through gaming and a number of birdhouses. Two of these birdhouses were donated for doorprizes. Memberships are \$20 individual and \$35 couple.

**DNR Fisheries** – Steve Busch reported that Big Cormorant was stocked with 409,000 fry and will double this amount next year. Gil netting last fall was the highest of walleye since 2011, indicating the fish population is increasing.

**Buoys** – Brit Skolness installs the buoys around the lake in critical locations to indicate hazardous conditions for boaters. If you notice any buoys have become detached and float to your shore, let him know. More buoys will be placed down by the point (near the sandy beach) when new anchors arrive. He warned to not cut between buoys as there are rocks and hazardous conditions between the buoys also.

**BCLA Foundation** – Shirley Montgomery introduced the Board Members and urged people to make donations to the Foundation. West Central Initiative manages the donations which are used to benefit of our lake. If you have a project you would like help with, consider submitting a grant approval form. The donation letter will go out in the next two weeks. Look for it and consider a donation.

**Beach Captains** – Mike Kelly reported that we have 36 beaches and are in need of a captain for the Eagle View campground. If there is a change in beach captain, let Mike know.

**Adopt A Highway** – Merle Zimmerman reported this project started in 2019. Our lake association is responsible for County 6 from Tradewinds Rd to County 5 and County 5 to the Public Access. It is intended to be a BCLA member project and we would like for you to join us July 16 and September 10 for the ditch clean up. Safety vests are provided as are donuts and water when finished!

**Old Business** – none

#### **New Business**

- There is an inconsistency in Becker County zoning regarding impervious surfaces and set back. Sam Blattenbauer responded that the Watershed District is trying to work with Becker County to get the info before things happen. An observation indicated that zoning is enforced when it is complained about. Let Watershed District know when you see something.

- Members were encouraged to have backup generators ready as we go into the predicted heat wave. Also stay hydrated.
- An observation that the C-Boys have built a motorcross track which may go commercial and wanted members to be aware of this.
- A question was asked about the green slime on the lake. This is waste from the zebra mussels.
- A clarification was made on the location of the Cormorant township compost site on Becker Co 1
- There are no port-a-potties or waste receptacles at the sandy beach. This is DNR land and everyone needs to be responsible for their own waste.
- Be sure you are purchasing fertilizer with zero phosphorus if you fertilize your own yard. If you have it done commercially, most Minnesota companies follow the rules for Minnesota but it doesn't hurt to ask.
- Fireworks will be Sunday, July 3 weather permitting. Watch Facebook for updates.
- Boat Parade will be Monday, July 4 starting at 10 a.m. Meet at the North Access. Watch Facebook for information and updates.

Brad Thom moved to adjourn the meeting. Merle Zimmerman seconded. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Thank you to the BCLA Association for the rolls and beverages provided before the meeting!  
Thank you to Brad Thom for providing the PA system!

Respectfully submitted,

Ramona Borke, Secretary

Spring Fling 2023 June 17, 2023 at YMCA Camp Cormorant