



## Minutes for BCLA Annual Meeting Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> 2018 9AM at Cormorant Community Center

President Jim Colbert called the meeting to order at 9AM. After welcoming everyone, Jim mentioned we would move the meeting along quickly today because of the threatening weather. Jim introduced the current board members.

It was moved and seconded to waive the reading of last year's minutes in the interest of time because they are available for everyone to read online.

Randy Christianson gave the Treasurer's report. BCLA is currently at 417 dues paying members with \$43,247.00 in our accounts. Randy reported income and expenses showing a positive balance for the year. It was moved and seconded to approve the treasurer's report as presented. All approved.

Sheriff Todd Glander along with Darwin and Cole, 2 of the boat and water deputies, gave a quick presentation about safety and respect for the lake.

1. Know the lake
2. Wear a life jacket
3. All kids under 10 are required to have a life jacket on when a watercraft is under way
4. Stay sober
5. Watch the weather
6. Tell a friend where you're going and what you're doing
7. Boat smart
8. Don't litter. What you take on the lake should go off the lake with you.

Darwin reported that the sheriffs are looking to maintain safety as their primary duty, but with the amount of litter on the lakes, they are going to start ticketing for littering. Jet skis are required to maintain 150 feet from any other watercraft. Jet skis cannot be on the lake before 9AM and must be off the lake 1 hour prior to sunset. Water skiing and tubing are prohibited ½ hour after sunset until sunrise. Any questions, call the non-emergency sheriff's number 218-847-2661.

Karl Koenig with Becker County Soil & Water AIS Division presented a slide show explaining their funding and what they are doing to help maintain the health of Big Cormorant Lake. There will be decontamination units on the lake accesses on specific dates through the summer. Individuals taking their boats and equipment off of Big Cormorant lake can either use the free decontamination equipment or print off an online permit if they are taking boats, lifts or docks directly home to clean. Inspectors will be at West and North accesses looking for any AIS going into the lake or coming out of the lake. Karl showed a slide of Starry Stonewort and where it is currently found in MN. It thrives in shallow water and becomes a mat of vegetation on the surface where it grows. Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> Karl is looking for a few volunteers to inspect around the public accesses to look for any invasive species possibly starting on the lake. Karl's team will do the training and it takes a couple of hours. He is available at 218-849-6438 or [kikoeni@co.becker.mn.us](mailto:kikoeni@co.becker.mn.us) for anyone interested. Zebra mussels continue to grow in population on Big Cormorant which has perfect habitat of rocks and wood for them to thrive. Becker County Soil & Water will again be offering cost sharing for shoreline restoration for property owners on Big Cormorant up to 75% of the cost. Contact is Claire Olson to find out how to access state funds.

Moira Rufer Aquatic Ecologist with RMB Environmental Labs was unable to attend but left handouts for attendees.

**Kyle Varevorg Zoning Supervisor with Becker County Zoning and Planning** also unable to attend but had Jim report that there were no changes and he's available at 218-846-7314 if anyone has questions.

**Ellis Peterson with Watershed Board** reported that the lake is currently just over 9 inches below average high water. Watershed is responsible for maintaining anything within 50 feet of the shoreline. Need permits to remove any tree 2 inches in diameter or larger within that 50 foot boundary from the shore if there are safety concerns. The tree replacement program has been very successful trying to replace the older, dying trees along the shore. Ellis reported that Curly Leaf Pond Weed which was found on Upper Cormorant cost property owners and county around \$80,000 for the first year to treat and they continue each year but costs have gone down due to success in reducing the weeds. Property owners pay special assessments with their taxes to cover the costs. Upper Cormorant flows into Middle Cormorant which flows into Big Cormorant, so we are watching that treatment hoping it's successful and doesn't spread to Big! Big Cormorant Lake Association and Foundation are working toward maintaining enough funds to cover future treatment costs and appreciate membership and donations to avoid special assessments.

**Steve Busch presented Fisheries Report.** DNR does gill netting every 3 years, which was done in 2017 so nothing new to report in 2018. It will be done again in 2020. The 2017 netting was up in walleye numbers from 2014 and with Big Cormorant being a naturally reproducing walleye population, DNR does not stock our lake. But Steve will check into possibly getting fry or fingerlings and report to the board. DNR raised the limit on northerns to 10 fish, 2 over 26" and 8 22" and below. Fishermen are encouraged to take the limit.

Jim presented retiring board members Carol Anhorn, Randy Christianson and Rhonda Wilson with gift cards to Cormorant Pub and thanked them for their years of service.

Jim presented a slate of board members for election with returning members Jim Colbert and Ramona Borke and new board member candidates Bruce Zeller, Susan Willard and Rich Maras. It was moved and seconded to approve the slate of officers as presented. Vote was called and passed unanimously.

Lyle Hanson with BCLAF reported the Foundation has about \$82,000 in the bank. He thanked the BC Sailing Club for donating \$2200 as they closed out the club. Lyle reported the Upper and Pelican have gone to special assessments to pay for prevention and treatment of AIS on their lakes but with donations to BCLAF our lake has been able to stay ahead of the costs. Donations are down this year so Lyle is asking for people to contribute.

Aaron Stenerson will lead the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade again starting at the North Access at 10AM.

Big Cormorant Sailing Club had been doing the Adopt a Highway cleaning, but with the club disbanding, they are looking for a group to take over that stretch between the West Access and the recycling area on the west side of the lake. Contact for anyone interested is Brianne Raftevoid, District 4 218-846-3600.

Randy Iwerks will again be hosting the Rock the Dock party which will be in front of his home on the South Shore of the lake on the Saturday after the 4<sup>th</sup>. Just a note: BCLA does not sponsor this event – it is a privately funded event.

Facebook will post any updates for 4<sup>th</sup> of July events. Please like and share Facebook page for BCLA.

Motion to adjourn by Greg Nelson, second by Darryl Phillips, motion passes. Meeting adjourned.