



**BCLA Board of Directors Meeting  
April 9, 2022**

**Present:** Sam Blattenbauer, Jeff Strand, Lyle Hansen, Merle Zimmerman, Tom Riedman, Susan Willard, Rich Maras, Brit Skolness, Tonya Matson, Brad Thom, Ramona Borke. Via Teams: Jenni Barr, Steve Busch, Mike Kelly

**Absent:** Aaron Stenerson

**Guest:** Kathy Thom

President Sam Blattenbauer called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

**Secretary Report** – Ramona Borke sent the January minutes out to all members prior to the meeting. A correction was made that Sam Blattenbauer, not Jenni Barr would contact the Sheriff's Office for a speaker for Spring Fling. A motion was made by Susan Willard and seconded by Brad Thom to approve the minutes. Passed.

**Treasurer's Report** – Jeff Strand sent out the report from the Treasurer prior to the meeting. We have a balance on hand of \$57,088.73 (\$12,088.55 Unrestricted Checkbook Balance and \$45,000.18 Certificate of Deposit which matures 05/24/2022). Because interest rates are so low, the CD is for six months versus longer. Jeff reported as a result of the emailing of the newsletter, we have 54 paid members and received a \$75 donation. Rich Maraas moved to accept the Treasurer Report. Lyle Hansen seconded. Approved.

Kathy Thom attended the meeting as a guest to make the Board aware of a situation they are experiencing. The property next to them on Tradewinds Rd was sold and is now a Vrbo short rental property. They have tried working with the Hosts regarding noise, parking, security and other issues that have reduced the quality of private lake life. Currently Becker County has no regulations. She would like to speak at Spring Fling to make others aware of the issues that a Vrbo/Air BNB bring to the lake and possibly get a petition going to submit to Becker County.

### **Committee Reports**

**Newsletter** – Jenni Barr reported that the hard copy of the Newsletter will be mailed Friday, April 15. It was emailed March 28, 2022 to all members with an email address on file.

**Website** – Jenni Barr reported that the new website is up and running. Diane Krile at DigiCom will make the updates to the website. Any new information for the website should be sent to Rich Maraas and he will work with Diane to make the updates. The new website will include a Clothing Store. It will be ready and secure by the time the Newsletter is mailed. Thank you Jenni for all you did to get this up and running! Brit Skolness reported that because people are making payments for dues and clothing and in order to have extra security for our website, we can get an SSL Certificate. It is \$150 for two years. Moved by Rich Maraas, seconded by Tom Riedman to get this extra security. Approved.

**Buoys** – Brit Skolness will put out the buoys as soon as the water temperatures are safe to do so. He will be putting additional buoys along the rock ridge to the large rock on the west side of the Point de Isles area .

**COLA** – Tom Riedman reported that meetings will be starting again in June. This would be a group that should be aware of the Vrbo/Air BNB situations occurring.

**Spring Fling June 18** – Sam Blattenbauer has contacted the Sheriff's Department to speak and Kathy Thom will find someone from the Cormorant Sportsman's Club to educate the membership on what they do. The meeting will be held at the YMCA camp and Jenni will confirm with the Y Camp the date,

time, etc. and secure a speaker. Jenni will also pick up the rolls and beverages at Central Market. Sam will contact Carl Koenig, Becker County Soil & Water, to talk about the diving weed count for AIS. We also would like him to address why people should not rake their leaves into the lake as this is still observed to be a problem. Someone from BCLAF will be contacted to update us on the activities of the Foundation. Ellis Peterson from the watershed will be invited to speak again and Merle Zimmerman will review the Road Clean Up project and invite people to participate. Each speaker will have up to five minutes to address the membership. We will also try to have recipients of the donations we make to be there to accept their check. Registration starts at 8 a.m. Board members should be there by 7:30 to set up.

**Boat Parade** – Aaron Stenerson was absent but he will lead the Boat Parade on July 4<sup>th</sup>. His mom was contacted and she will pick up the door prizes. Susan Willard has some left over Big Cormorant items to add to the list in addition to the \$300 allowed for prizes. It was suggested that a couple of gift cards from the Pub should be included as they host our Board meetings.

**Beach Captains** – Mike Kelly reported that another Beach Captain is needed for Gilbertson Beach as one of the current captains has moved. Eagle View is also in need of a Beach Captain. It was brought up that past Beach Captain chairs have hosted a gathering of Beach Captains to get to know each other, share how they disseminate information and receive updates. Tonya Matson and Mike will pursue the possibility of doing this.

**Water Testing** – Merle Zimmerman reported that the water testing is done five times a year. There are some changes this year. Merle sends his report to RMB Environmental Laboratories. He will let Rich know the results to be posted on the website. More details are available at the RMB website ([rmbel.info](http://rmbel.info)) for anyone interested.

**Ditch Cleaning** – Merle Zimmerman indicated the dates this year for Ditch Cleaning are May 14, July 9, and September 10. It has been mostly a few Board members and his neighbors that have shown up to help. Tonya said that the Beach Captains could help recruit people for this project. It will be promoted on the Website and Facebook also.

**Clothing** – Susan Willard reported that working with Diane on the Website has been a pleasure! Clothing will now be on the website just like online shopping. People will be able to pay with a credit card or Paypal. It will also have the option to send their order to Susan and pay with a check. Everything will be prepay and picked up at Spring Fling. This year she had three new items each for men and women and two for youth. There are also some beach towels and totes left.

**Planning and Zoning** – Brad Thom is preparing to work with the Becker County to get rules on residential rural properties such as lake homes where short term rentals (Vrbo/Air BNB) may be allowed on conforming lots as there is currently no rule. There were no new regulations regarding impervious surfaces in the shore impact zone, only land that is 1000 ft or more from the shoreline in Becker County.

**BCLA Foundation** – Lyle Hansen indicated someone will be at Spring Fling to report. Donation request letters will be going out this spring.

**Boat Inspections** – Lyle Hansen reported that Jenni was at the Watershed meeting to request \$5000 for Big Cormorant Boat Inspections. The request was granted. The North and West Accesses will be manned Thursday through Sunday and also on Monday on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend.

### **Old Business**

We had concerns regarding the FM Walleye Tournament and how it is handled on Big Cormorant in the past. Jenni Barr talked with them and they are not changing their tournament and there is really not anything we can do to stop them from holding it on our lake. Steve Busch reminded us that the lake was stocked with fry last year, the number this year will be doubled from last year and possibly adding fingerlings in year three. Hopefully we will see our walleye numbers rise.

**Member Stickers** – It was discussed at the last meeting to have stickers for paid members to put on their mailboxes or fire numbers indicating they are a “Proud Member of BCLA 2022-23”. Rich will let us know via email the cost of 500 stickers for us to vote on approval. If approved, he will have them ready to be distributed at Spring Fling this year. Beach Captains will distribute to those unable to attend.

**Donations** – Discussed donations we would like to make this year and have the recipients at Spring Fling to receive their check. Ramona Borke moved and Susan Willard seconded to donate \$1000 each to The Sheriff’s Department Dive Rescue Program, Sheriff’s Department Canine Program, Lake Park Audubon ALERT, and the YMCA Camp. Approved. Rich will let us know the cost of having four large wipe-off checks made to use for pictures with the recipients that will be posted on the Website and on Facebook. We will vote to approve once we have the information.

### **New Business**

**Board Member Terms** – Sam Blattenbauer, Lyle Hansen, Jenni Barr, Merle Zimmerman, and Aaron Stenerson are up for re-election. Aaron is stepping down so one more Board Member will need to be found. Current Board Members will search for one to be on the slate to be presented to the Membership for a vote at Spring Fling.

**Directory** – Ramona brought up that next year will be a new directory year. We have discussed in the past to put the Directory online on the website to be accessed by paid members only. If we think we might do this, should the members be told at Spring Fling as a courtesy that this will be coming. Pros and cons were discussed. Membership numbers are greatest during Directory years and it brings people to Spring Fling. Securing advertisers pays for the Directory and provides small income depending on the number of advertisers secured and would have to be rethought if we went to online. Most Board members like to have a hard copy. We leaned toward keeping the hard copy and can discuss later all that would be involved with the website if we decided to do that also. Ramona will have all the info ready at the September meeting to begin renewing and soliciting advertisers.

There was no further business. Thank you to Brit for setting up Teams for the people out of the area to attend. We had 14 of 15 members at the meeting! Lyle Hansen moved to adjourn. Tom Riedman seconded. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:56 a.m.

### **Post Meeting Actions**

Rich Maras obtained quotes for the dry erase checks and Membership stickers. Four dry erase checks are \$249.00 (\$62.27 each). Four hundred membership stickers are \$458.99 and \$512.40 for 500. This information was emailed to each Board member for comment. Susan Willard made a motion to purchase four dry erase checks and 500 Membership circles for paid BCLA members. Brad Thom seconded. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramona Borke, Secretary

#### **Future Meetings**

June 18, 2022 Spring Fling at YMCA  
Camp

September 17, 2022

January 21, 2023

April 15, 2023