

☒ President: Jodi Riddell
☐ Vice President: Margaret Billinger
☒ Secretary: Lisa Behrens
☒ Treasurer: Irene Crowley
☐ Director at Large: David Haggard
☒ Director at Large: Lindy Moss
☒ Director at Large: Michael Dale



PO Box 520931
Big Lake, AK 99652-0931

General Membership Meeting – June 10, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Big Lake Lions Recreation Center

DRAFT MINUTES

1.) Call to Order/ Determination of Quorum

By: Jodi Riddell Time: 7:00pm
Quorum: Yes Attendees: 36 members & guests

2.) Pledge of Allegiance

3.) Agenda Approval

Motion: Michael Dale Second: Yes

4.) Previous Meeting Minutes Approval (May 13, 2025)

Motion: Michael Dale Second: Yes Copy signed: Jodi Riddell

5.) Treasurer's Report

Checking: \$32,221.39 Savings: \$3542.2 Money Market (Jordan Lake Park project): \$19,460.20

6.) Membership Report

Voting Members renewed for 2025: **74** (Plus 3 renewals prior to meeting)

Associates (non-voting) renewed for 2025: **7**

7.) Presentation(s) (15 Minutes per presentation)

1. Lorene Lynn: Soil Scientist / Restoration Ecologist, Red Mountain Consulting – UAF graduate, 31-year Alaska resident. Primary subject tonight is to talk about wetlands. Update on current regulations. The best approach to wetlands regulations is to work collaboratively with governing agencies. Lorene's specialty is functioning as a facilitator for collaboration between landowners and agencies. Information handouts provided to attendees. Audience request: Please talk about the 2023 US Supreme Court Sackett decision, and its importance for Alaska. ([US Supreme Court - Sackett Decision](#) and [Alaska.gov - Governor Dunleavy explanation of Sackett Decision](#))
2. Keith Dodson: Proposal for Big Lake; forming a community development cooperative, based on the 2008 Big Lake Comprehensive Plan, with expansion to include organizing as a cooperative, establishing a Special Use District (SPUD) and exploring fundraising strategies for purchasing a 42-acre parcel that is currently for sale in an area near local businesses, and could serve as an identifiable multi-use town center for the Big Lake community. Information handouts provided for attendees.

8.) Reports

1. Legislative (State House & Senate)

Senator Shower: Not available

Representative McCabe: It's good to be back. Provided updates on current legislation, meetings with US legislators, Murkowski, Sullivan & Begich, status of the Alaska state budget, and the Port Mackenzie Rail Spur project. Update on coming reductions in EPA regulations. Heads-up that future Community Assistance Program (CAP) amounts will be significantly decreased. Available to answer questions after the meeting.

2. Assembly (District 5)

Assemblyman Gamble: The MSB budget passed, with a decrease in mil rate. However, property tax bills increased for owners, due to higher property value assessments. Big Lake Lions Club property and adjacent parking lot will be purchased, staffed, and managed by Mat Su Borough. Additional \$26k secured for the Jordan Lake Park project. Updates on other legislation currently in progress.

3. Fire Service (West Lakes Fire Department – WLFD) Fire Officer McCabe provided the monthly callout tallies. Safety reminder: burn barrels are a common source of both wildland and structure fires. WLFD has posted a map of the Big Lake area in the Lions Club meeting room, showing where smoke and CO alarms have been installed, and where subsequent fire calls have shown lives saved by alarm installations. Update from Cathi Kramer on the complementary fire & CO alarm grant program, street address sign program, and community Firewise program 19-year anniversary.
4. Road Service Area: Terry Gorlick – update on most recent meeting and announced Andrew Traxler as Big Lake RSA Primary. Meetings will be changed from monthly to every other month, and held at Station 7-3 to facilitate Zoom attendance by interested community members.

9.) Correspondence

1. Public Notice – Hewitt: Nonconforming Structure Setback Status

10.) Unfinished Business

1. Lake Setback Ordinance & Waterbody Setback Advisory Board – Update: The current revised legislation was presented to the assembly on May 20, 2025, and was referred for 120-day MSB Board and Planning Commission review. According to information posted on the MSB website:
“The Assembly has referred the draft Ordinance to the Transportation Advisory Board, The Agriculture Advisory Board, The MSB Fish and Wildlife Commission, The Parks, Recreation & Trails Advisory Board, The Water and Wastewater Advisory Board, and the Planning Commission. Staff mailed info to each Community council in the borough. The public hearing for the Planning Commission Resolution is August 4, 2025.” The public comments period is open, with comments due by August 20, 2025.
 - a. Link to download [OR 25-073 Waterbody Setback Legislation](#)
 - b. Link to download [IM 25-126 Waterbody Setback Information Memorandum](#)
2. 2025 BLCC Grants Committee – Update: The committee has completed their work, and the draft awards list is available for review and membership vote.
 - a. Motion to approve grant awards: Irene Crowley Second: Yes
 - b. Membership vote passed unanimously.
3. 2025 BLCC CIP (community improvement projects) Committee – Update: members still needed. (sign-up sheets on back table and at <https://biglakecommunitycouncil.com/files-%26-downloads>)

11.) New Business

1. None

12.) Persons to be Heard (3 Minutes per person)

1. Lois Parker – Big Lake Belles Beautification Project: Thank you to BLCC for early grant approval to get started on planting for 2025. There have been very generous donations from community members this year, and thanks to them as well. The beautification project intent is to achieve a manicured look from the roundabout all the way through downtown. Huge thanks to Michael Dale for clearing the weeds and saplings from the roundabout. The Big Lake Belles have 13 members this year, and we need more. We also need community volunteers for watering, weeding, and mowing during the growing season.
2. Mayor Edna DeVries – please see information provided on the MSB website regarding loss of AST coverage for the various AK boroughs and the need for considering police powers (may be beneficial to review the work done prior to 2020 by the MSB Assembly Blue-Ribbon Task Force)
3. Michelle Traxler – Happy Birthday to Representative McCabe and thank you to him for the sacrifices involved in public service.
4. Jim Faiks – Jordan Lake Park project update. Thanks to Roland Kennerson for working far above and beyond the original scope of clearing and leveling work. Next meeting, July 12.
5. Linn McCabe – Ranked choice voting repeal initiative update. Signature book available at back table.

13.) Announcements

1. Bill Haller – Mud Volleyball this Saturday, and goodbye, this is my last meeting.

14.) Board Member Closing Comments

1. Jodi Riddell: We have an agreement with MSB for renting out the facilities at Jay Nolfi Park for community events
2. Margaret Billinger:
3. Irene Crowley:
4. Dave Haggard:
5. Lindy Moss:
6. Michael Dale: Thank you to McKenna Bros. for working on my road! No potholes! Please be considerate drivers...
7. Lisa Behrens:

15.) Adjournment

Motion: Jodi Riddell Second: Yes Time: 8:58pm

Signature – Jodi Riddell, President – Big Lake Community Council

Date

Attestation – Lisa Behrens, Secretary – Big Lake Community Council

Date