

- 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 – April 8, 2025 – 7:00 PM
Big Lake Lions Recreation Center**

DRAFT MINUTES

1.) Call to Order/ Determination of Quorum

By: Jodi Riddell Time: 7:04pm
Quorum: Yes Attendees: 24 members signed in, plus 5 board members

2.) Pledge of Allegiance

3.) Agenda Approval

Motion: Irene Crowley Second: Yes

4.) Previous Meeting Minutes Approval (March 11, 2025)

Motion: Irene Crowley Second: Yes Copy signed: Jodi Riddell

5.) Treasurer’s Report

Checking: \$36,429.76 Savings: \$3,432.20 Money Market (Jordan Lake Park project): \$9,212.51

6.) Membership Report

Voting Members renewed for 2025: **58** (Plus 2 renewals prior to meeting)
Associates (non-voting) renewed for 2025: **7**

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

1. Kathryn Sowa-Lapinskas – Valley ABATE (Alaskan Bikers Advocating for Training and Education). Valley ABATE teaches motorcycle safety, courtesy, and cooperation in sharing the road. Introductory and advanced classes are held in the Butte Elementary parking lot. Classes follow MSF (Motorcycle Safety Foundation) curriculum. Upon successful course completion, learners receive a waiver for the DOT motorcycle safety course and certification. Valley ABATE provides all safety gear and motorcycles for learners during courses. Costs are \$125 for the 1-day introductory course, and \$319 for the 2-day advanced course, which includes an online study component. Please mark your calendars for the annual motorcycle blessing in Palmer on May 10.



2. Amy Bershatz – Mat-Su Sentinel The Sentinel is a new, non-partisan, online publication to meet the need for local coverage such as community and school events, local government news, etc. Please fill out a survey card to submit your recommendations for what residents want from their local news source. Check us out at <https://www.matsusentinel.com/> and consider signing up for our newsletter.

8.) Reports

1. Legislative (State House & Senate)
Senator Shower: Not available

Representative McCabe: Linn McCabe – with prepared information from Rep. McCabe. Main priority is the budget process. Rep. McCabe supports a full PFD. Currently there is a significant shortfall for arriving at a balanced budget, meaning a lot of work to do and several votes to come. Feel free to contact Rep. McCabe with questions or information requests.

2. Assembly (District 5)

Assembly Representative Gamble: West Susitna Access Road update. Mat Su Borough budget process starts tomorrow. Please use this link <https://transparency.matsugov.us/pages/financial-information> for all MSB budget information and scheduled public hearing meetings. Big Lake Lions Club purchase update. Waterfront Setback Workgroup update. Big Lake Hotel property disposition update. Jordan Lake Park improvement project update. Recognition and thanks to Andrew Traxler for his efforts to bring in donations for the Jordan Lake Park project. Notice: Big Lake property tax mil rate may be affected due to Oil Search Alaska transferring leases out of the Big Lake area. Rep. Gamble will keep community posted.

3. Fire Service (West Lakes Fire Department – WLF) Chief Hightower – It's burn permit time again. Low snowfall this winter is setting the stage for a significant wildland fire season. It is important for everyone to be aware and vigilant this year. Please pick up a flyer or go online for information at <http://forestry.alaska.gov/> There were 66 fire service calls in March, of which 5 were structure fires. WLF is always hiring on-call responders, and we always have smoke detectors and CO alarms for community members.
4. Road Service Area: Andrew Traxler – annual drive-around will be this week.

9.) Correspondence

1. Army Corps of Engineers – Active projects info
2. Shonda Erickson – HJR14 – Alaska Rail Resolution Support Request

10.) Unfinished Business

1. Lake Setback Ordinance & Waterbody Setback Advisory Board – Update: Bill Gamble – during Assembly report
<https://matsugov.us/boards/waterbody-setback-advisory-board>

11.) New Business

1. 2025 BLCC Grants Committee – request for volunteers (Jodi will get meeting schedule started)
2. HJR14 – Alaska Rail Resolution Support Request. Bill Gamble provided info and answered questions. Members voted for a BLCC letter of support, to complete the rail spur. Angie Steph available to assist.

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

1. Cheryl Metiva – Big Lake Community events updates. (See fliers attached to draft minutes email)
2. Linn McCabe – Ranked choice voting repeal initiative information.
3. Keith Dobson – Big Lake needs a town center. Could Jordan Lake Park expand to meet this need.
4. Bill Gamble – Possible funding from Mat Su Health Foundation for Big Lake community improvements.
5. Jim Faiks – Jordan Lake Park project progress update.



13.) Announcements

- 1. none

14.) Board Member Closing Comments

- 1. Jodi Riddell:
- 2. **Margaret Billinger:** Happy Easter
- 3. Irene Crowley:
- 4. Dave Haggard:
- 5. Lindy Moss:
- 6. **Michael Dale:** Three things...

One: Please check out the work that has been done on biglakecommunitycouncil.com and send along recommendations for further BLCC website improvements.

Two: Asking for community support in finding a way to bring more law enforcement to Big Lake – please communicate with our legislators.

Three: Please be courteous drivers and be nice on the roads!

- 7. Lisa Behrens:

15.) Adjournment

Motion: Michael Dale Second: Yes Time: 8:18pm

Signature – Jodi Riddell, President – Big Lake Community Council Date

Attestation – Lisa Behrens, Secretary – Big Lake Community Council Date