

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



PO Box 520931

Big Lake, AK 99652-0931

**General Membership Meeting – July 8, 2025 – 7:00 PM**  
**Big Lake Lions Recreation Center**

**MINUTES**

**1.) Call to Order/ Determination of Quorum**

By: Jodi Riddell                      Time: 7:03pm  
Quorum: Yes                      Attendees: 50+ voting members and guests

**2.) Pledge of Allegiance**

**3.) Agenda Approval**

Motion: Michael Dale                      Second: Yes

**4.) Previous Meeting Minutes Approval (June 10, 2025)**

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

**5.) Treasurer's Report**

Checking: \$29,924.93                      Savings: \$3,543.08                      Money Market (Jordan Lake Park project): \$20,544.25

**6.) Membership Report**

Voting Members renewed for 2025: **77** (Plus 3 renewals) Associates (non-voting) renewed for 2025: **7**

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

1. Al Bolea: Waterbody Setback legislation – History of and comments on legislation proposed by the 2024-2025 Waterbody Setback Advisory Group. Roughly 1700 structures in MSB are not in compliance with the existing 75' setback regulation. That equates to approximately \$300-400 million in property values. Mat Su Borough has a long history of non-enforcement. Residents who own noncompliant properties are confused by complicated legislation, and do not have access for assistance in interpreting or navigating the process. Al also introduced and explained the draft letter he prepared for BLCC response to forward to the MSB Planning Department regarding the proposed legislation.

Vote of the membership regarding draft BLCC response letter: Vote passed unanimously

2. Mike Brown: Mat Su Borough proposed gas tax. Introduced staff who will be working at the Big Lake Rec Center. Adam Madson – Building Manager. Cheyenne Heindel – Finance Director. Explained the proposed \$0.07 per gallon fuel excise tax and how it affects Mat Su Borough finances. Intended to reduce property tax increases in the future. MSB will need additional funding for future capital expenditures, including solving our road problems. Additionally, bond debt funding from State of Alaska is expected to continue to decrease and be discontinued by 2036. MSB has the choice of continuing to take on debt in the form of bonds or find other ways to produce revenue. This proposed fuel excise tax is one possibility. Bond debt and property taxes fall entirely on MSB residents. A fuel excise tax would spread the burden among non-residents as well. The tax excludes aviation, marine, home-heating and off-road equipment fuel. Provision 1: "Sunset Provision" ...The

assembly would be required to review and reapprove the tax annually. Provision 2: 30% of collected fuel tax would be applied to RSA funding for RIP (road improvement) projects. IMPORTANT: Approval of a fuel excise tax will require a vote of the public during a general election.

#### **8.) Reports**

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

Representative McCabe: Update on DNR land parcel discussed two years ago, that now has deteriorated with unauthorized use and occupation. Working with federal entities to bring attention to funding for Port Mackenzie and the rail spur. Also, energy sector efforts underway. Special Alaska legislative session starts August 2. Compliments to West Lakes Fire Department for sending personnel and equipment to fight the Bear Creek fire. Congratulations to Big Lake Chamber of Commerce for successfully reorganizing.

2. Assembly (District 5)  
Representative Gamble: not available
3. Fire Service (West Lakes Fire Department – WLFD) not available
4. Road Service Area: no information to provide

#### **9.) Correspondence**

1. None

#### **10.) Unfinished Business**

1. Lake Setback Ordinance & Waterbody Setback Advisory Board – Update: Addressed during presentation by Al Bolea  
<https://matsugov.us/boards/waterbody-setback-advisory-board>
2. 2025 BLCC Grants Committee – Update: All checks have been issued for grants (sign-up sheets on back table and at <https://biglakecommunitycouncil.com/files-%26-downloads> )
3. 2025 BLCC CIP (community improvement projects) Committee – Update: Jodi will work with Cindy (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. Jim Faiks and Larry McKinstry – Update on Jordan Lake Park project construction progress, and efforts for future funding via grants and community volunteers. Next meeting: Saturday July 12, 10:00am, Big Lake Library.

#### **13.) Announcements**

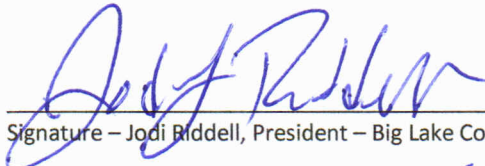
1. None

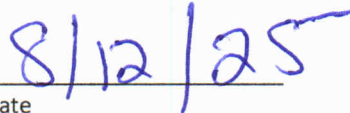
**14.) Board Member Closing Comments**

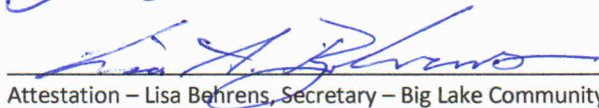
1. Jodi Riddell: Stay off our bike paths with motorized vehicles. Signs coming soon.
2. Margaret Billinger: Big Lake Chamber of Commerce having a pike fishing derby coming up in August. Chamber of Commerce is seeking sponsors. Open house and next meeting July 17, at Susitna Brewing Co. Café. Big Lake Hotel is under contract for repairs and upgrades.
3. Irene Crowley:
4. Dave Haggard:
5. Lindy Moss:
6. Michael Dale: We all know we have people using our roads in reckless ways. Please follow rules of the road, and without distractions. Drive like people's lives (yours and others') depend on it.
7. Lisa Behrens:


**15.) Adjournment**

Motion: Michael Dale      Second: Yes      Time: 8:44pm

  
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Signature – Jodi Riddell, President – Big Lake Community Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
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Attestation – Lisa Behrens, Secretary – Big Lake Community Council

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date