

Minutes of the Big Bear Lake Association Annual Meeting July 2nd, 2022

President Greg Wymore called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

The meeting minutes of the July 3rd, 2021 meeting were approved as read.

The Treasurer's Report from Keith Sherry was approved as read.

New treasury items- Silver Beach Association paid half (\$450) for the annual Lake Invasive Species Survey. Keith would like to redeem a CD containing \$8,200 that is maturing soon and move it to a higher yield fund. A motion was passed to allow Keith to move the money to a higher yield fund. Tim Parros volunteered to help find a better fund.

DNR Fish Report- Greg Wymore

- 1) FISH STOCKING – The DNR stocks the lake with about 20,000 walleye every other year. Last planting was in June 2021. A survey of the fish present in the lake has not been done in several years due to shortage of staffing at the DNR. There is a State database that you can look up the history of fish stocking for each lake.
- 2) Blue gills are now plentiful even though the state does not stock them. Very few suckers are washing up. Northern pike are probably eating the suckers.

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Report- Ray Steffner

- 1) **The annual survey of the lake by PLM took place July 2021 to look for presence of the invasive aquatic plant Eurasian Milfoil** and give us an overall evaluation of plant life in the lake. Eurasian Milfoil or any other nonnative species was not present in the 2021 survey. Each annual survey is an important baseline for monitoring the health of the lake moving forward. If caught early, Eurasian Milfoil can be removed at a relatively low cost. Once a lake is infested, as many area lakes are... it requires costly annual chemical treatment to keep Milfoil from overtaking the lake. Volunteers are needed to help with this years lake survey.
- 2) **A Mobile Boat Wash Event** was hosted by MSU extension and EGLE at the boat launch Friday August 13th,2021. 15-20 boats used the wash, however some boaters declined. A permanent boat wash at the campground would be ideal to prevent Eurasian Milfoil from getting into our lake, however it is expensive and hard to staff as an association. The State of Minnesota has now made it state law to use wash boats before and after dropping into a lake. Minnesota now has county employees monitoring washes and reporting violators to their DNR to issue \$500 fines. Greg Wymore has volunteered to work on a pilot project to implement publicly funded boat washes in Otsego County.
- 3) Special thanks to the committee for all their efforts to keep Big Bear Lake clean!

Gypsy Moth Spraying

Otsego County confirmed in December the county had no plans to spray for Gypsy Moths. The county confirmed we could hire a licensed and insured sprayer. Montmorency County provided information on potential vendors. The BBLA board decided not to use association funds. We emailed a survey to property owners in March to gauge interest in property owners paying for arial spraying. 53 out of 55 owners were in favor of spraying. Al's Aerial Spraying was selected to spray. Sent invoices April 1st to owners for \$100 per property. Most paid.

There was a window of 10-14 days just before and after Memorial Day in which spraying would be effective. Spraying occurred the morning of June 1st. The goal was to eliminate 80% of the loss of leaves and mess from caterpillars. That goal was achieved- although some caterpillars were still present. Ray Steffner recommended we apply the surplus funds to spraying again next year. The use of surplus funds could lower the cost to \$70 per property (if the overall cost does not go up). The association voted yes to spray next spring. Additional measures owners can take to reduce the caterpillar population and damage is to put duck tape sticky side-out around the base of trees and spray with a BT solution yourself within the 2 week window.

Old Business

- 1) Internet.** Frontier DSL is still the prime provider although the number of users is at capacity. StarLink (satellite service faster than DSL) is \$109/month and being used by a few owners. There are some dead spots with no satellite signal. Signal can be low if you have a lot of trees nearby. Tru Stream DSL internet (in association with Great Lakes Energy) is not yet available but still in the exploratory phase and possibly a few years out. Tru Stream will not be limited to only a certain number of customers. Please go online and register interest to help get this to be an option. CORA, T-Mobile and Verizon are options using the cellular network. Barger Creek wireless internet based in Atlanta may expand to our area in the future.
- 2) Loon Update-** Sue McKay (our state certified loon ranger from Silver Beach) reports that a breeding pair of loons nested in the area of freshly cut trees near the northwest side of the lake. The nest was easily seen by boats going by. Two baby loons hatched and are growing fast. Please be aware of the loons and keep your distance to not disturb the babies. Don McCoy removed an old loon nest platform on the north side of the lake that was taken over by muskrats. Don built a new platform to replace the old one.
- 3) Lake level update-** The lake level has gone down 4 inches since last year. It is still high although has gone down a total of 11 inches since the 68 inch high from 2 years ago. If you still have "NO WAKE" signs, please put them out.
- 4) Dead trees-** Do you need permission to cut down dead trees in the water? You cannot remove stumps in or near the water. The state could issue a fine for unapproved tree removal. The DNR prefers that you let a downed tree be habitat for fish. However, as a property owner you can remove downed trees that are in your way of enjoying your property. Action item to follow up with the DNR for more clarification.
- 5) Next Door-** an online neighborhood site has worked well in the last year to report a lost kayak, jet ski and fishing boat.

New Business

- 1) Michigan Lakes & Streams-** contributed funds to a University of Minnesota study on the effect of wake boats on shores and lake bottoms. Phase 1 of the study looked at the distance a wake board boat should stay away from shores and docks as compared to a traditional boat. The study released their recommendation in February for wake board boats to stay 500 ft from shores and docks. 500 ft is 2.5x the distance a traditional boat is recommended to stay away from shores and docks and 5x the legal distance of 100 ft. Phase 2 of the study is underway to evaluate shoreline and lake bottom erosion. We appreciate the wake board boats on the lake staying in the middle of the lake to reduce the size of the waves that reach the shore.

- 2) Conservation group memberships**-Last year we voted to maintain membership to both MLS (\$120/yr) and Huron Pines (\$150/yr). Membership in these groups may be beneficial to us in the future. We do not have a public boat launch and the DNR limited our access to the boat launch in 2020 during the pandemic. Conservation groups along with associations are making efforts to buy up plots of lake frontage to preserve nature and potentially secure access for property owners to be able to launch boats in the case the state blocks access from state land in the future. A vote was proposed and approved to maintain our memberships to MLS and Huron Pines in future years.
- 3) New Construction & Building Permits.**
Large construction trucks are increasing loads causing increased erosion of our roads. Along with an increase in construction projects, the county building inspector has been observed driving around looking for projects that do not have a permit. Retaining wall projects also require a permit with EGLE (formerly known as the DEQ.) Permits are good for 5 years.
- 4) Ken Royal** (from north of Silver Beach) passed away a few weeks ago at the age of 86. He was one of the longest summer residents of the lake.

Elections:

Officers and board members at large were voted in as follows:

President- Gregg Wymore
Vice President- Ray Steffner
Treasurer- Keith Sherry
Secretary- Julie Jones

Board Members at large- 2 year commitment
George Mesrey-Westshore
Vicki Sherry- S Shore
Steve Hathaway- Westshore
Carl Rutkowski- Bainter

Fireworks- Rick Ehrstin is accepting donations. Fireworks to begin tonight after dark.

Annual Boat Parade- Mike and Marlene Borg will lead the parade on the Northern Belle July 3rd at 2 pm. Start in front of the Wymore's and stay 2 boat lengths apart.

Donald and Roxann McCoy 6039 Wm. Kelly Rd volunteered to hold the meeting again next year.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:59 AM.