

Bay Lake Improvement Association Board Meeting
 July 21, 2012
 Ruttger's Resort

Officers/Directors	Present	Committee Chairs	Present
Ruttger, Chris – President		Bye, Jim --Runtilla	
Ciresi, Dominic – VP & Development	X	Erickson, Paul – History	
Gondeck, Chris – Co-Treasurer	X	Hanson, Ruth - Continuity	
Graff, Sylvia - Co-Treasurer	X	Johnson, Bruce - Development and Taxes	X
Ysseldyke, Jim – Secretary	X	Kelly, Mike - Legal	
Devins, David – Aquatic Plant Mgmt		Krueger, Karl – Water Safety	
Goolsbee, Josh – Beach Captains	X	Marquardt, Betty - Membership	X
Bale, Rick		Nelson, Jim - Security	
Johnson, Tamara - Conservation	X	Orwoll, Gregg - Fireworks	
Roloff, Mark – Water Quality		Poland, Jerry - Government	
Keller, Bobbie – Breezes	X	Shekels, Scott - Website	
Malek, Gary – Fishing Resources	X	Trip, Tiffin – Shoreline Protection	
Souder, Steve – Conservation and Runtilla	X	Jespersen, Patricia – Nominating	X
		Rollins, Phil – Access Monitoring	X

The Board meeting was called to order by Vice President Dominic Ciresi at 9:07 am. Done Hales was present as a guest..

Minutes

Minutes of the June 2012 meeting had been distributed by email. Betty Marquardt moved approval of the minutes and this was seconded by Steve Souder. Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report

Sylvia Graff reported a balance of \$32,754.77 for the BLIA fund. Chris Gondeck distributed a copy of the consolidated budget through July 19, 2012. He reported a balance of \$218,681.44. It was decided that Sylvia, Chris and Bruce Johnson will meet to discuss alternate ways to establish books that reflect the two separate accounts. Jim Ysseldyke made a motion to approve the Treasurers' reports and this was seconded by Steve Souder. Reports approved..

Membership

Betty Marquardt, indicated that we have 441 members as of July 20.. \$6,885 has been collected for the fireworks. It was noted that some people contribute to the environmental fund but do not join as members. Betty will discuss this issue with Marlene and look to send these people a separate email asking if they wish to join the Association.

Access Monitoring

Phil Rollins provided a report on access monitoring.

Public Access Points

We've begun to look into other public access points. Some of you may know that when the original lot plat was set out in 1926, many easements for access between lots were created. In addition, we're aware of at least one township road, Brighton Pt. Road, that ends at the lake. We do know that there is some use of the access, as there have been fresh tire marks seen recently and reports of boat launch activity. After consultation with the BLIA officers, Bruce Johnson and I attended the July 10 township meeting and requested they consider closing the Brighton Pt. Road access ramp. There was some objection from a member of the audience and the township Board agreed to consider our request, but made no decision. Evidently, the access is used by some with interior lots, with no lake access.

From my perspective, this access point and any others, are "leaks" in our system. We may monitor every boat at the main public access, but if one boat comes in from Mille Lacs with AIS and uses the Brighton Pt. access, all of our efforts are for naught.

My recommendation, shared by Bruce, is that the BLIA Board make a formal request to the township Board to close the Brighton Pt. Road access ramp. On July 9, MN Public Radio reported that the Shoreham Township closed 7 access points on Lake Melissa and Lake Sallie; see the attached article. This gives some legal precedent to this action we hope to be asking of the Bay Lake Township Board. I've also attached a primer on Township Government, very interesting stuff.

We also know of an easement on Brighton Pt. Road that may have been illegally cleared by an interior lot owner, with plans to install docks. Neighbors in the area have been seeking legal assistance, we will try to stay informed. It appears this situation is one to be handled by the state, not BLIA or the township.

All of this points to the potential problem of there being many access points around the lake where an infected boat could be launched. The good news is that most such access points are overgrown and some consumed by adjacent property owners.

MSRPO – MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Last year, I recommended to the Board that we join MN Waters, an advocacy group promoting healthy lakes and rivers, you approved membership for \$300; unfortunately, they have gone under.

MSRPO is another advocacy group, which I think would be wise for us to join, for the same \$300. Here are the core tenets:

- Minnesota can and must **Stop the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species**;
- Minnesota's current property tax system is unfair as there is little connection between property tax and the ability to pay that tax;
- Creates destructive disincentives towards preservation of shoreline, forest restoration, and habitat protection. We must rewrite the code to assist owners who want to preserve and protect these vital resources;
- Minnesota's property tax code is irreparably broken. The entire state and local fiscal system must be overhauled;
- Property taxes, particularly on water influenced property have skyrocketed even local budgets and services have plummeted;
- In many districts, lakeshore makes up more than 50% of the tax base

While some of their efforts are spent on property tax matters, they are working hard on AIS issues. I had a long chat with Jeff Forester, Executive Director, and believe the organization is a good match for us. About 40 other lake associations are members.

Annual Meeting

Although I could not attend, it sounds like Joe Shneider was a hit and did much to raise the awareness of AIS issues among the attendees. I am looking for feedback from anyone. It's pretty obvious there is much to learn and much to do.

Public Access Update

On July 7, over 20 new monitors were trained by the DNR. Ruttger's again hosted and Bay Lake Marine provided a trailered boat for inspection practice. Thanks to both of these businesses for their support. We now have over 135 trained monitors, although not all are active.

Earlier this year, the Board gave me the authority to cause to be hired paid workers to help monitor our ramp. While there have been a few reports of a lackadaisical attitude, my dealings with the two young men, and my time with them on the ramp, cause me to think they are doing a good job. Almost every day, the ramp has a

monitor from 7am to 6pm, sometimes later. Starting in mid-May, and as of July 8, our paid workers have worked 242 hours, plus training, resulting in a cost of about \$4,400. If they average 30 hours per week for the next 10 weeks to take us to mid-Sept, that would cost another \$5,000. The Board approved up to \$14,000.

DNR continues to assign one or two interns to monitor on average about 20 hours per week. We're contracted for up to 400 DNR time, but as DNR is short on interns this summer, I doubt we'll get that many hours. And, we'll lose any intern monitoring about mid-August as they return to school.

The cost of DNR interns and our paid workers will depend on how many hours the volunteers take on. As we've gotten into summer, and with the influx of new monitors, our volunteers have been stepping up, which I expect to continue thru Aug.

Joint Powers Agreement

Joe Shneider had much to say on this subject. At the July township meeting, I again raised this issue and was granted a committee of one (Don Hales) to work with me. At this time, we haven't met. Don is chair of the Bay Lake Township Board.

The point we need to keep in mind is that such an agreement between the township and DNR would allow the township, and hopefully BLIA, to control at least our main public access ramp and train and hire Class I inspectors, who would have the authority to physically inspect boats and can deny boats access to the lake if they appear to be carrying AIS. Also, we may be able to limit hours and access to specific hours.

The current joint powers agreement is only for 2012, so we expect there to be something different for 2013. In the meantime, we need to be pushing the township board to be ready to move when the 2013 program is announced and available. Don Hales and I have a meeting scheduled for Friday, July 20, will report at the Board meeting.

Going Public

Periodically, we all see articles in local and statewide media about AIS, most recently, the attached article on Melissa Lake. We have a pretty good story here at Bay Lake, about the start of the program to contain and treat our Milfoil problem, the start of the public access monitor program, and now our more comprehensive program combatting AIS. I'd like a brief discussion with the Board about whether it would help our efforts if we were to try to have our story told to the public. Please give this some thinking before the meeting.

Summary

We've done much to enhance our monitor program and continue to raise the awareness of the AIS threat among our members and others in the Bay Lake community. There seems little doubt that our AIS program will change as the problem continues to change. Special thanks to Bill Bale, who continues to investigate the legal side of these issues, Bruce Johnson for his help with land matters and general counsel, and my wife Jane, who shares my passion and helps me try to keep it all straight.

There was considerable discussion about the Joint Powers Agreement and the Brighton Point access. A motion was made to make a formal request of the township to close the Brighton Point access and for the board to pay for any gate that needs to be installed. Motion was made by Bruce Johnson and seconded by Steve Souder. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Phil Rollins and seconded by Chris Gondeck to pay \$300 to join MSPRO. Motion approved.

Phil distributed:

- A map of Brighton Point showing the access we discussed.
- A copy of MPR news listing new tactics for the battle against invasive species in Minnesota
- The MSPRO legislative update on aquatic invasive species.
- A set of FAQs about aquatic invasive species inspection.
- A primer on township government labeled "Township Government 101".

Environmental Fund/Development

Dominic Ciresi reported that pledge forms will be available at next year's annual meeting.

We discussed donations by gifts of stock. It was decided that we need to make sure that Marlene sends tax statements to stock donors. Bruce Johnson volunteered to meet with Marlene regarding database management.

Chris Gondeck, Sylvia Graff and Bruce Johnson will work on improving the way in which we categorize donors to the Environmental Fund.

There was a discussion of how best to set up separate accounts for the BLIA and Environmental Funds and also account for these in the consolidated report. The goal is to have these separate accounts set up by next year. Bruce Johnson will have a report by the next meeting.

Nominating

The nominating committee will discuss potential nominees and check on their interest prior to next year's annual meeting.

New Business

A motion was made and seconded to purchase a plaque for Chris Ruttger to honor his service as BLIA President.

Josh Goolsbee sampled the lake in 11 locations for e coli bacteria and reported no problems.

Adjournment

Steve Souder moved adjournment and Betty Marquardt seconded the motion.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim Ysseldyke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jim Ysseldyke
Secretary

Fishing Resources

Gary Malek provided an update on development of walleye spawning areas on the lake. He indicated that road restrictions went on before we could get the rock on the ice on the east side along highway 10. This will be deferred until next year.

Aquatic Plant Management

A new grant program is available this year and David Devins will apply for \$25,000 for a May 30 grant and \$25,000 for the August 30 deadline. David indicated that about 1/3 to 1/2 of our treatments for last fall were with liquid 2-4-D. We will wait to see the effects of this treatment approach.

Water Resources

Mark Roloff indicated that a sampling was done this winter and that all findings were within normal limits.

Breezes

The deadline for submission of articles to Breezes is May 1.

Security

Jim Nelson has asked to be relieved of his position as chair of the security committee. We discussed the mission and activities of the committee. A person was suggested as a replacement and Chris Ruttger will contact the person.

Taxes

Bruce Johnson indicated there is a move underway to no longer provide homestead credit. He indicated that Minnesota also has a partial homestead credit.

New Business

David Devins made a motion that BLIA register for an I cloud account to store association data. Josh Goolsbee seconded the motion. Discussion indicated that we would work with Marleen to put information at that site. Motion Passed.

Next Board meeting is at Ruttger's on Saturday May 5.

Adjournment

Bruce Johnson made a motion to adjourn and the motion was seconded by Gary Malek. The meeting was adjourned at 11 am.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jim Ysseldyke". The signature is fluid and written in black ink.

Jim Ysseldyke
Secretary