

**Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association Agenda for July 21, 2021**  
**Orrock Town Hall**

Attendees: Board members: Gordy Westerlind, Bryan Adams, Paul Ellinger, Dan Boyle, John Smullen, Craig (CJ) Johnson, Jeff Johnson. Guests: Adria Pettit, Jim Swanson, Troy Olson, Adam Kretsch, Kyle Haller. Absent: Ed Peitso (temporary leave of absence), Dick Bittner.

Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM by Gordy Westerlind.

Motion to approve the May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board Minutes made by John, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.

Election of BELIA Officers:

- Motion to nominate Gordy Westerlind for President made by Lori, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.
- Motion to nominate Bryan Adams for Vice President made by John, seconded by Dan. Motion carried.
- Motion to nominate Jeff Johnson for Treasurer made by Lori, seconded by Dan. Motion carried.
- Motion to nominate Lori Andreen for Secretary made by Jeff, seconded by John. Motion carried.

Reports

- Treasurer's Report:

Checking Account Balance as of the beginning of June 2021	\$16,036.66
Deposits – \$4206.49 Dues and donations	
Checks - \$1,506.19 - \$562.44 Lori Andreen (Expenses Annual Meeting & Newsletter)	
\$615.00 AIS Consulting (MF Survey), \$35.00 Old National Deposit Adjustment	
\$200.00 Big Lake Township (Annual Meeting Rental), \$93.75 Big Lake Chamber (Dues)	
Checking Account Balance as of the end of June 2021	\$18,736.96

There were 62 *paid-up* members at the end of June 2021.

There were 72 *paid-up* members at the end of June 2020

There were \$4,177.80 in “extra” contributions collected through June 2021

There were \$4,005.66 in “extra” contributions made through June 2020

The 2020 Minnesota Attorney General annual report was filed on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The 2020 990 Federal Tax return was filed in Feb 2021

The 2021 renewal with the Secretary of State was filed Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021

Recommendation has been made regarding an audit committee. George Wallin and Paul Ellinger have volunteered and created audit procedures. I agree to procedures as written. Should start in July

Respectfully submitted by,

Jeff Johnson

Treasurer

- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by Paul, seconded by Dan. Motion carried.
- Jeff states that Audit Committee will meet on Monday, July 26<sup>th</sup>.

- Expenditure Approvals
  - o Gift for Kris Biser
  - o Marcie Swanson - \$55.84 for Laminator and supplies.
  - o Motion to approve expenditure and up to \$50 for Kris's gift made by John, seconded by Lori. Motion carried.
  
- Lake Quality Committee
  - o A Study of the NE Watershed would cost BELIA \$10K and no grants are available.
  - o WSB has been slow to respond. BELIA is looking to partner with Wenck Environmental Consulting as we go forward.
  - o Carp Trap: very few bow fishermen at the bridge. Water levels are low, no carp are coming in from downstream as cannot get past the culvert/beaver dam.
  - o Briggs Lake Chain is interested in purchasing an oxygen meter. We purchased one for our WSB Study at a cost of \$1200. There are no plans for continued use.
    - Motion to sell oxygen meter for no less than \$600 made by Paul, seconded by Dan. Motion carried.
  - o Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM): We have received a \$2,000 grant from SWCD. We cannot treat the whole lake due to lack of funds, but we could treat \$2000 worth.
    - Motion to authorize the Lake Quality Committee to make a decision on treatment of EWM not to exceed \$2000 made by John, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.
    - Jeff suggested we research whether the grant could be given to property owners to reimburse their expenses for EWM treatment as it grows in the shallow waters we are not allowed to treat. This could be an option for 2022.
  
- COLA – Ed has stepped down due to health issues. Gordy appeals for someone to represent BELIA along with Ken Andreen on COLA.
  
- Chamber – Golf Scramble coming up in September. Chamber has been very supportive, advertising our events in their newsletter.
  
- Events
  - o Poker Run this Saturday.
  - o Pulled Pork Cook-Off August 14<sup>th</sup>. Still looking for Smokers!
  - o Wine and Weeds Educational Cruise August 21<sup>st</sup> – Cancelled due to poor lake quality issues. May try for 2022.
  
- Other Business
  - o 2021 Annual Meeting Take-aways: Discussion on how to improve future annual meetings.
  - o Lake Improvement Districts (LID) Discussion: Need to start thinking of additional sources of funds for lake improvement. Options:
    - Continue as we have and do the best we can
    - Increase fundraising activities
    - Do nothing

- Form Lake Improvement District (LID)
- \* Known Facts to consider:
  - In order to improve lake water quality issues, additional sources of revenue are required.
  - Raising enough revenue thru current fundraising projects to the level required is highly unlikely.
  - Current board and events committee are becoming tired. Continued participation is difficult to sustain.
  - Of the approximately 200 properties around the lake, only 50% participate in BELIA. This is typical for other lake associations.
  - Orono and Briggs chain lake associations have formed LID's. Elk Lake Association is in the process of investigating LIDS.
  - Forming a LID will take a few years to accomplish
  - There are close to fifty (50) LID's in Minnesota.
  - The LID is a local unit of government that provides structure and more opportunity for land owners involvement in lake management activities. LIDs recommend projects and budgets to county board approval. To finance LID activities, the county board can assess costs to benefited properties, impose service charges, issue general obligation bonds, levy an ad valorem tax solely on properties within the LID District.
  - Motion to establish a committee to investigate formation of an LID made by John, seconded by Jeff. Motion carried.
    - \* Committee appointed: Paul, Bryan, Jeff, and Gordy
- AIS Volunteers Update – Kicked Off; received 10 vests. 20 hours so far; need more AIS Detectors as so far only two (Craig and John) are inspecting boats.
- Member Open Forum
  - Adam Kretsch and Kyle Haller came to the Board asking if the Board had any concerns with his attempts to resolve ownership/liability of his property at the Public Access with the DNR.
    - Board states that we have no issues.

Next meeting: Wednesday, September 1<sup>st</sup> 6:30 PM at the Orrock Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned 8:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted  
 Lori Andreen  
 BELIA Secretary