

BELIA Annual Meeting Minutes May 7, 2022

Thank you for coming! We all love our Lake, and you are a part of a great community!

Meeting called to order at 10:10 AM by Gordy Westerlind, BELIA President

Welcome and Introductions: Members of the BELIA Board, Events Team, and Lake Committee were introduced.

Motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting made by Debbie Gilyard, seconded by Rick Neisses. Motion carried.

2021 Treasurer's Summary Report given by Jeff Johnson (see Treasurer's Report 2021 attachment).

- Membership is down from the 2020 membership roll.
- 'Extra' donations, in addition to membership dues, were at an all-time high
- Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report made by George Wallin, seconded by Ed Peitso. Motion carried.

Old Business: The lingering issues associated with the Eagle Lake (DNR) boat landing were brought up and discussed. Ownership, parking limitation, and parking lot maintenance continue to be ongoing concerns.

New Business:

- Presentation: Bryan Adams of the Lake Quality Committee (see 'AIS Consulting...' attached)
 - DNR has recently changed the 'official' status of our lake to 'impaired' due to excess phosphorus levels, Chlorophyll A, and Secchi disc readings. This will allow us to apply for grants to treat in the future.
 - Sources of excess phosphorus discussed:
 - Largely from NE Watershed coming from lake inlet: Difficult to treat due to DNR and other ownership control.
 - Carp rooting stirs up nutrients: Two cost sharing agreements with Sherburne SWCD are being utilized to track carp with a goal of netting and creating reduced spawning opportunities. Transmitters were installed to track ten (10) carp, and recently cameras were installed at three locations to locate carp spawning sites.
 - Sediment Release at deeper levels cause oxygen to drop lower than one (1) PPM (part per million) - fish cannot survive.
 - Treatment for excess phosphorus would involve treating areas of Big Eagle Lake with aluminum sulfate (a.k.a. alum), a product that binds with phosphorus.
 - Cost of treatment for excess phosphorus causing overgrowth of algae and lack of clarity could be as high as \$800,000. DNR grants could pay 75%; BELIA would still need to produce 25%. Funding would be dependent on DNR funds available.
 - Discussion continued regarding how to produce that kind of money: Loans, building of funds over years.
 - Upgrading Septic System grants are available:
<https://www.co.sherburne.mn.us/816/Financial-Help#:~:text=Low%2DIncome%20Septic%20Upgrade%20Grant%20Program&text=Grants%20may%20be%20awarded%20for,over%2018%20years%20of%20age>.

- 2022 Weed Management Plan:
 - Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) continues to be a problem in our lake. BELIA plans to spend \$25-\$30,000 on herbicide control on BOTH aquatic invasives this year. In recent years BELIA has only treated CLP. CLP treatment will be sometime in June, EWM treatment will be approximately one month later.
 - Members are encouraged to treat their own shorelines as BELIA is not allowed to come closer than 150 feet from the shoreline. Timing of herbicide application is critical: BELIA to notify membership of the right timing to apply.
 - For a DNR Permit to treat your lakeshore:
 - <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/shorelandmgmt/apg/permits.html>
 - Licensed aquatic herbicide distributors in our area:
 - Aquatic Solutions: <https://aquaticsolutionsmn.com>
 - Lake Restoration: <http://www.lakerestoration.com>
 - In 2023, BELIA will be facilitating landowner's treatments of their shorelines. Aquatic Solutions, a commercial applicator BELIA has used for lake-wide CLP treatment for many years, will offer a property owner shoreline treatment program. Currently, Aquatic Solutions offers this service to property owners on neighboring lakes. The cost for this service was discussed and appears to be very reasonable. More information related to this 2023 self-treatment option to follow.
- Lake Level:
 - Our lake tends to be a overflow basin for the Snake and Elk Rivers, therefore, depending on rain, lake levels can swing thirty inches (30").
 - Beavers and their dam removed from downstream last fall so lake levels are lower.

➤ Upcoming Events and Fundraisers, Volunteering

- The BELIA Events Team creates fundraisers as well as fun events to support our community. Thank you for volunteering and joining us as we raise funds for caring for our beautiful lake. Please see the separate sheet for our Events Calendar. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT. Volunteers are always appreciated at these events!
- New this year! BELIA Spirit Wear! More colors are available! Please go to
 - <https://www.bonfire.com/spiritwear-for-belvia/>
 - <https://www.bonfire.com/spiritwear-for-belvia160/>



Motion to adjourn meeting made by Ed Peitso, seconded by Bryan Adams. Meeting adjourned at 11:31 AM.

Respectfully submitted
Lori Andreen,
BELIA Secretary