

Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA) 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Lion's Park, May 6th, 2023

Meeting called to order at 10:06 AM by Gordy Westerlind, President

Approximately 50 people were in attendance.

- 1) Motion to approve the 2022 BELIA Annual Meeting Minutes made by Jeff Johnson, seconded by Ken Andreen. Motion carried.
- 2) BELIA Treasurer's Report (Annual) Year Ending, December 31st, 2022

Checking Account Balance as of January 1st, 2022 \$36,849.28

	<u>Jan - Dec 22</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Grants/Amazon Smiles	4,416.32
Fundraisers/Dues Donations	29,508.46
Misc. Donation	400.00
Total Income	<u>34,324.78</u>
Expense	
Lake Management	29,638.15
General Office	327.19
Ice Out Contest	100.00
Operations/Fundraising	5,756.39
Liability/D&O Insurance	1,485.80
Poker Run	290.00
Total Expense	<u>37,597.53</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>-3,272.75</u>
Net Income	<u><u>-3,272.75</u></u>

Checking Account Balance as of December 31, 2022, \$33,576.53

There were 103 *paid-up* members at the end of the year, 2022.

There were 90 *paid-up* members at the end of the year, 2021.

There was \$3,605.00 in member dues and \$8,253.76 in "extra" contributions collected in 2022.

There was \$3,150.00 in member dues and \$6,393.77 in "extra" contributions collected in 2021.

The 2022 Annual Renewal with the Secretary of State is due in July.

The 2022 990 Federal Tax return is due in May. Submitted 2/18/23.

The 2022 MN Sales Tax Filing was submitted 1/11/23.

The 2022 filing with the Attorney General is due in July.

Respectfully submitted by,
Jeff Johnson
Treasurer

- i) Motion to approve the 2022 BELIA Treasurer's Report made by George Wallin, seconded by Harry Miller. Motion carried.

3) Welcome and Introductions:

- i) **Board of Directors:** Gordy Westerlind, George Wallin, John Smullen, Ed Peitso, Troy Olsen, Craig Johnson, Jeff Johnson, Paul Ellinger, Mike Donnelly, Dan Boyle, Lori Andreen, and Bryan Adams.
 - A special note of thanks to Dick Bittner, Bryan Adams, and George Wallin who are stepping down as directors after many years of service. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.
- ii) **Events Team:** Adria Pettit, Amanda Swan, Dwight Buehler, Julie Brenteson, Kathleen Lewis, Kim DeVries, Kristen Vigoren, Lori Andreen, Lori Neisess, Marcie Swanson, Marie Johnson, Raquel Wallin, Renee Christensen, Sam Buehler, Sandy McClurq, Sarah Phillips, Stephanie Olsen, and Sue Jones. We could not hold our Events without our amazing volunteers!
- iii) **Lake Quality Committee:** Members: Bryan Adams, Ken Andreen, Dan Boyle, Mike Donnelly, Paul Ellinger, Mark Kurtz, and Gordy Westerlind. Much work has been done by the group regarding water quality and carp control. Bryan Adams is stepping down as head of this committee; Ken Andreen will be stepping up. Ken discussed the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), specifically starry stonewort, and appealed for help with volunteer boat inspections at the public access.
- iv) **LID Committee:** Jeff Johnson, Mike Donnelly, Gordy Westerlind, Bryan Adams, and Paul Ellinger. Our thanks to the committee for our special presentation today.

4) Old Business

- a) Shoreline herbicide treatments by Aquatic Solutions: 30 lakeshore homeowners have taken advantage of the BELIA's agreement with Aquatic Solutions for the herbicide treatments of their property's aquatic growth by Aquatic Solutions. We hope that this program is successful and will expand in future years.

5) New Business:

- a) Events/Fundraising: Each year we plan fun events as well as raise funds to support the lake. Last year the Pulled Pork Cook-Off made over \$4000, and the Wine and Beer Tasting made over \$11,600 for the lake association. This year, due to difficulties finding vendors for our Wine and Beer tasting, we are combining the two events and holding ONE fundraiser, the Pulled Pork Cook-Off, at Lupulin Brewing on August 12th. Please tell your family, friends, co-workers about this event and join us! Here are some dates for your calendar! Watch your email for more information.
 - Saturday, May 20th – 'Adopt-a-Highway' Clean-up. Meet at Public Access, 9 AM. Join our growing list of volunteers as we keep our neighborhood beautiful!
 - Culver's Fundraiser Monticello: Mondays: May 15th, and 22nd. Please come to the Monticello Culvers between 4 and 6PM. Come in and say 'Hi!' or go through the drive-through. BELIA could earn as much as 20% of total proceeds during these hours. Last year we earned \$650 in these four hours!
 - Boat Parade – Saturday, July 1st: 1PM - Meet at the public access. The winner will receive bragging rights with the Traveling Trophy and two flights of pulled pork at Pork Cook-Off.

- Saturday, July 22nd – Poker Run, 3PM – 9PM: Join us to meet your neighbors as we travel, progressive dinner style, via watercraft to visit five (5) lake homes and eat fabulous appetizers. Chance to ‘win’ for the Best and Worst Poker hands, too!
 - Sat., August 12th – 1:30 - 4 Pulled Pork Cook-Off – Silent Auction and GAMES! Come join local ‘PitMasters’ as they ‘smoke’ their pork and serve samples of their delicious fare! Vote for ‘People’s Choice’ and join the fun and help to raise money for the Association. P
 - Culver’s Fundraiser Monticello: Mondays: Sept. 11th, 18th, 25th. 4-8! Again, join us to raise funds for Big Eagle Lake.
 - Saturday, October 6th – ‘Adopt-a-Highway’ Clean-up at Public Access, 9 AM! Keeping our lake clean!
- i) **Sponsorships:** We are looking for sponsors, area businesses, who wish to get their name out there and support the Lake Association at various levels: \$500, \$2000, \$5000. We will be kicking off this campaign soon. Please watch for more details in future emails.
- b) Director Elections: BELIA By-Laws state that we can have up to thirteen (13) people serve on the BELIA Board as Directors. We have two new candidates who have offered to join the Board: JR McGuire and Sarah Philipps.
- (1) The following are offered for election to serve on the BELIA Board as Directors for a two-year term: Gordy Westerlind, Sarah Phillips, John Smullen, Ed Peitso, Troy Olsen, JR McGuire, Craig Johnson, Jeff Johnson, Paul Ellinger, Mike Donnelly, Dan Boyle, and Lori Andreen.
 - (2) Motion to approve the candidates as Board Members for a two-year term made by George Wallin, seconded by Ann Witucki. Motion carried unanimously.
- c) 2023 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management Plan
- Surveys for Curly Leaf Pondweed mid-May; treatment sometime in June.
 - Survey for Eurasian Water Milfoil one month following: Treated in 2022; 2023 treatment will depend on survey results.
 - We have received five (5) grants from the Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) totaling approximately \$6000. We are grateful for our working relationship with SWCD.
 - BELIA applied for a grant from the MN Board of Soil and Water (BWSR) for a \$46,000 grant for carp control but did not receive it.

Presentation: Lake Improvement District: LID: Jeff Johnson and the LID Committee created a Power Point presentation regarding the creation of an ELID, Eagle Lake Improvement District. Why the need? Due to high levels of nutrients (total phosphorous), which in turn has elevated (algae) concentration in Eagle Lake and reduced water clarity, Eagle Lake has been classified by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency as an impaired lake. The purpose of an ELID is to raise funds through assessments (i.e., taxes) on lakeshore homeowners to treat excess phosphorus and improve water clarity. Please see attached Power Point Presentation. Here are a few high points:

- Poor lake quality can diminish home values by hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- Algae ‘blooms’ cause unpleasant odors and have diminished the quality of life on Big Eagle Lake.
- The cost of the treatment of excess phosphorus with alum, a tried-and-true scientific method of binding phosphorus, could be \$800,000 or higher. Whole lake treatment can last anywhere from 10 to 30 years.

- 75% of these funds could come from State Grants, but BELIA would be responsible for 25% or \$200,000. AND, we need to address excess carp as a phosphorus source due to rooting/stirring before we can apply for an alum treatment grant.
- How to come up with these funds? We recommend formation of an ELID.
- A recent survey of Big Eagle Lake owners showed support for improving water clarity.
- 46% of Big Eagle Lake lakeshore properties contribute \$0.00 towards BELIA water quality efforts.
- Briggs Lake Chain and Orono Lake have both formed LIDs.
- The formation of an ELID Board and annual meetings would be established for assessment parameters.
- To form an ELID, we will need approval by 50% +1 votes of DNR lakeshore parcel-owners; Sherburne County will have final approval.
- 100% of ELID monies would go to Big Eagle Lake for operational expenses.
- Anonymous ballots were collected with the question: 'Would you support the Eagle Lake Improvement District (ELID). Yes or No'.
 - Yes votes – 45. No votes - 1.
- The ELID committee will meet within the next month to plan more meetings for public input.
- Please reach out: elidquestions@gmail.com. The LID Committee will do their best to answer your questions. Some questions that were raised and need investigation...
 - Could there be a hardship clause?
 - Could a loan be given which could speed up the funding and treatment?
 - Can the ELID fund the raising of the DNR dam?

6.) Open Forum:

- What can be done about the low water level on the lake?
 - The dam was created in the 1960s with the lake level established by the MN DNR. The level rises each year due to flooding and to a beaver dam in a culvert downstream on private property. BELIA has no authority regarding the beaver dam. The beavers were harvested last year, and the culvert cleaned out by a private party.
- Could we have a Carp Contest to cull more carp from Big Eagle Lake?
 - A bounty was given out last year to area anglers to cull the carp. We have not investigated holding a carp contest currently.

Motion to adjourn the BELIA Annual meeting made by Ann Witucki, seconded by Craig Johnson. Meeting adjourned at 11:30 AM followed by a Potluck.

Respectfully submitted
 Lori Andreen
 BELIA Secretary