

BELIA Annual Meeting Minutes June 19th, 2021

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

Approximately 45 members were present.

- Meeting Called to Order at 10:05 by Gordy Westerlind
- Motion to approve the Minutes from 2019 BELIA Annual Meeting made by George Wallin, seconded by Ed Peitso. Motion carried.
- Introduction of Member Volunteers
 - Board of Directors: Gordy Westerlind, President; Bryan Adams; Vice President, Jeff Johnson; acting Treasurer, Lori Andreen; Secretary; Dan Boyle, Earl Rose, Ed Peitso, John Smullen, Kris Biser, and Paul Ellinger. Dick Bittner will continue on as an honorary member.
 - Kris Biser and her husband Dave are moving to their beautiful home in Costa Rica in August. Special recognition was given to Kris and Dave for their generous support of BELIA. Standing ovation followed.
 - Events Committee: Thanks to Denise Lofgren, Diane Loftness, Don and Denise Fisher, Jude Westerlind, Kathleen Lewis, Kim DeVries, Kris Biser, Kristen Vigoren, Lori Andreen, Lori Neisess, Marcie Swanson, Marie Johnson, Mary Meyers Roach, Raquel Wallin, Sandy McClurq, Sarah Phillips, and Sue Jones for all of their efforts supporting BELIA. We couldn't do our events and fundraisers without these volunteers!
 - Lake Quality Committee: Bryan Adams, Dan Boyle, Ed Peitso, Gordy Westerlind, Jim Swanson, Ken Andreen, Mark Kurtz, and Mike Donnelly.
 - AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Volunteers: John Smullen – No AIS volunteers were allowed to educate boaters regarding AIS in 2020 due to Covid. New volunteers are needed for 2021. Former volunteers can do an online refresher course and background check. This is a very fun volunteer project and helps to protect our lake as well as educate boaters on keeping AIS from spreading.
- 2020 Treasurer's Report: Jeff Johnson (please see the attached)
 - Grants are down 70%.
 - Memberships are down 45%.
 - We are anticipating a 25-30% drop in revenue this year which will make it difficult to treat for both curly leaf pondweed (CLP) and Eurasian water milfoil (EWM).
 - Motion to approve Treasurer's Report made by George Wallin, seconded by Kris Biser. Motion Carried
- Old Business: None

- New Business
 - Lake Quality Study Report: Bryan Adams (See Lake Quality Annual Meeting Report handout attached)

Kudos to Dan Cibulka of the SWCD (Sherburne County Soil and Water Conservation District) who is a real asset to our lake association. His efforts are invaluable.

Please see 4-page handout 'Lake Quality Annual Meeting Report' for this presentation. Also note article in the 2021 BELIA Newsletter. The four pages as noted below:

1. High and Low Water Elevations. First page shows flood potential of Big Eagle Lake in a high-water elevation year. The Record High Water Elevation was at 924 feet (above sea level) last seen in 1956.
2. Photos of berm road with culvert built downstream of Big Eagle Lake; photo with Gordy Westerlind standing on top of the berm road during a flood time. Also shown is a schematic of berm and beaver dam.
3. Summary of WSB Study Results. Note: BMP is Best Management Practices. We are not sure what GN refers to but possibly gill net.
4. DNR Lake Survey Report August 2020 (Fish Survey)

Three topics of presentation:

1. Water Levels/Lake Elevation: There has been a 30" swing from the highest to the lowest water level. Water levels are a function of rainfall and beavers and are not in our control. With large amounts of rain, water backs up from the Snake and Elk Rivers. If the water flows into the lake with high water levels, there is nothing we can do about it.
2. Water Quality: The two-year WSB Lake Quality Study is complete. We had asked WSB Engineering to determine the cause of our algae issue (high phosphorus) and to make recommendations on how to fix it and the costs for the remediation. This is a complicated issue with multiple causes. It seems that the three most significant would be:
 - Northeast Watershed: (Blue area on page 3 of handout). Phosphorus run-off is coming into our lake from the state-owned Sand Dunes area. This is large issue (see chart on page 3) and is complicated by who owns/has jurisdiction: Sand Dunes are owned by the State, Forestry Division gets involved, restrictions on what we are allowed to do. It is a work in progress.
 - Carp Management: WSB and DNR studies show contradictory reports of carp so how to treat is in debate. Good news: (see page 4) Bluegills and Crappies are plentiful and they eat carp eggs!
 - Sediment Release: There are large amounts of phosphorus that are in the sediment in the lake. Treatment by alum would be the most cost-effective, but also the costliest. Also of note: During the heat of summer, phosphorus captures oxygen at the deeper depths, forcing fish to shallower depths.
 - Clarity: 10'-11' visual clarity at present. In August, due to algae growth, will be decreased to 2-3' clarity (by Secchi disc measurement). Understand: Decreasing our phosphorus load will decrease our algae growth and increase clarity. With more sunlight reaching the aquatic

vegetation (i.e. weeds), we will probably see more aquatics (i.e. weeds) both native and invasive species.

3. Weed Treatment:

- a. In 2021, BELIA treated the maximum number of littoral acres (47) that the DNR allows of curly leaf pondweed (CLP). We treated about 50/50 on the north and south sides of the lake. The cost to BELIA was \$15,500.
- b. Preliminary results of the survey for Eurasian water milfoil (EWM) shows that it is present throughout our lake. Herbicide treatment for EWM will cost an additional \$14-15,000.

Possible interventions:

- Settling Pond at NE Watershed: Need permissions, permits, etc.; Costly
- Ion Exchange System: Phosphorus replaced by something else. Costly. Would require sludge removal.
- Alum Treatment: Expensive: Binds with phosphorus so that it cannot be released into lake. Temporary solution, lasts 10 or so years.
- The initial indications of the study is that our lake will be classified as 'impaired', but to what degree will be determined when the scientific peer review is completed in the near future. Such a classification will allow us to apply for larger grants.
- Volunteer Citizen Monitoring will continue: Will report to the State current temperatures, clarity, and depth.
- It is complicated!

In summary: We know the problem, the solution, and the cost. Our biggest roadblock will be financial. It will be a long, multi-year process with more Studies required and multiple attempts to apply for Grants. But we have started the process with this two-year WSB Study. Big Eagle Lake is the most used lake in Sherburne County. That should account for something.

- Bylaw Revisions Approval: George Wallin. Main revisions:
 - Updated 'he' to 'he/she'
 - Duplications were corrected
 - Increased some of the flexibility of wording
 - Allows up to 13 Board Members
 - Board Members will serve two-year terms.
 - Neighborhoods with deeded access limited to one Board Member position.
 - Motion to approve BELIA Bylaw revision made by Ann Witucki, seconded by Bryan Adams. Motion carried.
- 2021 Events Calendar: Lori Andreen
 - Review of Upcoming Events and Fundraisers (see separate sheet)
 - Thank you for your support of our fundraisers! Very important in this time of need.

- Looking for additional volunteers for our fundraisers. Please contact Lori at bigeaglelakeboard@gmail.com if you are interested in helping plan or help with our fundraisers.
- Friends of Big Eagle Lake are encouraged to attend our non-fundraising events.
- Election of Board of Directors
 - Gordy appealed for additional Board Members: Need younger voices, female voices.
 - Motion to elect the following officers made by Ed Peitso, seconded by Ken Andreen. Motion carried.
 - Bryan Adams, Lori Andreen, Dan Boyle, Paul Ellinger, Jeff Johnson, Ed Peitso, John Smullen, George Wallin, Gordy Westerlind and new to the Board, Craig (CJ) Johnson.
- Open Forum:
 - Member Ray Tollas asks what is happening with the fish trap (outlet of the lake). Ken Andreen responded that he had called the DNR two years ago and was advised that the lake association should leave the traps in the closed positions.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted

Lori Andreen

BELIA Secretary