

BALDWIN LAKE ASSOCIATION – August 18, 2018 Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES: Tim Osborn, Dahn Johnson, Tim Miller, Mary Johnson, Laurie Macri, Joan Vidic, Tracy Donati, Laura Yeoman, Julie Kershner, Len Morreale, Robert George, Art & Mary Hansen, Jenna Labash, Mary Kowalski, Elise Graff

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by President Tim Osborn. Len Morreale hosted.

READING OF THE MINUTES: The minutes of the July 14, 2018 meeting were read and approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The treasurer's report was reviewed and approved. Most income is from the Poker Run and t-shirt sales; our biggest expenses are the Poker Run and mosquito spraying. Water testing was \$500. Check for \$1000 has been mailed to the American Liver Foundation.

CORRESPONDENCE: Agriflight Invoice, Euorfins invoice and water test report

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Water & Boating Safety: Nothing to report

B. Water/Environmental:

- Fecal Count Testing:** Water testing was done again the beginning of August. This time the results were much better. It is possible that the test done in June and reported at the annual meeting was not properly done, resulting in excessive numbers. We will do one more test yet this year. We try to test the same spots all the time. It is important to remember that the test represents the count at one specific point in time, with a specific set of conditions. The first testing was done in 1994. A question was raised as to why we only test where the water comes into the lake. The goal of the testing is to make sure that the water coming into the lake is okay; once the water enters the lake it is dispersed and it would be hard to determine where any bad water is coming from. We used to test for nitrates and phosphorus, but some time ago we stopped. A motion was made and approved for the final test this year to include testing for nitrate and phosphorus levels, up to \$750. Mike Schirott is in the process of putting all the historical testing results together in a notebook, and when completed Tim Osborn will put into a spreadsheet.
- Secchi Testing:** Another Secchi test was completed August 15th. Care is taken to make sure that the readings are taken at the same point all the time. The results were better than the July test; 15'4" north end, 15'7" little Baldwin/Bay, 14'3" center, and 13'9" south end.
- Mosquito Spraying:** So far this year we've had 4 sprayings; do we need another one? Motion made and passed to spray one more time. It seems like mosquitoes are worse this year than in past years; is Agriflight doing anything different? No, they are using the same chemicals as before and do provide us with a colored map showing that the same areas are sprayed each time. It has just been a wet year and a good year for mosquitoes. It was questioned, can we notify residents when the spraying is going to happen? We do not have much notice before they spray as they must have just the right conditions, but we will put a notice on the BLA Facebook page as soon as we are notified.
- Geese Control:** It was approved at the annual meeting to continue with Goose Busters; when do we need to begin the approval process again with the township? Tim Osborn thought that Shavehead Lake received multiple year approval, for 3 or 5 years. Mary Kowalski will investigate this and see if we can do the same thing. The 26 geese that were hiding and not removed are still on the lake; it does not appear that we have more. They do not tag the geese that they do catch and remove. It is believed that if we want to do something about the swan population we would have to reach out to the DNR.

5. **Lake Management:** We had one presentation at the annual meeting and have received two other proposals but have not had time to adequately review them. The pricing varies, 7, 11, and 19 thousand dollars. They all appear to test for the same type of things, how they do it is what differs. It appears to be a year long process, so the testing can be done at all times of the year. Each company will test and then help us put together a uniform plan for the entire lake. It will be an ongoing thing that we all will need to keep working at, not just a one-year fix. It was pointed out that most of the companies that do the testing are the ones that do the mitigation, so it is important to have an unbiased opinion on the proposals. Cliff Yehle is a microbiologist that lives on the lake and has agreed to look at the proposals. Doug Elliott, who also lives on the lake, is an environmental engineer and may also be able to review the proposals. Tim Miller will check with him. Other questions to be answered include does the DNR have someone we can talk to? Does Shavehead Lake have a weed control problem in place?
6. **Cass County Sheriff Update:** At the annual meeting it was approved to pay the Marine Division and extra \$500 and have them increase patrols on the lake. Tim Osborn is still working on getting in touch with someone to see how this works. It was noted that Long Lake paid for extra patrols.

C. Community Affairs:

1. **Website:** There is now more information on the website regarding boater safety and regulations, with links to specific topics as well as the Michigan Boater Handbook. Also, all the meeting minutes are posted on the website, as well as the lake association bylaws.
2. **Porter Township:** Nothing to report currently

D. Membership:

1. **Advisors:** We now have advisors for all zones. Mary Johnson requested that all advisors keep an eye on their zones and when someone new moves in try to get them a welcome packet in a BLA tote bag. Mary will bring bags to each meeting to hand out as needed.
2. **Update:** Membership seems to be down compared to last year at this time. We have 95 paying members out of 282 households (approx. 34%). In September 2017 we had 103 paying members. Reminder postcards will be sent out the end of September.
3. **Newsletters:** The next newsletter will go out via email the end of August, beginning of September. It will include a Poker Run wrap-up and results of officer elections.
4. **Annual Meeting scheduled for July 13, 2019.**

E. Social:

1. **Poker Run Results:** The net proceeds from the Poker Run were approximately \$6200. Ticket sales were about the same as last year, \$15,800 vs \$16,000, but we did not have big sponsors this year, so sponsorship dollars were not as big. Also, expenses were slightly higher this year, as some years fewer new supplies need to be purchased as they can be reused from year to year. Overall, it was a huge success and a lot of fun as in years past.
2. **T-shirt sales:** We sold approximately half of the poker run t-shirts; we purchased 200 and sold 92. It was hard to determine how many to purchase. Next time we will take some time to design the t-shirt; something with a better design and more color, like Jimmy's shirts? We will sell the remaining poker run t-shirts for \$5; will put on Facebook and send out an email. All the long sleeve grey t-shirts sold.

3. Christmas Party December 1, 2018.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Fall road clean up; scheduled for Saturday, October 6th. Meet at Mills at 9:00am or on Hilltop, place TBD. Mary Johnson will contact Kena and let her know so Long Lake can pitch in if they want.

OPEN DISCUSSION:

ADJOURN: Meeting adjourned at 10:30

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, September 15th, at Tim & Vicki Osborn's, 69799 Hilltop

October meeting will be Saturday, October 20th, Mary Kowalski's, 69402 Lake Street

November meeting will be Saturday, November 17th, Jenna Labash's, 69799 Lake Street