

BALDWIN LAKE ASSOCIATION

Maintain and preserve our lake community for future generations through education, communication, and commitment to Baldwin Lake

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 27, 2019

- **Call to Order:** 9:00am
- **Review of the Minutes:** The minutes of the 2018 Annual Meeting were made available for everyone to review. There were no questions or corrections; minutes approved.
- **Treasurer's Report:** The fiscal year July 1, 2018 thru June 30, 2019 financial report was presented. At the end of the fiscal year we had approximately \$32,000 total cash; \$41,000 in the general fund and -\$9,000 in the mosquito fund. The mosquito fund continues to run at a deficit and uses money from the general fund (approved at the 2016 annual meeting). We have spent \$8000 this year so far on mosquito spraying and will probably need a couple more. Last year we spend \$8000 total, collecting \$5500. Treasurer's Report approved.
- **Correspondence:** Nothing to report
- **Committee Reports:**
 - A. **Water & Boating Safety:**
 - **Jet Ski and Water Safety Pamphlet Distribution:** At the 2018 Annual Meeting there was discussion regarding trying to get the Cass County Sheriff's department to come out and do extra patrols on the lake to curtail unsafe boating practices. It was decided it would be better to take a proactive stance and get information out to lake residents on safe practices. Pamphlets were distributed door to door to all lake residents. There are a few more available if anyone would like extras.
 - B. **Water/Environment:**
 - **Water Quality:** We have seen a significant decline in water clarity, as measured by the Secchi testing we do on a regular basis. In the past, the water clarity is typically at 20 feet this time of year, now it is at 10 feet. Our records show this decline began prior to the flooding of last spring.
 - **Mosquito Spraying:** Due to the heavy rains this year we have sprayed to get rid of mosquitos 4 times this year and anticipate having to spray 2 more times. The spraying kills the adult mosquitos so as new ones hatch it becomes necessary to spray again.
 - **Boat Count:** The annual boat count was conducted right before July 4th, and it ended with 40 less boats than last year. It is possible that due to the rainy spring some people were late in putting their boats in. In the future, we will conduct the boat count later in July, right before the annual meeting.
 - **Geese Control:** 2019 was our second year working with Goose Busters to control the goose population on the lake. We rounded up 43 geese (16 adults and 27 juveniles) this year, compared to 56 last year. The cost this year was \$700, \$200 for the permit and \$500 for goose collection and relocation. It is a 3-year process. Unfortunately, it is impossible to find all the geese on the lake, so homeowners are still experiencing geese on their property. They can only be rounded up in June when they are molting and cannot fly. A motion was made and approved to proceed with obtaining a permit to round up the geese again in 2020. The lake association will work closely with homeowners once again to determine where the geese are on the lake, prior to the round up.
 - **Restorative Lake Sciences, LLC:** The lake association has contracted with Restorative Lake Sciences to do a complete analysis of the lake to determine if something is happening to the lake that needs our intervention to take care of. Think of the analysis as a complete physical of the lake. The homeowners that attended the meetings and discussions felt it was better to spend the \$11,000 now to find out if something is wrong instead of having to spend more money to fix a problem years from now. They will come out to the lake and test 4 different times and then present their findings to us in October. They will make recommendations as to what needs to be done, if anything, and provide names of vendors we can contract with.

Are we working with Long Lake? Representatives from both lake associations have been going to the same conferences, and Long Lake is just starting to test their water this year. Long Lake is meeting with John Tucci from Lake Savers in August (we met with him in July 2018), and will possibly be contracting with someone next year to study their lake. Joint analysis of both lakes would not have saved much money, only possibly some travel expense. Perhaps we can work with Long Lake when/if treatment of our lakes is necessary.

Why did we stop testing for fecal coliform? The lake association felt that the results we were getting were not answering questions as to why we are getting high readings, that is one of the reasons why we wanted a professional to come in and test. We were randomly picking 5 inlets to test, but with all the springs that feed into the lake it was impossible to pinpoint what was causing the high readings we would get from time to time. By contracting with Restorative Lake Sciences, we should get a better understanding of what is going on.

Is there anything individual property owners can do to help take care of the lake? There are many things that can be done by individuals, the MLSA provides information. Perhaps this is one area the lake association can provide more information to educate homeowners.

C. Community Affairs:

- **Website:** The lake association maintains the website, www.baldwinlakeassociation.com. It provides a lot of information as to what is happening on the lake, as well as general boating information. Dues can also be paid using PayPal. We also maintain a Facebook page.
- **Road Clean-Up:** We pick up trash along side of our lake roads twice per year. We will have a fall road clean-up; once the date is set an email will be sent out, and it will be posted on Facebook and the website. Maybe we can get new adopt a road signs from Cass County?
- **Partnership with Long/Coverdale Lake Association:** We currently work with Long/Coverdale to put on the Spring Fling each year. Any other thoughts on how we can work together are welcome. Long/Coverdale has a very active board and new people are getting involved. They had their most successful poker run ever this year. Most of their money raised goes toward fireworks. Due to construction on Long Lake, the fireworks will be set off in the north bay again next year, and probably for years to come. We can put a line on our membership form to donate to Long Lake's fireworks if individual residents would like to, but our lake association will not be donating at this time. If you would like to know what is happening on Long/Coverdale Lakes, follow them on Facebook.

D. Membership:

- **Advisors:** We currently have 10 zones, and all have advisors. A suggestion was made to put a map on the website of each of the zones so that people will be able to tell what zone they are in.
- **Membership:** As of the meeting, we have 94 current members, with approximately 267 lake households; or 35% of residents paying dues. In 2018 we ended with 119 members, or approximately 45%, which is where we typically run. We do have 14 new members so far this year. A suggestion was made to have some sort of membership drive to increase membership. Also, all lake residents are invited to attend the summer monthly meetings, you do not have to be on the board to attend.

E. Social:

- **Poker Run:** This year we generated just over \$17,000 in ticket sales, with \$11,150 in profit. 560 people attended the poker run. It is very successful for the lake association, but lack of volunteers is the downfall. Maybe we should skip having the poker run in 2020? No. It seems communication was a problem; many people did not know what or how they could volunteer for. We should start now on signing up people to volunteer. Put together a committee so that two people don't have to do it all. Send out more emails.
- **Christmas Party:** Scheduled for Saturday, December 7th, at Zimmy's. Watch your email and Facebook for more information.
- **Spring Fling:** Tentatively scheduled for Saturday, April 25, 2020, at the Shriner's Club in Union. We will need to obtain our own liquor license and have more volunteers to be bartenders. Watch for more information on how to volunteer.

- **Officer Election:** The following officers were elected to serve two-year terms, expiring in July 2021:
 - **President** – Tim Osborn
 - **Vice President** – Mary Kowalski
 - **Secretary** – Mary Johnson
- **Old Business:** None
- **New Business:** None
- **Open Discussion:**

Boater Safety Class: The lake association should try to schedule one or two boater safety classes through the Cass County Sheriff Marine Patrol for next spring. There used to be classes at the CCCC. It would benefit everyone on the lakes.

Membership: We need to get information out to people on what the lake association does. Put on membership form how much everything that we do costs, put a real value on their dues. Need to put out more communications on everything. We need to work on getting more email addresses and to make sure the ones we have are current. Have advisors add the personal touch, get to know their neighbors and talk to neighbors more. We will try to increase membership before we look at raising dues. Perhaps we can have a tiered membership? If someone donates \$100 or more, they get a t-shirt? In the past the lake association set up a tent at Mill's on a Saturday afternoon so that people could donate to the mosquito fund. They found that even people that don't live on the lake donated. We could do this again and have a pamphlet on what the lake association does and sign up members. Possibly do it with Long Lake?
- **Adjourn:** As there was no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 11:00am

The next monthly meeting is Saturday, August 17th, 9:00 a.m., at the home of Mary & Terry Johnson, 70119 Hilltop