



Baldwin Lake Association

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

Saturday, July 8th 2023

Annual Meeting

Mary Kowlaski calls the meeting to order: 9:01am

A. Water Updates

1. Boat Count for summer of 2023

Total: 495 boats

Willow Shores has 77 boats/PWC's. This is below their allowable number. Baldwin Landing has 17 boats/PWC's. Lake Effect has 16 boats. The neighbors all are in compliance with allowable boats/pwc's.

The aggregate numbers for all locations are:

- 261 pontoons. This is one less than last year.
- 93 PWC's. This is 13 more than last year.
- 105 Speed and or wake/surf boats. That is one less than last year.

Of the 105 speed boats, 16 of them are Wake/Surf boats. This is 2 more than last year.

- 36 fishing boats. That is 4 more than last year. Not included in the motorized boats are 7 sailboats. That is a reduction of 3.

2. Water Quality - Water clarity is outstanding this summer. So far this season, 4-5 secchi tests have been completed. The results have been great.

Oxygen levels have been very good. Our oxygen levels are higher this June than last June.

As the lake gets warmer, algae usually starts to bloom.

Phosphate testing will start in the fall.

3. Wake Boats - Copies of the September 2022 study, "Wake Boats: concerns and recommendations related to the natural resource management in Michigan waters", were printed and available for people to take and read at their leisure. .

MI is suggesting that wake boats operate at least 500 feet from docks or the shoreline, regardless of water depth.

Please stay in the middle of the lake where the water is deep whenever possible.

4. Wakeside Marine - Wakeside will train people to drive wake boats properly. If interested, send an email to Board@BaldwinLakeAssociation.com. Include your name and number of people interested in this training and we will pass this information along to Wakeside Marine for you.

B. AgriFlite: Baldwin Lake tries to get 3-4 sprays in during the summer season. We have had one spray completed so far. Our goal is to have AgriFlite spray us every 3-4 weeks to disrupt the mosquito life cycle.

C. Sponsorships: We have streamlined our sponsorship process. As we have added more events over the last year, we wanted to avoid making multiple requests to the same businesses. We have created a single sponsorship form where businesses can select which events they would like to support. For that support, businesses receive representation on the BLA Facebook page when promoting events, sponsor business information is added to the website and signs are posted at the events. We have received about \$10,000 in sponsorships so far this year from approximately 20 local businesses.

D. Fire Chief Mike Holdeman: Chief Holdeman from SEPSA spoke to us about our local fire department and local EMS. They cover all of Porter and Mason township.

The **Fire Department** is an all volunteer fire department, responding to approximately 120-150 calls a year. We usually have a roster of approximately 12-18 Certified Fire Fighters.

EMS - Everyone is part time. On duty always is a crew of 2, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. 1 is a Paramedic and 1 EMT Basic. We have 8 EMS employees that are EMS only and another 10 that are both cross trained between Fire and EMS. This team takes 500-600 calls a year.

A tower is being put up by the station to help with communication. Union is in a dead spot for emergency services communication right now. The new tower will help with this problem.

A digital sign will be up soon at the station on US 12 as well for announcements such as burn bans, etc.

How Can you Help SEPSA in an emergency?

- Keep your road open and clear of trees and hanging branches.
- Give accurate instructions on your location.
- SEPSA has a new app for your phone. Search for MyLocalSafety in the app store. Download the app and use code 729572. This is a free app that is updated with helpful information. Click on "My property and information"

This is a direct link between you and SEPSA so they can help you properly and effectively.

- Drownings - There is no dive team assigned to Porter Township. Response time is about 45 minutes -1 hr. Mike reminded everyone to make sure we all have life jackets on the boats.
- Alternate emergency phone number: **269-445-1560**. This call will go directly to Porter Township dispatch. Store this number in your favorites! This is a recorded line. If you do need to call this number in the case of an emergency, they will not get your location automatically. So please be prepared to give location.

Shavehead and Birch lake have installed AEDs around the lake. Is this something BLA should consider? What is the best place for the AED to be located?

Community CPR classes this summer are coming soon. This is for people that DO NOT need a certification for work etc. More information will be provided soon.

BLA will post this information when it becomes available. Training will take place at the firestation.

Smart911.com - sign up. Provide where you live and residents. You will provide your phone number.

E. Elections: We voted on 3 open Board positions.

1. **Secretary:** Susan Hughes was nominated and unanimously approved. Congratulations Susan!

2. **Vice President:** Ryan Sailor was nominated and unanimously approved. . Congratulations Ryan!

3. **President:** Mary Kowlaski was nominated and unanimously approved for 1 year term. By making this a 1 year term, we will be compliant with our Bylaws. Our Bylaws state that the President, 1 Vice-President and Treasurer will be elected for a 2 year term in **even years**. Congratulations Mary!

F. Apparel Store: We currently have another apparel store open. It will close on July 16th. Currently, apparel stores are fundraisers which help to raise money for Baldwin Lake Fireworks.

G. Annual Report: Ending balance \$48,930.15

One of our biggest expenses is spraying for **mosquitoes**. Each spray cost us approximately \$2,800.00.

The other big expense is **fireworks**. Last year BLA paid the total cost of fireworks from the General Fund. Knowing this was not sustainable, we have focused on raising funds through resident donations and sponsorships.

The cost of the fireworks show is \$15,000.00. This year, we raised approximately \$14,000. Of those funds, approximately \$10,000.00 was received from sponsors and the remaining \$4,000.00 came from residents.

Music on the water: BLA pays for 50% of the band, up to \$500.00. We are one of the only organizations in the area who financially support Music on the Water. On most other lakes (and the river), the homeowner pays for the band and just invites the community to enjoy.

Poker Run was very successful last year. We're hoping for a great turn out again this year!

BLT fell just short of breaking even last year. With it being our first year, we did not seek out business sponsorship. We have since included this event in our sponsorship program. The goal is for the event to at least breakeven, perhaps generate a profit.

Fishing Tournament was very successful again this year! Kudos to Mike Crofoot for all of the donations.

Landing We paid for some necessary repairs this year.

H. Pat Boyle: Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Inspector,

Cass County Conservation District.

Pat talked to us about the benefits of natural shorelines and how they contribute to the health of the lake.

There was a question about wetlands. Conservation district does not regulate this, however, he can help get intouch with EGLE to get permits if needed.

When building, you need to obtain an erosion permit before a building permit can be issued. This usually takes about 6 months to get the permit completed.

When asked specifically about Baldwin Lake and the state of the natural shoreline, he said it was good!

Pat's office may conduct a plant sale this fall. BLA will pass on the information, as it is received.

I. Social - Mary Wain and Laurie Macri

Poker Run: July 15th.

BLT: July 29th

Music on the water: August 5th 6:00pm - 9:00pm, "Rock Dogs" on Little Baldwin

Music on the water: August 12th 2:00pm- 6:00pm, "Q Sonics" at The Crofoots.

Some people have asked why we don't have much Music on the Water. BLA does not organize this. Residents host and plan the event. BLA just helps pay for the band. BLA will cover 50% up to \$500. By doing this, people can anchor their boats outside of the host house. People will stay on their boats unless invited by the host house.

Get the word out!

Christmas Party

In the past we have held our Christmas party at Jimmy's. This is a very popular event and unfortunately we have outgrown Zimmys.

It was suggested this year that we move the Christmas party to the CCCC. This will give us more room, and possibly allow us to have a band or DJ.

- We will have expenses moving it to the CCCC such as, space rental, food, DJ/Band, etc.

The proposed date is December 2, 2023.

Voting for the new venue took place by raising hands. 100% of meeting attendees voted to move the Christmas party to the CCCC.

Moving to a new location will require more planning and more assistance needed. If you would like to help with the Christmas Party, please let us know.

BLT Update: We received permission from Cass County Road Commission to close Sunset 8am - 10am on race day, which is Saturday, July 29th.

You can still access all the businesses on Sunset, you will just need to go around and enter from US 12.

If it is an emergency, of course, you can still get out. Barricades can be moved if needed.

Free t-shirts are given to volunteers.

See our website to sign up or volunteer.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:27am.