



Big Pine Lake Association 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes

August 18, 2018

Topic: Welcome and Introduction of Directors **Presenter:** Dennis Bengtson

Discussion: Per association bylaws, the meeting called to order by Dennis Bengtson, BPLA president at 10 a.m. Other directors introduced: Bill Korchik, Vice President; Tom Veeninga, Treasurer; Pam Graves, Secretary; Ann Korchik, Director of Social Activities and Events; Scott Eichhorst, Director of Lake Management, and Ken Ormsbee, Director of Finance and Communications. Members were made aware of the business portion of the meeting and elections.

Topic: Overview of proposed Crosslake National Loon Center

Guest Presenter: Carla White, Crosslaker, and National Loon Center Foundation secretary.

Presentation: The idea of the Loon Center came from the Minnesota Design team visit in 2016. They asked 1,000 people to give their opinion on the future of Crosslake. At the end of their assessment, residents/visitors were able to rank their priorities: #1 was water quality on the Whitefish chain, and #2 a Loon Center, connectivity within the town, and history. Five guiding principles were developed that have been included in the town's comprehensive plan: enhance the ecology of Crosslake; create vibrant places that connect people with nature; better balance for driving, biking, boating and walking; provide a diverse mix of housing types; and celebrate Crosslake heritage. Workgroups were developed to promote the different projects. In addition to local support, the Loon Center group has the support of Congressman Nolan, promoting the project in Washington DC.

With little experience in a project this size, the University of Minnesota's Extension Service has the Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, with a mission of fostering community sustainability through citizen driven university partnerships. A project brief was submitted and our project was accepted in June 2017. The first phase was community involvement (July - September 2017) and the second phase was market feasibility. It was determined that the community did want to proceed and a master

plan was produced with the help of the university staff. The second phase (January - May 2018) compared other “centers” in Minnesota and the analysis resulted in resounding support for the feasibility of a local Loon Center.

Grants were requested from the National Park service. An initial one-year grant has been extended to two years to determine what is needed in the grounds around the site, connectivity from shore to land. SourceWell provided grants for the university graduate students. The Ocean Open Trust Grant should provide money from the Deep Water Horizon oil spill in 2010. LCCMR - the Legislative Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources - voted money for our project. They primarily get the money from the state lottery, review projects and allocated our project the full \$4 million that was requested. The process is long - the application began in February and the final allocation won't be until next July. The LCCMR has to present their draft funding bill for legislative approval in January, and if passed, it needs governor sign off, before any moneys are distributed.

The DNR has requested funds through the Open Oceans fund and we are hoping for funding as “our” loons have been negatively impacted by the oil spill. The shells still show residue from the pollution and continue to adversely affect their lives. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports two citizen science programs that would help improve loon numbers and lower mortality. One project would be to develop a loon registry for our lakes. Another program is “Get the Lead Out,” as lead shot (illegal now) or fishing gear (weights) can poison the loons.

The Loon Center Foundation’s vision of habitat protection, environmental recreation and interactive research will establish Minnesota as the premier destination to experience the freshwater ecosystem we share with all native wildlife. There are hopes for a freshwater institute and water quality.

The proposed location of the Loon Center is on the Corps of Engineers campgrounds. If funded, the center would open in two years. The group continues to use the University of Minnesota resources with social media, business plans and other initiatives, such as boat launches and invasive species education.

Q&A: Loons do not survive well in captivity, so plans for augmented reality in the center or trips to a loon site or research barges to test water are possible. There may be special events in the Spring upon their return and in the Fall as they depart for Mexico. The center plans to work with lake associations through the Open Ocean funding. The Loon Center hopes to be an educational resource for “diving bird” questions.

Action: The board will review if our association is in a lake association registry.

Sign up to volunteer at the Loon Center at any time.

Brief Break after an Election Announcement & solicitation of nominations for open board positions was made. There are seven board members, with two members retiring this year.

Business Meeting Called to Order by Dennis Bengtson

As specified in the BPLA Bylaws, Robert's Rule of Order were followed for the formal portion of the meeting.

Topic: Review of 2017 Minutes for Approval **Presenter:** Pam Graves

Discussion: The 2017 minutes are available on the website and copies were available at sign-in. Motion to approve by Ken Ormsbee, seconded by Carol Veeninga.

Action: 2017 Minutes were unanimously approved without changes.

Topic: Annual Treasurer's Report **Presenter:** Tom Veeninga

Discussion: As of 8/18/18, account balances of \$4,131.77 in checking and \$73,602.89 in the SSD fund, were presented with details included in handout to members. Also presented were the future two-year commitments of SSD funds totaling \$88,900 for work on the dam. There should be sufficient funds by the time the funds are due.

The Mosquito Management Program was a success again this year. Questions answered regarding a new resident and BPLA member regarding what is included (perimeter) in the EMM program.

Membership remains stable at 49.

Motion to approve treasurer report by Marty Duncan, seconded by Ron Schaap.

Action: Treasurer's report unanimously approved.

Topic: Understanding Lake Level "Bounce" **Presenter:** Dennis Bengtson

Discussion: Due to ongoing communications with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the entity who manages the Crosslake Dam, their outflows are managed with downstream neighbors such as Big Pine Lake residents in mind. USACE also understands the vulnerability of our fragile rock dam to high outflows that can occur following large rain events. USACE is given our BPLA-prepared charts and diagrams that show the correlation between USACE dam outflows and the elevation of Big Pine Lake so that they better understand the impact of rain events and high dam outflows to our lake levels. The high to low "bounce" in lake elevations on Big Pine Lake in 2018 was fairly reasonable 16" as compared to last year's 48" bounce when the east shore eroded.

For those interested in reviewing our lake level in more detail, go to the MNDNR [LakeFinder](#) website. Our lake name is Pine and our lake number is 18021600.

Action: Continue cooperative work with the Crosslake Corps of Engineer dam staff

Topic: Lake Management Update **Presenter:** Scott Eichhorst

Discussion:

Water Quality Sampling: includes monthly sampling for ongoing trending of phosphorus, chlorophyll and transparency (secchi disk reading). Sources of phosphorus include fertilizer, ash from fire pits near the shoreline, soil erosion and improperly working septic systems. *Note: The Crosslakers Water Quality subcommittee is working on plans*

to set a standard for care of septic systems, e.g. recommended routine cleaning every three years. The plan is to continue monthly water quality sampling in conjunction with the WAPOA initiative.

AIS status and initiatives: Scott has been working with Tim Plude, MN DNR Invasive Species Specialist, to identify sites of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the mouth of our lake. There was no EWM in our lake, but manageable clumps were found upstream and smaller quantities downstream. The river cannot be treated as the chemicals need exposure to the plants and the stream would wash away the treatment. WE CAN reduce the risk of bringing in the invasive species to our lake by cleaning your props prior to leaving the Pine River, i.e. near the “No wake zone sign”, then drying the plants prior to disposal.

There are zebra mussels in the Pine River but not on our lake. The zebra mussels feed on algae, improving lake transparency, but at the loss of fish habitat.

Action: Scott will investigate the potential impact of firework ash on our lake phosphorus levels.

Plans are underway to inspect the mouth of the lake every spring to pull small growths of EWM.

Topic: EMM Program Updates

Presenter: Ken Ormsbee

Discussion: Ken works with Clarke while Tom (treasurer) works with our members. We are in year 2 of 3 with our Clarke contract. Ken was informed that they are using a new safer chemical this year.

Action: If you have any questions regarding the treatment, either contact Ken or Brian Erickson at 320-558-9005 or berickson@clarke.com.

Topic: BPLA Communications

Presenter: Ken Ormsbee

Discussion: Communication to and from members is very important. Please let us know if you have questions or suggestions. The AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) focus will be added to the program list. **We will primarily communicate via e-mail and our website at <http://www.bigpinelake-crosslake.com/>**. Signage is also placed in advance of social events and important meetings, such as this annual meeting.

Action: Review the website as needed. Give the Board suggestions for communication improvements. Let us know if your e-mail changes.

Topic: Pine River Fish Passage Project

Presenter: Ken Ormsbee

Discussion:

Phase 2 Plans and Status - Ken provided a great history of the seminal events occurring from initial construction of the Pine River rock dam through present day. He then provided a detailed update on the current status of the SWCD's Outdoor Heritage Fund grant application for the Pine River Fish Passage Project 2020.

Outdoor Heritage Fund Application – SWCD’s application ranked 15 of 45 and is likely to be funded at some level. Three rock riffle dam projects were submitted for funding in this session because they are habitat friendly.

Our representative will be presenting at the September 9th at the next stage of the application for funding for FY2020. The final funding decision will come in February.

Action: Ken to work with SWCD staff to prepare for the Outdoor Heritage Fund hearing on Sept. 6th.

Topic: Social Activities and Plans

Presenter: Ann Korchik

Discussion: Successful 2018 events included the bi-annual clean up, boat parade, fishing tournament and this annual meeting. Thanks for all the volunteers who contributed at the events.

2019 Calendar of events - There are plans for another Spring update meeting, boat parade, fishing tournament on July 5th (thanks to Gary and Ericka Swanson for volunteering their beach for the event) and the annual meeting.

Volunteer opportunities abound!

Action: All members are encouraged to volunteer ideas, time and or donations for drawings at BPLA events. Opportunities, especially at the fishing contest, are available – please contact Ann at ann.korchik@gmail.com or go to the website for board member e-mail addresses. Notices will be sent out next year, closer to each event.

Topic: Election of Directors

Presenter: Dennis Bengtson and Pam Graves

Discussion: *Three proposed changes to BPLA’s bylaws were presented by Dennis for approval by BPLA members in attendance: 1) a change to include notification by “e-mail” to accommodate current practice, 2) a change to clarify that each property with a current association membership at the time of the annual meeting granted one vote, and 3) that the election of the BPLA board of directors can be by a show of hands or pre-printed anonymous ballots if there are more nominees than open positions. Motion to approve by Mike Holtz, seconded by Bill Korchik. Motion passed unanimously.*

The nominees were: Ann Korchik (re-election); Bill Korchik (re-election). Each current BPLA member was allowed one ballot. Gary Swanson (moved in one month ago, part-time resident; business owner and mechanical engineer by profession) volunteered for a two-year position andCarolynn Duncan volunteered for Tom’s one-year remaining position. Since there were four people for four positions, a show of hands resulted in a unanimous selection of all four nominees to the BPLA board of directors.

Comments from members: Thank you to all board members for volunteering their time. A suggestion to use duplexing for all handouts was made and recognized.

The 2018 Annual Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.