



**BCLA Board of Directors  
Meeting  
September 21, 2019**

**Present:** Jeff Strand, Ramona Borke, Tom Riedman, Lyle Hansen, Steve Busch, Merle Zimmerman, Bruce Zeller, Rich Maras, Susan Willard. Present via Skype: Jim Colbert, Jenni Barr, Jay Peterson

**Absent:** Sam Blattenbauer, Aaron Stenerson, Mike Kelly

Jeff Strand called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Ramona Borke sent the minutes to all members prior to the meeting. Approved by consensus.

Jeff Strand sent the Treasurers Report to all members prior to the meeting. There is a balance on hand of \$56,867.28 (\$35,331.99 unrestricted Checkbook balance, \$21,535.28 CD). Approved by consensus.

**Committee Reports**

**Website:** Rich Maras will put the minutes up when available and make updates as needed. Susan Willard suggested that available clothing be promoted on the website. Putting the newsletter on the website was also discussed. The newsletter was sent early this year to catch snowbirds still at their winter address. Jeff said that didn't work. There were still a number that were returned. The Forum has been used in the past for printing and mailing the newsletter that only goes out in the spring. Rich Maras will get publishing prices to us to consider. Jenni Barr does the newsletter and asked if it could be more pages. We might want to consider doing it more often if it is put on the website or sent by email.

**Facebook:** Ramona Borke reported the number of "likes" is at 1042. Seventy-five "likes" were gained over the summer. Clothing can be promoted on Facebook. Susan will get the descriptions and prices of the items we want to appear.

**COLA:** Lyle Hansen went on the pontoon tour on Detroit Lake to view lakeshore restoration projects. He also attended the Lake Koronis tour to view the problems caused by starry stonewort invasive species. He shared pictures of the clean up. It has been reported to be on Little Pelican.

**Fisheries:** Gill netting this summer indicates the numbers are down on Big Cormorant. Electrofishing surveys will be done this fall. Concerns were discussed regarding fishing tournaments and weighing of the fish caught. The YMCA camp is used to bring the fish in for weighing instead of taking a picture of the fish and weight scale upon catch and releasing the fish immediately. This is used in other tournaments on other lakes because they don't have a place like the Y Camp to bring the fish in. Steve will draft a letter of concern to the YMCA Camp Director from the Board.

**Spring Fling:** No Report. Sam Blattenbauer was absent. Expected date for next year is June 20, 2020 at 9 a.m. Board members questioned when the Community Center needs to be reserved and who does it.

**Boat Parade:** No Report, Aaron Stenerson was absent.

**Membership Database:** Jeff credited his wife, Reneece, on a good job getting correct information updated. They have email addresses for many members so we may be able to send out information to members more often. We have 356 paid members.

**Beach Captains:** No report, Mike Kelly was absent. Our dues are on the lower end compared to other lakes. Jenni created a New Members Packet and when beach captains distribute these they can communicate the low cost of membership and point out the advantages of being a member.

**Planning and Zoning:** Bruce Zeller reported there were two requests that have come in.

**Water Testing:** Merle Zimmerman and Jay Peterson completed testing for the season this past week. Pikes Bay is at 31' and the big lake is at 28' clarity. The meter for water levels was fixed. We are right around 9" below Ordinary High Water mark.

**Clothing:** Susan Willard reported that the t-shirts are sold out, most of the caps are gone and only a few cups remain. We have a lot of sweatshirts left and should promote them on the website and Facebook for Christmas presents. Merle built a rack to display the apparel that was used at Spring Fling and Cormorant Daze. Susan brought a sample of a rain jacket for women to consider for next year.

**BCLAF:** Lyle Hansen reported there are 98 donations so far. They have \$90,000 in the Foundation.

**Other Business:**

Highway Clean Up: The Sailing Club used to clean up County Hwy 5 from the West Access to County 6 and along the north shore of the lake. Merle will contact the Becker County Highway Department on this or other roads around Big Cormorant that need a clean-up sponsor.

Lake Area Cabin Patrol: Steve brought a flyer about the service to cabin owners to check on their cabins when they are gone over the winter. The owner has experience in law enforcement. Jim talked with him and he could come to talk to members at the Annual Meeting. He will be contacted for advertising in the new Directory.

**Old Business:**

Becker County Sheriff Department Donation: A donation was made at a prior meeting to donate \$1000 to the Becker County Sheriff's Department. At the time the Board requested to obtain more information on which program they were most in need of funds and decide at the September meeting. Bruce Zeller moved to amend the previous motion and make a donation of \$1500 to the Sheriff's Department split \$750 to the Canine Fund and \$750 to Dive and Rescue. Seconded by Rich. Motion passed.

New Membership Directory: Rich will submit a bid for printing the directory. Ramona distributed information about how ads were solicited for the last directory. Lists of current advertisers and possible future advertisers were reviewed. Several board members committed to contacting specific businesses. Ramona volunteered to coordinate the advertising sales to ensure they are received in the appropriate format and in a timely manner to meet printing deadlines. Ramona will send out a list of the commitments made at the meeting along with an updated copy of the form used to obtain the businesses contact information. She will visit with Donna Christianson about the software used for the last directory and how that can be transferred and will also ask Donna if she is interested in working with us again to prepare the directory for printing. She will be paid for her services if she agrees. Deadlines for receiving ads will be determined after Ramona visits with Donna.

Directory Privacy: Jeff discussed that addresses are public but email addresses and phone numbers are not and we should be getting permission to print these in the directory. Only phone numbers are

printed in the directory if they have been given by the owner. Jeff can do an email blast to members asking if they want their number published in the directory. Their response would give us the permission needed.

Cormorant Daze: Merle and Winki Zimmerman set up a booth at Cormorant Daze to sell the clothing. Jim and Ramona helped. Merle reported that a total of \$401 of merchandise was sold. T-shirts were a hit and sold out. Sweatshirts didn't go but it was a hot day. It was easy and fun to do. We should decide on a year-to-year basis if we do it again.

Next Door Mailing: Some members received a mailing from the Next Door, a commercial promotion to communicate with your neighbors. It is an app that is widely used in many locations but this mailing was not from or initiated by the BCLA Board. No action was taken other than to confirm it was not initiated by the BCLA Board.

Skype Meeting Results: Those attending the meeting via Skype said that reception was very poor on their end. Jeff and Rich will work on making improvements or trying something different for the January meeting. Thank you for trying!

There was no other business.

Tom Reidman motioned to adjourn the meeting. Second by Merle Zimmerman. Passed. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Next meeting: January 18, 2020

Future meetings:       April 17, 2020  
                              June 20, 2020 Annual Meeting

Respectfully submitted,  
Ramona Borke, Secretary