



**Minutes**  
**BCLA Annual Meeting Spring Fling**  
**Saturday, June 19, 2021**

President Jim Colbert called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. Jim welcomed everyone to the YMCA Camp and introduced the Board Members.

Secretary Ramona Borke presented the minutes from the last meeting which was in 2019. Copies were on the tables for review and she reminded members that the minutes from the meetings are on the website. Because of COVID-19, no meeting was held last year but we had a drive-through pick up of the new directory instead. One hundred sixty-five directories were picked up at this event. Ramona called for a motion to approve the minutes. Carol Anhorn moved to approve and Rhonda Wilson seconded the motion. Approved.

Treasurer Jeff Strand presented the Treasurer's Report calling attention to copies on each of the tables. He indicated that we have 394 paid members of 691 properties. We have a balance on hand in the checkbook of \$46,323.85 and in the CD of \$21,851.44 for a total of \$68,175.29. A member asked why there was so much money in checking and not in an interest-bearing account. Jeff responded that we would have to put the money into a CD and the board would discuss it at the next meeting. Dwain Meyer moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and second by Bonnie Bigler. Approved.

### **Presentations**

Kim Belgard, Y Camp Cormorant Coordinator welcomed everyone and described the camp, facilities, staff camps and campers. She was available for tours after the meeting.

Steve Busch presented the DNR fisheries Report. Walley fry are being stocked this year, fingerlings will be stocked in year three of the four-year program. Gill netting occurs every two years and electro fishing is done every year in the fall. Our numbers are low and this program will hopefully bring the numbers back up. The DNR needs to approve the stocking of the lake. Steve was thanked for his efforts.

Sam Blattenbauer reported for the Watershed Board. The Watershed donated \$5000 to the BCLA Foundation for boat inspections at the accesses. Permits are free and needed to cut trees within 50' from the shore. If you have a project you want to do, contact the Watershed as they may be able to cost share with you on the project. Watershed Board meets the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month.

Karl Koenig of Becker Co Soil and Water Conservation was unable to attend the meeting so no report was given.

Becker County Officer Jerron Aschnewitz spoke to the group and answered questions regarding patrolling the lake. He reminded everyone to be sure their tags are updated. The Department is short staffed and can't get to every lake as frequently like they have in the past. If you see something, say something. There have been an increase in break-ins to cabins. Loud noises from boats will be cited for public nuisance. A member called to Officer Aschenewitz attention the area along County 5 by the public beach on Middle Cormorant. Signs to slow down are needed as people park across the road which makes it a danger to those going across to the beach. He will look in to it and report it to the proper division. Jet skis can be operated from 9:30 a.m. to 1 hour before sunset. Children at age 12 and older need a DNR permit. Life jackets are required. The no wake zone is 5 mph. Stay to the right of oncoming watercraft. In areas around buoys, if you can read the buoy, slow down.

Shirley Montgomery of the BCLA Foundation introduced the Advisory Board and described their mission and projects in which they are involved. Some of the ways they help our lake are providing education on AIS and funds for boat inspections at the accesses.

### **Old Business**

President Colbert informed the members of the donations we have contributed to in the past year. We donate \$1500 and divide this between the Becker County Sheriff Department and the Lake Park Area Fire and Rescue. Jim asked for suggestions for this year's donations. None were received. The Board will discuss this at their meeting.

Merle Zimmerman reported on the BCL sponsored Highway Cleanup. We do this three times a year. The next pick-up dates are July 17 and September 11. Vests, garbage bags and pick-up-poker sticks are provided. Participants should come "dressed for the occasion" and receive doughnuts and water at the conclusion. Merle also reported on water testing on the lake. Testing is done once a month May through September. RMB Labs does the testing for phosphorus and chlorophyll. Water clarity for Pikes Bay was 28' in May and 26' in June. The Big Lake clarity was 42' in May and 28' in June. The lake level is 17.5' below the OHWM (ordinary high water mark) compared to -9.84 last November. These numbers are posted on the website. It was stressed to not blow or dump leaves into the lake as this affects the phosphorus levels as well as fertilizer with phosphorus.

Susan Willard reported on the sale of Big Cormorant Lake clothing. We tried to do it all online this year and will continue to do it by pre sale only. It was requested to have a longer time to place an order and Susan said that will happen. Watch the website and Facebook for new items at Christmas. Susan introduced April Frieze, our new vendor for clothing and novelty items. She has a BCLA Blanket available for sale for \$35. Contact April directly if interested.

### **Board Elections**

President Colbert introduced the Board members that are up for re-election: Ramona Borke, Susan Willard and Rich Maras, and two new candidates: Tonya Matson and Brad Thom replacing retiring board members Jim Colbert and Bruce Zeller. John Blattenbauer moved to accept the slate of candidates, seconded by Jeremy Frieze. Approved.

### **New Business**

President Colbert asked for feedback on having the meeting at the YMCA Camp. No one came by boat this year. The general consensus was the members present liked it but it was hard to hear. The Y has a sound system and we will use that next year. We agreed to have it at the Y Camp next year.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade will be held July 4 at 10 a.m. starting at the North Access. Jim shared information from a member requesting that political banners not be used on boats for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and asked everyone to consider this.

Lyle Hansen reminded everyone that cameras are at all the recycling centers so do not dispose of items here that are not supposed to be. A member asked about having a clean-up week on the lake and it was explained that while it would benefit everyone on the lake, not everyone is a member and it would be paid for by the membership. There are also a variety of different trash pick-up companies operating on the lake.

Sam Blattenbauer thanked Jim for his service on the Board, 20+ years, and presented him with a gift card to the Cormorant Pub.

Dwain Meyer moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Carol Anhorn. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.