



**BCLA Board of Directors
Meeting
January 16, 2021**

Present: Jim Colbert, Sam Blattenbauer, Jeff Strand, Ramona Borke, Lyle Hansen, Steve Busch, Merle Zimmerman, Jenni Barr, Bruce Zeller, Rich Maras, Mike Kelly, Brit Skolness

Absent: Tom Riedman (tried but unable to connect), Aaron Stenerson, Susan Willard

President Jim Colbert called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m.

Secretary Report – Ramona Borke sent out the minutes for review prior to the meeting. Lyle Hansen moved to approve, seconded by Sam Blattenbauer. Minutes approved.

Treasurer Report – Jeff Strand sent the Treasurer’s Report out prior to the meeting. We have a balance on hand of \$60,070.58 (checkbook balance of \$38,310.35 and Certificate of Deposit balance of \$21,760.23). He clarified a couple of expenses and called for approval. Sam Blattenbauer moved to approve, Lyle Hansen seconded. Approved.

Committee Reports

Website – Rich Maras asked for pictures to include on the website. Will add the ice on date and the water levels and water clarity when that begins again this spring.

Facebook – Ramona reported an increase of 55 in Page Likes (1236) and an increase of 67 followers (1337) since the last meeting.

COLA – Tom was unable to connect to Microsoft Teams to give his report. Meetings have been cancelled due to COVID-19 and will begin again when safe to do so. Board members will be notified when the meetings resume.

Fisheries – Steve Busch reported that approval is needed for restocking the lake. It is expected to receive the approval within the next month. It has been observed that there are more people on the ice fishing this winter.

Spring Fling – Sam announced that Spring Fling will be June 19, 2021 pending Governor Walz allowing large gatherings. Sam and Rich are looking in to using the YMCA camp where we can allow for social distancing. Rich will get a firm rental price for the facility and they will check on parking availability. Board Members will be notified by email and we will discuss if we want to move forward with the YMCA site for this year’s meeting. Additional information will be discussed at the next meeting.

Boat Parade – No report. Aaron Stenerson was absent. July 4th is on a Sunday this year. It is expected to be the same as last year.

Membership Database – Jeff reported that there were 691 members and we have received 371 email addresses. He requested that Beach Captains try hard to get email addresses from the residents on their beach so we can use that to inform residents of lake news. The Newsletter will be sent out as an email blast first this year and followed with mailing it. He will work with Rich on getting it mailed out.

Beach Captains – Mike Kelly has picked up all the remaining directories from Ramona. He recently sent out an email to the Beach Captains requesting them to make arrangements with him to pick up the copies for their beach. There are 10 beaches left to pick up their Directories. He has a suggestion for a Beach Captain for the campground and is still looking for one for Tanglewood. New member packets are still available. Jenni volunteered to update them and get them to Mike for distribution. The Board felt they were a good tool for all residents to have on hand.

Planning and Zoning – Bruce Zeller reported that for septic certification now the resident must have their tank pumped before certification.

Water Testing – Merle Zimmerman reported that water testing will resume again in May and go through September 2021. The report goes to RMB Labs. Water levels are reported on the Big Cormorant website as well. He will look in to posting the water clarity readings on the our website also.

Clothing Sales – No report. Susan Willard was absent.

BCLAF – Lyle Hansen reported that donations were down this year. 62 members donated \$4400.

Old Business

Donations – A donation for \$750 which was approved at the September 2020 BCLA meeting was delivered to Audubon Lake Park Alert. They are a rescue organization that responds to emergency situations on and around our lake and in the area. Jim reported they were very appreciative. It was suggested that our social media include information about this donation and the \$750 donation to the Becker County Sherriff's Department Canine Unit.

Other Old Business

Road Clean Up – Merle suggested that this be a regular item for reports. Signs were put up along County 5 and County 6 that we are assigned to keep clean. Clean up will resume in May. May 15, July 17 and September 11 dates have been set as the clean-up dates for 2021. Merle will send out reminders a week before the scheduled pick-up. An event will be created on Facebook to encourage participation from BCLA members in addition to the Board members.

Newsletter – Jenni is looking for new articles for the newsletter. Water testing, lake levels, Road Clean Up are ideas. We hope to start using email more to send out the newsletter and begin to phase out mailing a hard copy.

New Business

Watercraft Inspection – Lyle reported that 2336 boats entered Big Cormorant from our public accesses and 1321 exited during inspection hours. 429 boats were found with plants, mud and water from previous waters. 502 were entering from infested waters. Decontamination was available at the west access. We were billed for 2161 hours. 1978 inspection hours have been allocated for 2021 at Big Cormorant Lake. This includes the contribution from the Cormorant Watershed District and 500 hours for decontamination services. Big Cormorant is ranked as the second highest risk lake in the county for Starry Stonewort infestation. More in-depth monitoring was completed in 2020 and no undocumented AIS were reported.

Buoys – Rich brought up that someone hit a big rock outside of the marked area over by the sandy beach and Randy Iwerks. Ramona indicated that the rock is huge and when the water is low the tip is

only a couple of feet below the surface. Discussed putting another buoy or marker or move existing buoys out. Brit Skolness indicated that he should have enough buoys and lights to mark this rock. He will work with Butch Anton on how to set this up.

President – Jim Colbert announced that he will be retiring from the BCLA Board when his term is up in June. We should start thinking about who should fill this role.

Next Meeting – April 17, 2021. In addition to meeting at the Pub, Brit Skolness will set up the meeting with Microsoft Teams again as not all snowbirds will be back. It seemed to work very well for the most part this time. Thanks Britt!

Jeff Strand moved to adjourn the meeting, Rich Maras second. Approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ramona Borke, Secretary
Big Cormorant Lake Association

Future Meetings:

April 17, 2021 9 a.m. (CST)

June 19, 2021 9 a.m. (CDT)

September 18, 2021 9 a.m. (CDT)