



Big Pine Lake Association 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2017

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 am. Members were made aware of the business portion of the meeting and the need to approve last year's minutes. Copies were available at the check-in desk if needed. Other directors introduced: Bill Korchik, Vice President; Tom Veeninga, Treasurer; Pam Graves, Secretary; Ann Korchik, Director of Social Activities & Events; Richard Beck, Historian; and Ken Ormsbee, Director of Finance and Communications.

Topic: DNR Fisheries Overview & Rock Riffle Design Benefits

Guest Presenter: Owen Baird, a MN DNR fisheries management specialist, was introduced by Ken Ormsbee (four-year board member). Owen, our guest speaker, has encouraged BPLA to consider replacing our fragile rock dam with a more durable and beneficial fish passage structure and has guided us into a partnership with DNR, SWCD, and Crow Wing County to acquire a DNR Conservation Partners Legacy grant for the majority of the project funding.

Presentation: DNR organization structure was reviewed: siloed divisions include Fish & Wildlife Management, Ecological & Water Resources, Lands & Minerals, Parks & Trails, Forestry, Enforcement and Operations.

Fish Management is out of the Brainerd area, including walleye. Our area is in the northeast, with most of the work done in Brainerd.

Stream Ecology reveals the health of the streams – their water quality, biology, hydrology (steady versus variable flow), geomorphology (straight, wide, flood plain) and **connectivity**.

Connectivity involves ground water, stream direction, lateral spread with high flow versus flooding, fish migration upstream (including walleye) seeking spawning habitat. Dams alter the connectivity and affect how fish migrate. A fish passage can be created by building a riffle dam that allows for low flow zones (pools) for fish to rest during their travel upstream. The riffle dam can be very stable. The river analysis will reveal how big

the rocks need to be so that they don't move. *Our lake and dam are unique, given their proximity to the Corps of Engineer (COE) Cross Lake dam being so close. Many older river dams are being converted to riffle structures. There will be minor maintenance the first year(s) to adjust water levels, but then very little maintenance afterward. The next DNR fish survey will occur in two years with the last survey having been done in 2005. DNR does not expect a significant change in fish populations because our current rock dam and the COE dam do allow for some fish passage. Our shallow lake (which is not a reservoir) will have a fixed crest with the new structure that will be about the same as today's high-water level but there will not be the low, washout that we have seen lately.*

Fisheries management, the guest speaker's career, includes surveys such as trap netting gill netting or electrofishing, habitat protection (permitting) and improvement, fish stocking, outreach/education, research and regulations. The MN DNR manages over 300 fishing lakes and 100 miles of streams (Crow Wing, lower Cass). They collect 90 million walleye eggs, with a 50% hatching rate. Usually, the fertilization process begins in April and has been relatively unchanged since the 1920s. Walleye don't protect their eggs, so many million eggs are necessary for replenishment/survival. Most of the fish in the Whitefish Chain, including Crosslake, exist as a result of the DNR's stocking efforts. There are 24 fish species in our lake. One of the fish, the short head redhorse, is great food for predators. Presence of silver redhorse is good indication of a healthy lake.

Action: In appreciation of his years of support and sharing of knowledge, Dennis presented Owen with a wooden laser-etched plaque.

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 business meeting.

Topic: Review of 2016 BPLA Annual Meeting Minutes for Approval

Presenter: Pam Graves

Discussion: The 2016 minutes are available on the website and copies were available at sign-in.

Action: Motion to approve. Minutes were unanimously approved without changes. Let the board know if you or your neighbors aren't receiving e-mail updates.

Topic: Annual Treasurer's Report

Presenter: Tom Veeninga

Discussion: Account balances: \$4,453.03 in checking and \$54,484.08 in the SSD fund as of 8/13/17 and 8/19/17 respectively, were presented with details included in handout

to members. The Mosquito Management Program was a success again this year. Membership remains stable at 51.

Action: Motion to approve treasurer report. Treasurer's report was unanimously approved.

Topic: Social Activities and Plans

Presenter: Ann Korchik

Discussion: Ann presented a number of activities that are planned for next year, including (1) the **May 26th** season-opening BPLA Roadway Cleanup that ended in a grilling of hot dogs last year, (2) the **June 16th** Family Fishing contest and Social (not held in 2017 due to low water levels), (3) the flashy Independence Day boat parade on **June 30th**, (4) stay tuned for a mid-July summer activity on **July 21** to celebrate the completion of the riffle dam and (5) the annual member meeting on **August 18th**.

Action: All members are encouraged to volunteer ideas, time and or donations for drawings at the 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: WAPOA membership

Presenter: Pam Graves

Discussion: The board voted to become a member of the WAPOA (Whitefish Area Property Owners Association) this year. BPLA members are now eligible to participate in WAPOA's Shoreline Restoration Project and obtain grants to improve private resident shorelines. The grants, like our dam project, do require some matching funding. Improving water quality, lake shorelines and lake levels with the new dam, will improve our fish population.

Our lake has been participating for many years in the WAPOA-sponsored monthly summer water quality testing program. This year, the testing will include recommendations to improve our water quality. Our goal is to improve our water quality which is measured with a Trophic State Index (TSI) – a compilation of algae and chlorophyll. A lower TSI level will make our lake more desirable for swimming, support the existence of more game fish, and positively impact our property values. Zebra mussels eat chlorophyll and will artificially make the water look clearer, but not better for fish.

Question from Carol Veeninga: Has anyone tested the water upstream of the Crosslake reclamation plant? Answer: Not to our knowledge, but we will follow up.

Action: Property owners should consider taking action on measures to improve lake water quality: 1) diverting/slowing rainwater from the lake or reducing the probability

of phosphorus entering the water, 2) moving fire pits/ash farther from the lake, 3) keep grass cuttings away from the shoreline, and 4) look for Shoreline Restoration project opportunities for the spring of 2018. BPLA will follow up with any studies of water quality before and after businesses, e.g. reclamation plant (sewer project) and during high flow versus low flow.

Topic: EMM Program Updates

Presenter: Ken Ormsbee

Discussion: Ken works with our environmental mosquito management company, Clark Environmental on contracting issues, scheduling, etc., and manages program issues for BPLA participating members. Tom Veeninga works with our members to manage payment and with Clark on invoicing and payment. Clark Environmental agreed to hold prices for this year, increase next year's fee by only 4% price, and to hold 2019 at the same rates as 2018. Clark's prices continue to be lower than their competitors'. *Tom noticed that they don't use the trucks anymore, only backpacks. And, there were questions about triggered fogging not being done.*

Action: Ken will follow up with Clark and members can follow up when they notice a deficiency. The phone number is on our website.

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. **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 BPLA's website as needed. Provide the Board with suggestions for communication improvements. Please let us know if your e-mail changes. Handouts will be posted to the website and sent out as a pdf file.

Topic: Pine River Fish Passage

Presenter: Dennis Bengtson

Discussion: Phase 1 completion & Results; Phase 2 plans & Status

Handouts were provided. Graphics show lake elevations from May through August, including the effect of the east shoreline erosion (35" below to 13" above our desired lake water level occurred in a span of only 10 days).

After the water rose, bogs broke loose and lodged against the dam, funneling a high velocity stream of water toward one small section of the dam. This resulted in another dam breach toward the middle east end of the dam. BPLA, SWCD, and Crow Wing

County coordinated, which resulted in an almost immediate breach repair that quickly restored lake levels. The already-completed Phase 1 work was much smaller in scope as compared to the level of effort and quantity of materials that will be required to complete Phase 2 i.e. 400+ truckloads of rock and earth, despite reusing the current rock that is in place.

Ken noted that the analysis and modeling work that Dennis has performed over the past several years has been instrumental in providing accurate and usable data to SWCD's engineers for purposes of modeling our water flow and validating design and performance assumptions related to the Phase 2 project. *Note: If Phase 2 dam work ends up being performed this winter, it will likely result in loss of 2018 winter car racing.*

Action: Dennis and Ken will continue to work with and support the SWCD project team in acquiring the Phase 2 DNR public waters permit and any other activities necessary to continue moving the project forward. An SWCD request for information (preliminary pricing) will be sent to contractors while waiting for permits to be issued. September 30th is our hope for DNR permit issuance. And, our goal is to complete the work by May, although this is only a target that is dependent on multiple variables beyond BPLA's control.

Topic: Election of Directors

Presenter: Bill Korchik

Discussion: The biographical highlights of four nominees for four BPLA Director positions were shared in a handout with a ballot. The nominees were: Dennis Bengtson (re-election), Scott Eichhorst, Ken Ormsbee (re-election), and Tom Veeninga (re-election). Each current BPLA member was allowed one ballot. Since there were only four nominees running for four open positions, a motion for a "show of hands" vote, as authorized by BPLA's bylaws, was offered. The majority (17/20) voted for all nominees with no one voting against any nominee.

A thank you was offered by attendees to all board members for volunteering their time and talents. Bill and Ann Korchik recognized Dennis and Ken for their tireless efforts and presented them with BPLA "Rock Dam Stars" tee-shirts. Jane Bengtson was also recognized for her support of Dennis' and the BPLA board's work.

Dennis recognized Richard Beck for his service on the Board, filling in for a one-year position. He graciously received the Certificate of Appreciation engraved plaque for his personal commitment.

The 2017 Annual Meeting adjourned at 12:10 pm.