

BASS LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday, August 14th, 2021

Present: Jon Auge, Nancy Geiger, Pam Berhow, Steve Berhow, Dave Meyer, Jim Grzeskowiak, Karen Grzeskowiak, Wendy Peterson, Brad Peterson, Mike Munos, Julie Munos, Harlan Frauendienst, Jan Frauendienst, Katie Brine, John Kelnberger, Emily Kelnberger, John Grassmann, Monica Grassman, Bob Steele, Martha Steele, Michael Blassey, Catherine McGoldrick, Maria James, John Buenneke, Paul Ice, Chris Ice, Phil Stanley, Jess Stanley, Paul Linder, Candi Fuller, Nick Fuller

Jon Auge, President, called the meeting to order. He asked for approval of the minutes from the 2020 Association Annual Meeting (sent to members with the meeting announcement). The minutes were approved.

Association By-Laws Revisions: Jon asked if there were additional changes or comments to the By-Laws that were sent to members. There were none, and the By-Laws were approved and will be posted on the Association webpage.

National Loon Center Update: Catherine McGoldrick and Michael Blassey gave an update on the plans for the National Loon Center that will be built in Crosslake at the Federal Campground. The Freshwater Institute will be housed in the same facility. The cost for building is 12 million dollars – they are halfway there. 50% will come from the state, the rest from grants and donations. They have hired an Executive Director. Plans are to break ground next spring with the Center opening in 2024. Currently there is a storefront in Town Square in Crosslake, “The Nest”, to publicize the Center. It’s open Thursday through Sunday 10-4.

Get the Lead Out Initiative: Michael Blassey cited research showing that ingesting lead is fatal to birds (one lead shot can kill a loon or eagle). The State is promoting a project to get the lead out of fishing tackle. They have collected 8,000 pounds of lead tackle in tackle exchanges. Michael brought lead-free tackle to the meeting. The initiative is funded by money from the BP oil spill. People can drop off lead-containing tackle at The Nest in Crosslake.

Mission Township Update: Bob Steele was elected to be a Supervisor on the Mission Township Board last fall – he started the position in January. Current focuses for the Board include roads, park, and the fire department. The Township has thirty miles of roads. This year County Road 109 was resurfaced, others are getting crack sealing. The Board supervises Mission Park (best township park in Minnesota). We received a DNR grant of \$83,000 matched by the Township. It will be used to build two pickleball courts, and redo the playground equipment making it safer and ADA compliant. The Township Supervisors oversee the Mission Fire Department – staff includes 24-26 volunteers. The Board has two committees – the Park Committee and the Roads Committee.

Water Monitoring: Catherine reported on water quality measurements that are taken once a month between May and September. Testing shows that Bass Lake is a healthy lake that is not too overgrown. Clarity has ranged from 21 feet in the spring to 11 feet currently due to algae and turbulence from

boats. The trend is similar to past years but overall has improved primarily because of upgraded septic systems around the lake. Once a year Catherine and Martha Steele collect samples to test for veligers (zebra mussel larvae). Our sample was clear – Catherine reminded people to check for zebra mussels when you remove your docks. Bass Lake also shows no signs of Asian milfoil. Biggest concern this year is the lake level, which has gone down 13 inches due to the drought. Measurements and test results are posted on the Association webpage.

Member Signs: Martha reported that there are still signs available for purchase. Contact her if you would like to buy a sign (\$23).

Plans for 2022: Jon said that we are hoping for a more normal year where we can resume events. Current plans include a spring social gathering on June 4, the July 4 boat parade followed by a gathering in the middle of the lake, and the Annual Meeting in August. The Township hopes to resume a summer parade – the Association plans to participate with a float. The parade will probably be the third Saturday in June.

Beaver Issues: Jon said that this was a concern brought up at the meeting last year. There was a consensus to do some form of beaver control. Let the Board know if you have ideas or input.

Boat Wake Impact Research: Martha reported that the study conducted by the University of Minnesota St. Anthony Falls Research Lab is being written up and submitted for peer review. The research measures the impact of wake and prop thrust on lake environments and wildlife. There is interest in the conclusions nationally. Results are not yet available, but will be sent to the State Legislature to be considered in future legislation. Stay tuned.

Treasurer’s Report: Nancy Geiger reviewed the Association finances:

Bass Lake Association Financial Report – 8/14/2021

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|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Balance on 8/8/2020 | | \$4,393.44 |
| | <u>Deposits</u> | <u>Expenses</u> |
| 2020 dues collected after the 2020 Annual Meeting | \$ 20.00 | |
| 2021 dues collected (27 @ \$20 + \$20 donation) | \$ 560.00 | |
| Member signs sold (7 @ \$23 + \$2.25 donation) | \$ 163.25 | |
| 2020 Annual Meeting refreshments | | \$ 68.57 |
| Crow Wing County Education Grant (landing sign) | \$ 80.00 | |
| Lakes and Rivers Association (county) 2021 renewal | | \$ 25.00 |
| Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Association (state) 2021 renewal | | \$ 100.00 |

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| University of Minnesota MAIRSC Donation | | \$ 200.00 |
| Totals | \$ 823.25 | \$ 393.57 |
| Balance on 8/14/2021 | | \$4,823.12 |

Board Positions: Jon announced that he is finishing his two years as President. Bob Steele, current Vice President will take over. Jon asked if anyone was interested in the Vice President or Secretary/Treasurer positions. Pam Berhow has volunteered to become the Secretary/Treasurer and Nancy Geiger will become the Vice President.

Open Discussion and Concerns:

Loons: there were no chicks this year. This is true on many lakes due to predators like eagles and turtles, the early heat, and the black flies. Some lakes with poor loon habitats have nesting platforms – Bass Lake has a good habitat. The Loon Center staff/interns are tracking data locally.

Bob Steele thanked Jon Auge for his contributions as Association President and mentioned that Jon has stepped in to fill an open position as Township Supervisor.

Jon closed the meeting – next meeting in summer, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Geiger, Secretary/Treasurer