**BIG FISH LAKE ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Wednesday, January 31, 2018**

**6:30 p.m. – Cold Spring, MN; Kit’s home**

Board Members present:

Kit Ferber - President

Mark Backes - Vice-President

Matt Peters - Treasurer

Allen Schmitz

Doug Adamek

Chris Wenner

Joel Meyer

Absent: Jim Sand, Bill Unger and Nina Steil

\*Meeting called to order by President, Kit Ferber, at 6:30 p.m. at her residence in Cold Spring, MN.

\*It was noted that minutes from the previous Board meeting on November 29, 2017 were approved via emails.

**1.** **Presentation from the Initiative Foundation (IF)**

a. Kristi Ackley and Mark Hendrickson introduced themselves and talked about our endowment fund and emergency

fund that we have invested with them. At the present time we have $55,584 in the endowment fund in which we

can draw the interest from yearly. The emergency fund now has $43,985 in it. This fund is available anytime for us

if we have an Aquatic Invasive Species enter our lake. It was reiterated that nearby Lake Koronis is looking for

$800,000 to get rid of their Starry Stonewort. BFLA has a great start on this fund! The motion was made by Matt to

move the yearly interest (approx. $2500) from the endowment fund into the emergency fund to make it more

liquid. The motion was seconded by Mark and then all were in favor of the transfer.

b. Kristi and Mark are also going to help us with our 2018 Legacy Campaign (also known as the Conservancy

Fund). They will help train us on marketing opportunities and will also help us with verbiage in our new brochure

that the Board will use to visit all members around the lake in May in order to increase our endowment to help

make the BFLA self-sustainable since grants are getting more and more harder to get. Our training session will be

held on Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at Kit’s home at 6:30 pm. Board members are asked to think of people that

could help with this campaign. They will also be asked to join this two hour training session. Brochures will have to

be at the printers no later than May 1st. (Note: After the meeting, Nina agreed to be in charge of the brochure and

will start getting quotes from various printers.)

c. The Board will research places where we can get more grants in the future. Kristi said that the IF will be happy to

train us on how to acquire grants and it was recommended to go to the Central MN Community Foundation to view

their software to find out who and where to write to for possible grants.

d. All “training” sessions are free of charge with the IF since we are investors with their foundation.

**2. BFLA Receives Grant for Boat Inspections in 2018**

a. As part of the matching grant that we have with the Stearns County AIS we must pay them $14,395.50

for boat inspections. The total grant was for $28,790 for 1,827 hours of inspections. A motion was made by

Chris to approve this payment and it was seconded by Joe. All were in favor. Boat inspections will start during

the crappie season, earlier than we have ever done it in the past.

**3. Treasurer’s Report by Matt Peters**

a. At this time we have $17,961.01 in our checking account at the bank. $20,000 was pulled out on 1/2/18 to put

in the emergency fund since we make 5% there and hardly anything at the bank. So far we have 122 members that

have contributed for 2018 totaling $20,676. We received $400 from a member to use towards protecting the loons

and a culmination of $3,732 to be used for extra boat inspections up and beyond the AIS Grant inspections. Our

yearly budget is set a $3,025 dollars to cover our working expenses. A motion was made by Allen to approve the

report and was seconded by Chris. All were in favor.

**4. Membership Update**

a. The membership drive is going well. The gentle reminder will be going out shortly to encourage those that have not

contributed yet for 2018.

b. Tax receipts for donations made in the fall of 2017 will be sent out shortly as well.

c. Kit introduced a new invoice that will be sent out to our present nine business members. The invoice will have

tiers much like the levels that are available to the lake’s homeowners. We are hoping that this will generate more

money and interest in our endeavors. A motion was made to approve the new invoice by Joel and seconded by Allen.

All were in favor.

**5. Collegeville Township to Discuss Helping BFLA with Boat Inspections**

a. Jim Sand has been in touch with the Collegeville Township to discuss the possibility of having them help us with

boat inspections. They will be discussing a contract for recreational services that will allow the Township to help pay

for some of the inspections. This type of contract requires approval from residents at the Annual meeting taking

place on Tuesday, March 13th, at 8 pm. All lake home owners are encouraged to attend along with the Board

members. Kit will send out a couple of emails to inform the BFL homeowners to attend. Kit will contact Joe Pohl to

see when the inspections will be discussed that night and what they need from us at this point before the meeting.

Jim and Kit come up with something to explain how boat inspections work and how they would benefit the lake and

its users.

**6. Getting Bids from Companies for Possible Future Infestations**

a. Kit is in the process of contacting companies that specialize in dealing with infestations of Aquatic Invasive Species.

As part of our AIS plan, we need to have companies that can be on board to help us fight species such as Starry Stone-

Wort, Eurasion Milfoil or Zebra Mussels. This will save time in the future to get bids now.

**7. Update from Stearns County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Committee**

a. LAMB will be the third party boat inspectors once again this year for Stearns County. They are charging $15.75

per hour and will follow all of the protocols that were performed last year.

b. The AIS Committee is looking into the possibility of having shelters for the boat inspectors at the DNR landings. Each

lake association would be responsible for building and maintaining the shelter. This is based on the approval of the

DNR.

**8. Other items:**

a. Avon Hill Initiative Conferenceis set for Saturday, February 10, 2018 at St. John’s University. Matt Peters will be

attending.

b. Jim Read who is running against Jeff Howe, for State Representative, asked he if could address the Board and the

members at our BFLA Annual Meeting. His request was denied since the Board felt it was more of a campaign

request. It was suggested that he wait until he possibly gets elected.

c. There has been concern about the excess swan poop by the old beach area along Hwy 50. It was suggested to Kit

by various sources that this is a very natural phenomena and there was nothing that we could do about it. It would

be costly to try and remove this once this was stuck in the ice. Apparently, it is a good source of food for the fish.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Next meeting is set for March 28, 2018, 6:30 at Kit’s house. All individuals that are helping with the Legacy Campaign are asked to attend.

Other future meetings: Notes taken by Mark

-Wednesday, April 25th – to finalize Legacy Campaign Backes and then

-Wednesday, May 30th – to prepare for the Annual Meeting written by Kit Ferber.

-Saturday, June 9th, 8:30 am – Annual Meeting at the Collegeville Township Hall