**Big Fish Lake Association April Board Meeting**

**April 20, 2022; 6:30 pm at Kit’s home**

In attendance: Kit Ferber, Matt Peters, Allen Schmitz, John Ronning, Hailey Wachlarowicz Bayer, Megan Johnson, Jim Sand. Doug Adamek and Bill Unger by telephone.

1. Call to order 6:39 p.m.
2. Treasurer’s Report – Matt

Currently the BFLA account balance is $43,636.22

1. Membership Drive Update – Kit

Membership donations total $32,681 from 161 donations.

* 1. Business member donations total $2,600 and expecting another $200.
  2. The association received a grant from the Collegeville Township of $3,500.

1. Initiative Foundation Account Update as of 2/28/22 – Kit
   1. Emergency Fund: $119,907.47, Conservancy/Legacy Fund: $156,367.29, combined total: $276,274.76
   2. ***Matt made a motion to transfer the accrued interest (about $3,500) from the Conservancy Fund to the Emergency Fund, John seconded the motion, and all were in favor.***
2. Capital Campaign Update

The board is waiting for the legacy campaign video to be updated and will begin contacting association members about the campaign again this summer.

1. Mark’s report regarding the boat inspections for 2021
   1. There are four times more boaters coming to Big Fish compared to any other lake in the county.
   2. Parking issues – Big Birch Lake hires parking monitors on holiday weekends to ensure no illegal parking near their landing. The board chose not to hire parking monitors, and they discussed extending the no parking zone on Big Fish Lake Road to include the north side of the road. Ultimately, this is a township issue and Kit will attend the next township meeting to present lake access data.
2. Garbage can at landing

The garbage container at the landing will continue to be donated by West Central Sanitation in exchange for a newsletter ad.

1. Five Star Lake Service Provider Initiative

The Stearns County AIS Committee is encouraging lake associations to join the five-star program to promote lake service providers who use specific AIS prevention safeguards. The program is voluntary and free for both lake associations and service providers.

***John made a motion to approve BFLA joining the Five Star Initiative. Matt seconded and all were in favor.***

1. Grant from the Stearns County AIS Committee.
   1. Total project cost: $48,739; our match is $24,369.50. Based on an estimated 2,074 hours in 2022. Rate went up to $23.50 per hour.
   2. Due to unavailability of staff, hours were cut in 2021 and BFLA was refunded $1,785.86.
2. Annual meeting
   1. BFLA Annual Meeting set for June 11, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m.; Kit will send out postcards
   2. Board members will need to be reelected and nominations will be open at the annual meeting.

Team 1: Kit, Josh, Doug, Bill and Megan (was good until 6/22/20), next term will go to 2024

Team 2: Mark, John, Matt, Chris and Hailey (was good until 6/22/21), next term will go to 2023

1. Additional Research donation funds

Total to date available: $5,096. In the past, the BFLA has donated these funds to the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) at the University of Minnesota and Minnesota Lakes and Rivers (MLR). The board also discussed using some of these donations for AIS testing on the lake and local colleges doing research on our lake. Matt will look into local colleges interested in doing research.

1. Water testing

BFLA needs a new water testing person. All testing is done through the mail after samples are collected May through September. Jim and Rose Sand may be interested in volunteering.

1. Rhonda Green has requested permission from the Township to build shed rentals that would be appealing to the eye. Kit will contact to clarify the plans and ask about interest in a rain garden.
2. Kit has applied for the Stearns Electric Operation Round-Up for $1,000; the next distribution is in July.
3. Wake boat research

The University of Minnesota recently completed a study on the waves created by wakesurf boats. The research found this type of boat should maintain a greater distance from the shoreline to reduce the potential impact on shorelines from their larger waves.

1. Lights at the Boat access

Residents have noticed activity and cars at the boat access late at night. The board discussed the possibility of adding lights to the parking lot.

1. Update on Loon camera

The board previously discussed having a camera on one of the loon nests. Will look into for next summer with the possibility of Mark’s grandkids helping out.

1. Update on lake outlet – Allen

Water levels are too high now for the project so will wait for the outlet to dry out before looking into estimates for an excavator to clean out the sediment and sand. The last time this was done was in 1984.

1. Hamann property has been paid for their first year – Allan has CRP agreement drafted by Paul Steil.
2. Adjourn (8:41 p.m.)