**Big Fish Lake Association November Board Meeting**

**November 15, 2023; 6:00 pm at Mark’s home**

In attendance: Mark Backes, John Ronning, Kit Ferber, Hailey Bayer, Matt Peters, Megan Johnson, Paul Steil, Doug Adamek, and Nancy Van Erp

1. Call to order (6:06 p.m.)
2. Previous minutes approved over email, Hailey will post on the website.
3. Outlet restoration
* Work will start when there is frost or below freezing temps.
* DNR permit $1200, but the Collegeville Township Board may contribute to the cost. The total excavation project cost is estimated to be around $13,000.
1. Stearns County AIS Committee Update
* Waterguard has notified lake associations across the county of their pay increase to $31/hour (an increase from $28/hour in 2023 and $24/hour in 2022). Their increase is to cover costs from the new required sick time labor law and for better recruitment of job applicants.
* Stearns County will return $1232.00 to BFLA from 44 hours that did not have staff coverage on Big Fish Lake.
1. Treasurer’s report – Matt
* Current balance $67,944.01
* Stearns Bank will donate $1000 to BFLA per year if the balance is kept over $5000.
* Mark and Matt will continue to look into banking options and options for CDs with better interest rates.
1. The board discussed a number of topics to focus on in 2024 including:
* BFLA finances and an improved rate of return on our investments.
* Continued support of social activities like the annual meeting and picnic, events organized by Doris and Danny Westra, welcome letters for new property owners, and sharing more family stories on the lake.
* Develop a proactive plan for residents and the lake association in the event that starry stonewort or other AIS is found on the lake.
* Sponsor a BFLA committee on shoreland preservation.
* Minnesota Lakes and Rivers and University of Minnesota research on prop wash and wave impacts.
1. Water testing on BFL
* Thank you to Jim and Rose Sand for volunteering to continue to do the water testing on BFL and cover the costs for sending the tests into the lab.
* Matt will continue to test for salt in the lake.
1. Sensitive shoreline signs

The board discussed putting together sensitive shoreline floating signs to protect the shore in sensitive areas of the lake. Matt will put together estimate costs, and the board will need to determine how many and where to put them on the lake.

1. Township Update – John

John updated the board on a new fire department building proposal and a program that could cover the ongoing costs of AEDs through fire departments.

1. Adjourn (7:38 p.m.)