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# August 20, 2022

## BOLPF Board Meeting Minutes

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### 1. Call to order

The BOLPF Board of Directors meeting held virtually via Zoom on August 20, 2022 was called to order at 9:03 am by Bonnie Clarke.

Those in attendance: Bonnie Clarke, Dave Paton, Sue Woltman, Celia Kistler, Chris Hook, Rob Aikins, Keith Montgomery, Nancy Travis, Lauralynn Duff, and Meghan Woltman. Quorum was established. Walt Bates, was also in attendance.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Approval of BOLPF Board of Directors minutes from meeting held on July 2, 2022: Motion to approve the minutes by Chris Hook was seconded by Meghan Woltman. No amendments were suggested. Hearing no opposition, motion to approve carries.

### 3. Treasurer's Report by Sue Woltman

Checking account balance is \$ 33,789.57. Savings account balance is \$ 28,691.83. Vanguard account has \$90,000.00 as of June 30<sup>th</sup> statement. Investments are up nearly 12% now, we it is safe to say that our Vanguard account balance is up as well.

Concern was voiced about having more than \$50,000.00 in income this year. We had over \$50,000.00 in income last year, and we already have more than \$40,000.00 in income this year.

This amount of income does not affect our status as a 501c3 foundation, but it can affect our tax status. We would not necessarily have to pay taxes because we are a non-profit organization, but there could be much more complicated tax forms that we would need to file.

Kristen Barringer has been managing our wonderful website. It costs around \$500 per year to maintain the website. Kristen has been paying this out of her own pocket. The cost will be raising to \$900.00 per year starting January 1, 2023. We should consider taking on this expense as part of our budget for BOLPF.

Motion to approve a payment of \$500.00 Kristen Barringer and include the \$900.00 per year in the budget by Chris. Second by Dave. All in favor. Treasurer's report is approved.

## 4. Committee and Other Reports

(as Committee Chairs deem necessary)

### A. Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW) presented by Keith Montgomery

Overtime is avoided, but there was a little bit of overtime. Karl Hoessel had filled in for Mike resulting in overtime. Otherwise, no one worked over 40 hours. Francis (one of Karl's friends) is filling in for Mike.

As of July 23, we can see 690 boats entered the lake. There were 1,200 boats all season last year. The average is 5 – 10 boats per day. Things ramp up and stay steady through the first week of August. The program ends the first or second week of October for the year.

The graph shows where folks are coming from. Usual suspects are Lac Vieux Dessert as one of the top 5. The table shows what we are facing with the invasive species of these lakes. Four of the lakes have the spiny water fleas which are hard to see.

Dave: “fantastic data, Keith!” Walt: “Keith hit the ground running.”

Invasive Species: Chinese mystery snail; a lot in Dollar Bay. One was found floating on the surface of the lake, decaying. They have to be elsewhere. They are green with very fine stripes. There is usually one ridged stripe that is darker and prominent. According to Susan Knight, they are exotic and considered invasive, but there is no need to be too concerned about them. We should report that, but they are everywhere on the list. They get on kayak paddles and fishing boats and can get into water tanks on boats.

Bonnie suggests that it would be good to get pictures in the newsletter. Keith proposed to do a monthly newsletter to engage people. He will put some of his data in the newsletter. He can do a Q&A with Susan Knight. There is also aquatic forget-me-not maybe in Dollar Bay. Keith will be beginning newsletter in February.

### B. Investments by Chris Hook

Safe to assume it is up from \$90,000.00 at our annual meeting. Back around a year and a half ago, we decided on making divergent investments. We created an investment committee with Chris Hook, Fred Aikins and Bob Beedie. Jim is our pro bono financial advisor. The money was initially invested last October. It is not stated in by-laws to have an investment committee.

Question from Rob: Money market funds have started to pay close to 2% now. Since we have close to \$60,000.00 in the bank, maybe we could move some of our excess cash to generate more. Dave: If we have a local bank, we can connect the Vanguard account to that account.

C. Lake Monitors by Bonnie Clarke for Cindy Miller

Everything has been going well, and there is not much to report right now.

D. Grants by Keith Montgomery

Grants: \$1,000.00 received to date. Need to reapply by November 1 with Barbara. Sue and Keith will be in contact to get it done for next year. The other \$3,000.00 grant funds should be coming in September. It is sort of a quarterly income based upon the hours we report.

E. Nominating by Jessica Braum

The committee including Kathy Kelly and Barbara Annin, will welcome suggestions, especially for the treasurer position. Chris states that we will be losing Bonnie as president. Lauralyn would be a good treasurer. Ruthie Natali expressed interest in being on the board.

F. Membership by Dave Paton

Sharon was chair throughout the pandemic. It was like herding cattle, especially with her picnic involvement. Sharon called in to Dave at 7:45 am with the following information:

BOLPF membership is key. It is the money, community and preservation foundation. There is camaraderie belonging to members.

How do we show members the value of their membership? Is there a cost-free or effortless way to show appreciation to our members? Should there be household pricing? An example would be one primary family membership to include all the daughters, sons, etc. Should one of the benefits of membership be a card and discounts at some local establishments?

Website: Can we put a "pay button" on the website? What about accessibility to the foundation on website? At picnic: Keith can provide what the cost is for a day. Fund-raise the cost for a day. Keith: If the newsletter gets off, can Dave pirate a section to keep membership dues front and center? Spending down the money; that kind of mentality. Deliberate investments like promotional.

There are many ideas with which we can do some really great things. There are 230 registered BOLPF members of which 135 have not paid this year. Is it lack of information? We need to deliver information to members.

Sharon is eager to continue to work on the membership team even although she is leaving the chair position.

We are running BOLPF right and getting awards.

Rob Aikins agrees with just about all the ideas. There should be some kind of family membership. It is important to getting next generation involved. We know what we are doing, but some of the other lake residents do not know. People need to know what we need our big bank balances for. What if we needed to remove milfoil from our lake? We should form a committee to come up with recommendations.

We do not have a giving plan where BOLPF is a part of that giving. Dave would like input from anyone. Email or call him.

Bonnie states the we can do so much more with our website. Perhaps we can add a chat function to get more members to engage?

## 5. New Business

### A. By-laws Update by Chris Hook

First, how long you can serve as an officer? There is a potential churn in officers positions. It used to be 4 years. If you are in office a second term, can a position be nominated for an additional year to groom the new person? The board is best to convince Sue to serve for one more year until we get a replacement. Meghan came up with some verbiage.

Secondly, standing committees: Formalize investment committee explaining what it is.

Third, there is an officer position of Development Director under Article 4 of the bylaws. We should take the Development Director position away as an officer position. We can combine development with the Membership Committee. We should expand the Membership Committee to at least 3 members, one of whom is an officer on the board. Dave suggests that we designate the Vice-President as the chair of this committee.

Chris states that the way to change our by-laws is to send the changes to the BOLPF membership and the entire membership must vote on it.

Dave: This complicates things. Non-profit basics state the need of an agency *with* 1,200 volunteers which is too many to vote. BOLPF membership needs definition. Dave motions to proceed with the changes.

Meghan states that the whole membership has to vote. Bonnie suggests that we might need vote before annual meeting.

Chris states that any change can be voted upon by membership electronically. We can define members and get them agreed upon before the board meeting.

Meghan: Article 8 to define membership. Quorum is 25 members. Control who has a say in these matters.

Keith: dues from married couple allows only one vote. Bonnie likes the term "in good standing". Gets people thinking. Need an audit of "good standing membership".

Chris says to send him comments if you have any.

*B. Boat Ramp by Chris Hook*

Chris has been contacted by more than one member who says the boat ramp is in need of repair. One person had gotten a quote from Simon's to fill in between the concrete slabs. People are getting stuck. We can get rock delivered and spread the rock on our own. Does the board support this or not? Does the board believe we should fund some of this? We do not own the ramp. Dynamic of public beach area is strange.

Walt said that it was in really bad shape the last time he used it. It is a road owned by county highway and managed by town. It had gotten so bad that we forked over \$12,000 which required permits and pay for them. We did it. We are obviously not going to get help.

Chris said that permits we had are still valid now.

Dave said that this could be of great additional value if we can show that we are paying for it. Another thing BOLPF is doing. We partner with government.

Keith reminds us that 95% of boats are coming into the lake from outside of Land O' Lakes. The town board should know that. These visitors are spending money within the township.

Meghan said that the cost for rock is \$500.00, and it would be up to us to get it spread.

Dave asked if that is all that needs to be done. Walt answered yes. Keith believes that the gravel would not last that long. There is a big gap at the first section which needs concrete.

Chris will let them know that we will support it. We should get a quote for more work and make sure it is permitted. It will be a good way to show value in our lake.

Lauralyn suggest signage about how it is paid for by BOLPF. Have we thought any more about putting a sign about rules of the lake? Bonnie replied that we did talk about that briefly. It was discussed in the past and needs to be brought to the town. Especially important are the DNR rules for personal watercraft.

Chris said that it seems we could have the sign in the enclosed sign board. We probably have to work with town to have something put in there.

Walt suggest that we remind them of what a favor we are doing for them.

Bonnie sees no objection to the DNR rules. Chris will add that into the “boat ramp project”.

Dave asks who knows the personnel in Vilas County we can contact. They might have guidelines.

Lauralyn suggests that this information can be on a sheet handed out to boats. Bonnie suggests that people are at least told about it when they are putting in a PWC or ski boat. Keith can have inspectors warn them. Nancy suggests a laminated card to hand out. Dave will be happy to help with that, but he may need a little help composing it. Walt said that the DNR rules are on the inside cover of the directory. We need a quality sign maker. Nancy suggest to keep it brief and simple, just about getting to close and other safety stuff.

Meghan reminds us the clearance going into West Bay is not wide enough for PWC to go through there. Walt says that the violators are mostly children and guests on the lake.

Keith says that the red lines on the map are 600 feet from shore. He can make a map designating 200 feet from shore. It is impossible to even water ski down in West Bay.

Chris clarifies that the safe distance for water skiers is only 100 feet. It is 211 feet across the channel in West Bay which makes it only okay for a boat, not personal watercraft.

Rob states that we need to be careful putting it out there. There needs to be encouragement to observe the rules without offense.

Celia thinks the map with the 200 feet designation and the rules on the other side would be a great laminated card.

Chris says that the 100 and 200 foot line are the only DNR rules that exist. There is a “loose” surf boat rule of staying in the middle of a lake.

### *C. New Business*

Walt will be publishing a new directory in spring. He is requesting photo submissions and suggestions. There is a restriction period coming up for permission to go around the lake by Mike Saad . This is part of a quit pro quo. Stefan was concerned about his people going around the lake with the kids having to go on Hwy B. He had asked permission to use Black Oak Point concerning about 12 property owners. In return, we had year-round use of their property to go around the lake. Now that Conserve is not being upheld, Culver has agreed to continue to honor this agreement. It is real important that we follow their rules such as no motor vehicles. Meghan asked if Donahue part of the agreement. Walt clarified that it is Donahue Lake Rd. to

Anderson Lake Rd.

As a tie-in with paid dues to be listed in the directory, Nancy asked what about if you are a member and not on water but paying dues. What about children? There has never been anything set in stone. Nancy also asked if there was an age to pay dues.

Sue suggests that next year when we are issuing the new directory, non-members should pay \$25.00 for a directory and members only the \$3.00 cost of a directory

Chris asked if it is considered a lake directory or a BOLPF directory? The last time, the by-laws said who could be a member. There were legal reasons for membership. Who can be a member?

It turns out that anybody can be a member according to Walt. The laws of a 501c3 foundation assures that anyone can be a member. Chris states that the basics are that they spend a month of the year within a mile of the lake.

We did have discussion in June of the by-laws and how they are changing.

*D. Education and Engagement by Keith Montgomery*

Bonnie said that most people who she runs into have a real desire to preserve Black Oak Lake for the next generation. The shoreline, water level and land cover on the shoreline are concerns.

There is a link to a survey of best practices that Keith will send to the board. Can we encapsulate BOL? If someone fills in a survey, data will be connected to that organization. You get to go back and become a “partner” in the organization.

Bonnie says that Kita Sheehan who works for the Vilas County Conservationist has suggestions for native planting. She will write something up for the newsletter.

Nancy said that Pete Peterson asked if there is a problem with the high water level of the culvert. Walt does not count it with the DNR. The status of that culvert is rainfall and underground flow.

Walt found that a lot of water is coming in and going out of the lake. Water is leaving by the Hattenhauer/Woltman shoreline. Walt cut some plastic and found that it was sucked to the bottom of the lake there. It is not just precipitation. The underground water flow makes the level high. The lake levels stay at high or low points for several years before changing. We are at 47 inches and have been for about 5 years. Bonnie asked if the house built over near the old boy scout camp affect the water level. It does not. There is also a beaver dam. Water flowage

goes into Little Portage and the river.

Sue Woltman brought up the date and location of the next annual meeting. It will be held on July 1, 2023. The cost is \$100.00 to hold the meeting at the Snowflake and \$30.00 for the Town Hall. Chris said that the Snowflake will requires doing our own setup and bringing chairs over from the firehouse. We just need to plan for the setup.

Final thing: Is there any interest in a progressive dinner? A walk around the lake is being planned for September 10. Dirk Meyer offered his place to host the picnic for the walk around the lake.

*E. Date and Time of Next BoD Meeting*

The meetings are only required in June, July and August. We will decide the date and time of our next meeting at a later date via group email along with discussing some of these topics by the board.

**6. Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn Chris. Second by Dave . Hearing no opposition, the meeting is adjourned at 10:54 am.

*Celia C. Kistler*

11/7/22

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Secretary

Date of approval

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