



BWLA Spring Membership Meeting Minutes

Monday June 10, 2023

Location: Pierson Township Hall

BOARD MEMBER ATTENDEES

Present: Dave Cornelius, Jon Durren, Jane Dykhous, Mike Fish, Mark Judge, Tom Krehbiel, Kelley Root, Ron Van Timmeren and Laura Wiltz

Absent: Mike Dazy and Jeff Van Hattum

AGENDA

Pierson Township Alliance

Don Knottnerus and Kathy Gleason

1. Call to Order

Laura Wiltz

2. Roll Call:

Kelley Root

3. August 27, 2022, Minutes/Approval

Kelley Root

4. Opening Remarks

Laura Wiltz

5. Treasurer: Report

Jon Durren

6. Township Update

Dan Buyze

7. Ecology

Dave Cornelius

8. Committee updates

Jane Dykhous/Committee Chairs

9. Board of Directors – Fall Elections

Laura Wiltz

a. Expiring Terms: Judge, Van Hattum, Wiltz

10. Questions, Comments, New Business

Laura Wiltz

11. Adjourn

Laura Wiltz

MEETING NOTES

● Roll Call – Kelley Root

- Meeting called to order by Laura Wiltz at 9:30 am

● Minutes from Last BWLA Association Meeting - Approved (Kevin Gilfillan/Tom Krehbiel)

● Pierson Township Alliance – Don Knottnerus – see attached report for details.

● **Opening Remarks – Laura Wiltz**

- Thank you to the BOD and to the Committee Chairs and Committee Members.
- Major focus areas for the BOD are Membership Communication and Ecology.
 - Communication – Thank you to Judy Warner for managing our website and email blast process for our membership. Main vehicles for communication are the website, Facebook page, email, and the Directory. This year enough ads were sold to cover the costs of the Directory. Please continue to support the vendors advertising in the Directory and the website.
 - Ecology – the Ecology Committee partners with PLM and follows their recommendations for lake treatment.
- Welcome to all new BWLA members – see Directory page thirteen for the list of names.

● **Treasurer's Report - Respectfully Submitted/Signed/Jon Durren, Treasurer Dated 6/10/2023 - Approved (Mike Julien/Steve Herrema)**

- Refer to attached Treasurer Report for all details.
- There was a question posed by the membership about the dues increase. The BLWA bylaws allow for a 25% increase annually in dues. The BOD decided to increase the dues from \$150 to \$180 due to inflation, the cost of fireworks and future tennis court maintenance.
- See BWLA website for the full Treasurer's report.

● **Township Update – Dan Buyze**

- There has been no formal proposal submitted to the Pierson Township Planning Committee from the owners of the Whitefish Golf Course.
- Township Park construction continues. The pickleball courts are ready for cement to be poured, benches are being built/ installed and there was a \$100,000 donation made for a pavilion that will hold up to sixty-four people.
- Pierson Township will be reviewing and updating the current Pierson Township Master Plan.
- On June 24-28 there will be tire recycling at Republic Services. The trailer will hold 1,000 tires and it will be first come first serve.
- A side door was converted to a Law Enforcement Door with a keypad. The purpose is to allow for Law Enforcement to use the township building for refreshments and relaxation. The goal is to encourage Law Enforcement to spend more time in Pierson Township.
- There was a question on when Wood lake Road would be paved. The hold up is due to the dry conditions.

● Montcalm County Sheriff

- The Sheriff reviewed important safety reminders.
- The BWLA Lake Boating Committee worked with the Montcalm County Sheriff to document the most important safety protocols documented on page 8, 9, 65, 66 and 67 of the Directory.
- Jackie Brayman, Committee Chair of Boating: Regulations, launch, and safety, reminded the membership to share the safety rules with family members and guests who plan to use the lake.

● Ecology – Algae – Dave Cornelius

- See attached email correspondence for details.
- The following questions and comments were posed to the Ecology Committee:
 - There was conversation around having PLM lobby the State of Michigan to allow for copper sulfate in May and June due to effectiveness and price. PLM could gather Lake Associations across the State to assist with this lobbying effort.
 - A question was posed to whether Republic Services is doing their job to assist with seagull control. Seagulls deposit a huge amount of phosphates on the lake. BWLA has a permit to kill 1,000 seagulls per year. We have members that have been taking turns reducing the number of seagulls. This needs to be a continued focus for BWLA.
 - A question was asked about the larger culvert installed under Woodlake Road and is that contributing to our lower water levels. The response was that the dam has been installed and there is still water running over the dam into Little Whitefish Lake. The dam was created to ensure that legal levels of water exist for both lakes. While the water may be moving faster to Little Whitefish through the larger culvert, flow over the dam will be an indicator of legal water levels.
 - A question was asked about fertilizer contributing to this year's algae bloom. Lawn fertilizers do not contain phosphates and there also has not been any rain since mid-April to allow for anything to drain into the lake.
 - A question was also asked about removing the algae that is sitting on the shorelines. Does it help to remove the algae or leave the algae in? The response was that it is helpful to remove the algae so that it does not return to the lake.

● Committee Chairs

- **Attire – Amy Judge:** There were apparel samples at the meeting. June 12th at midnight is the cutoff to order apparel.
- **Boat Parade – Laura Wiltz on behalf of Amy McKee:** The parade will be held the afternoon of July 3rd. Each home will have a paper ballot located in the 2023 Directory to submit to determine the winner. The theme is "Anything Goes."

- **Fireworks – Mark Wiltz:** Fireworks will be held the evening of July 3rd. July 8th is the rain makeup date. We will need volunteers to pull the fireworks out with the barge. We also may have a donation of pontoons for future fireworks.
- **Fun Run – Kelley Root:** The Fun Run will be held on July 4th with registration from 8:00 to 9:00 am, the race to start at 9:00 am, Pie Eating Contest to immediately follow the run and the Water Balloon Toss will be held no earlier than 10:30 am. There is an opportunity to pre-register through a link on the Facebook page. Those who pre-register will be put in a drawing for prizes from the BWLA apparel store.
- **Golf Outing – Mary Underwood on behalf of Kathy Gleason:** the Golf Outing will be a two person/18-hole scramble on August 12th with an 8:30 am shot gun start. The location will be The Links of Bowen Lake and the last day to register is August 5th. Register with Kathy Gleason either by email or phone (616) 560-2072.
- **Historical Committee – Phyllis Nykamp:** Reflections 4 is close to being finalized. An email blast has been sent on how to order and pay. There was also an order form in the Directory. If books are not prepaid for, they will not be ordered.
- **Mix and mingle – Julie Amato:** The Mix and Mingle was held on June 2nd with a record attendance. Thank you to the Stouts, Amatos and Ottenwess for hosting on their property.
- **Neighborhood Watch – Diane Gilfillan:** A reminder to lock your valuable items up. If something is taken, please notify the Montcalm County Sheriff Department. Also continue to report any suspicious activity.
- **Communication – Judy Warner:** Communication vehicles continue to be email blast, Facebook Page, website, and Directory. If members have issues with their passwords the link is working to reset any passwords.
- **Pickle Ball – Jim Warner:** The Pickle Ball Social will be held on June 17th 11:00 am at the tennis courts. During this committee update there was conversation about the dead trees around the courts and parking lot. Attempts have been made to clean up the trees but there are power lines involved which would require hiring an outside party that is not included in the budget. More dialogue to follow in terms of raising funds and what the right next steps would be.
- **Spearing Contest – Steve Herrema:** The contest will be held on July 15th and 16th. Steve reminded those who will participate to adhere to the safety rules to always point lights and the water and only shine lights when anchored.
- **Board of Directors Fall Election – Laura Wiltz**
 - Expiring Terms: Judge, Van Hattum and Wiltz – Judge and Van Hattum will not be running for another term. As a membership we will need to start thinking about potential candidates.
- **Other Business**
 - A question was raised to ask if we could consider paving the tennis courts parking lot. It is not in the budget to date, however raising funds for tennis court upkeep is part of the BOD considerations for the future.
 - A question was raised on what the boat tarps are doing sitting at the pavilion at the tennis courts. The boat tarps have been put in recycling bags and we must have

fifteen bags to deliver to the company that does the recycling. The BOD will collect the remainder to move them from the pavilion.

- **Adjourn – Laura Wiltz**

June 10, 2023

Pierson Township Alliance Committee

PTAC Update

We stood before you at a similar meeting one year ago to discuss the potential RV Park application at the location of the Whitefish Golf Course

We have many volunteers which included professionals who donated their services. These include confidential attorneys, city planners and zoning officials who are very experienced in land use issues. We also still have an attorney on retainer if this activity would become necessary.

We are very pleased to report our community has implemented our overall plan with volunteers, legal documents, letters, petitions & signs to perfection for the potential RV Park application at the location of the Whitefish Golf Course.

Currently due to our overwhelming upfront opposition to the RV Park proposal, the developers plan appears to be suspended. It appears to the committee, that the RV Park Proposal may stay dormant over the next few years, as the developer tries to decide how to proceed with the business of the golf course property. The developer appears to have also received offers to purchase the property by other Golf entities with no closure to date. It also appears that in the immediate future, the developer will continue to operate this business as a Golf Course and Restaurant as observed by some ongoing upgrades.

If you have avoided the patronage of the Whitefish Golf Course & Restaurant, we want to encourage you to frequent this business again. Your patronage will help make it successful for its intended use by giving the golf course and restaurant some additional business.

We will remain vigilant and continue to monitor the situation.

Thanks for all your help!

Kathy & Don

Big Whitefish Lake Association
Treasurer's Report
6/10/23 Members' Meeting

1	Cash balances as of June 10, 2023 are as follows: Chase checking account \$49,873 and Chase savings account \$11,590 for a total of \$61,463. (\$51,343 at 6/11/22)																																																	
2	The Property Fund totals \$145,400 valued at 2 times the SEV for BWLA owned property at 22260 Hillis & Elmwood Roads. This is a 11.2% increase vs 2022.																																																	
3	Total Assets and Fund Balances total \$206,863. (\$182,173 at 6/11/22)																																																	
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6	Weed Control funds as of 6/10/23 total \$60,605. PLM 2023 expenditures total \$25,315. SAD amount was \$217 for 218 property owners. Reconciliation & renewal in 2024.																																																	

Respectfully Submitted


Jon Durren, Treasurer

6/10/2023

Dated

Friday May 26, 2023

Just a quick recap from this weeks treatments. Conditions on Tuesday morning were perfect for treatment. As you are aware, algae was throughout the entire lake but fortunately some blew into the offshore treatment areas for milfoil and Curlyleaf. The permit does allow for the addition of low dose chelated copper in these circumstances. Overall the treatment went well reducing some of the algae and the plants should start to drop out of the water column over the next 10-14 days.

I returned on Thursday to address dense areas of algae growth that collected near the access site due to a significant wind. Unfortunately, we can only treat algae with copper based products every two weeks, therefore I had to use a non-copper based oxidizing compound to try to further reduce the abundance of algae. Please note that oxidizing compounds are not nearly as effective as copper based products. The EGLE permit only allows chelated versions of copper in May and June with the intent to ensure a successful spawn. Copper sulfate and additional copper based products are allowed after July 1st (minimum of 14 days between treatments).

There is still a significant amount of algae clinging to plants and Chara on the bottom of the lake. Whether this growth continues to bloom and create an issue this weekend or when temperature elevate next week is uncertain. I will be optimistic and say your lake residents will have an enjoyable weekend on the lake.

Thank you,

Jason Broekstra, Biologist
Vice President of Great Lakes Operations
PLM Lake & Land Management Corp

Friday June 2, 2023

Most lakes typically have more filamentous algae issues in the spring. It is also common that during the later part of the summer, although hot and sunny (like this year's spring weather) filamentous algae is not that bad. We actually see a shift in the types of algal later in the season.

This year's spring algal (spirogyra) bloom was not only fueled by available phosphorus, but significant heat, sunlight and calm weather...

Although we have conditions on our EGLE permits, I do not think these conditions are the primary limiting factor. It's perfect conditions for algal growth.

Please also remind your residents that the algae is being visually enhanced by significant pollen and cotton.

We need a cool down, rain and a little wind...

Thank you,

Jason Broekstra, Biologist
Vice President of Great Lakes Operations
PLM Lake & Land Management Cor

Friday June 2, 2023

As far as why the algae is so bad this year... its hard to say for sure, but Big Whitefish is NOT alone. Many of our lakes are having the same issue with noxious filamentous blooms this spring. The only correlation I can make is that the worst algae year I can remember is also the same year we had a very mild winter with little to no ice cover. The lack of ice cover could have allowed for more internal loading to occur than what we typically would have during the winter. The bacteria at that sediment layer were able to stay more active, digesting the sediment, resulting in a pooling of nutrients. Also, we essentially went from a mild winter into hot summer temps. The sun and warm temps are the perfect recipe for algal production.

Thank you,
Jaimee Desjardins, Environmental Scientist
West MI Regional Manager
PLM Lake & Land Management Corp.