

# Black Lake Association

## Minutes of Board Meeting

August 9, 2021

<b>Present</b>	Brett Trepanier, John Roby, Sharon Dulak, Ron Dulak, Roger Selvig, David Turzewski, Erin McLean, Cindy Trepanier
<b>Absent</b>	Roger Bergstedt
<b>Call to Order</b>	Brett Trepanier called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Grant Township Hall. In addition to the Board, 11 people were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
<b>Rules of Meeting</b>	Questions and input were solicited for each report. Time for additional public comment was provided at the end of the meeting.
<b>Secretary and Treasurer Reports</b>	<p>Minutes from the July 12, 2021 meeting were read and approved.</p> <p>The Treasurer's report was approved as read subject to audit. As of July 31, 2021 the checking account balance was \$84,442.93. CD balances were \$5,086.09 and \$2,543.09.</p> <p>Final totals from the banquet are \$6,036 in receipts, \$3,985 in expenses, for a net income of \$2,051. Of that amount, \$766 is from the 50/50 raffle and will be allocated to the Fish Stocking Fund.</p>
<b>Committee Reports</b>	
<b>Membership</b>	Sharon Dulak reported that 428 family memberships have been received to date. Of approximately 40 beaches, 16 have fully reported. Two beaches have achieved 100% membership, Craig Acres and Cedar Cliffs!
<b>Fish</b>	<p>Erin McLean reported that he has been following up on the availability of additional walleye for Black Lake. The owner of the ponds in the Upper Peninsula has no fish available this fall, and indicated that if fish are available for next season, they would likely be \$2.50 each for 5 – 7-inch fingerlings.</p> <p>DNR plans to do the shocking survey from 5 Mile Point to the Rainey River this September, date to be determined.</p> <p>Discussion held over options to obtain more fish for next season. The Fish Stocking Fund should have close to a \$6,000 balance after this year's allocations are made. No further action taken at this time.</p>
<b>Townships</b>	There were no Township reports this month.
<b>Old Business</b>	
<b>Alverno Dam Petition</b>	Coleman Kendall provided an update on the ongoing efforts regarding the relicensing application for the Alverno Dam. Coleman represents a number of property owners on the Black River below Smith's Rapids. They have been adversely affected by the recent drawdowns of the head pond at the dam and have experienced that the dam is able to draw down water faster than Smith Rapids can

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deliver it, resulting in extremely low water conditions on the river. This has resulted in boats being stranded on the river bottom. In addition, due to the timing of the draw downs, critical spawning areas for fish and other wildlife had no water during the spring spawn.

The recent fluctuations are due to pressure being brought by BLPS through constant complaints to DNR and FERC about water levels being above the 1965 Court Order, even though the water level in that order should be adjusted 612.4 instead of 612.2, due to a change in the measurement base. Property owners on the lake have also been adversely affected by the artificially lower water levels resulting in the need for longer docks to reach navigable water.

Coleman has developed a petition to support the dam owners operating license amendment request, which resets the lake levels to the proper historical levels, changes target dates to protect the critical spring spawn and opening day levels, and to keep the lake at a reasonable level during the summer months. Coleman believes that the dam owner has done his homework and has the best interest of all constituents in mind.

BLA supports the dam owner and the license amendment request, and will work with our volunteers to help obtain support for the petition and signatures from property owners and lake users.

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### **Donation Money**

Dave Turzewski discussed the recent bequest of \$50,000 BLA received from the Estate of Robert Schoenhals, a long time BLA member. The bequest was unrestricted; however, Dave and Linda VanSickle are working with the family to find a suitable use for the funds. Ideas in discussion are funding a project dealing with the health of the lake (HABs, invasive species, pollution sources, etc.) as well as possibly funding a park bench or other item on the lake as a memorial to Bob. Dave and Linda will follow up with Friends of Onaway State Park and see where the State stands on funding for the Pavilion.

Due to the bequest and the slowdown in BLA activities due to Covid, BLA has a large balance in the checking account that is not earning any interest. Dave met with Citizens Bank and Awakon Federal Credit Union, and recommended that BLA open a money market account at Awakon. Their Premium Money Market Account pays 0.30% on balances of \$50,000 or more.

Roger Selvig made a motion directing that "Dave and Brett open a Money Market Account at Awakon Federal Credit Union earning 0.30%". The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

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### **New Business**

#### **Boat Wash**

Sharon Dulak reported that BLA worked with Tip of the Mitt on four separate boat washes over the summer. Thank you to those members that volunteered for this project.

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**Black Lake  
Watershed  
Council**

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BLA joined the Tip of the Mitt's Black Lake Watershed Council. Dave Turzewski and Roger Bergstedt have volunteered to be our representatives on the Council.

**Next meeting**

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Monday, September 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Grant Township Hall.

**Adjournment**

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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