

Black Lake Association

Minutes of Board Meeting

June 13, 2022

Present	Brett Trepanier, Roger Bergstedt, John Roby, Cindy Trepanier, Sharon Dulak, Ron Dulak, David Turzewski
Absent	Erin McLean, Roger Selvig
Call to Order	Following a potluck dinner at 6:00 pm, at which 12 people were present, Brett Trepanier, president, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Grant Township Hall. In addition to the Board, 13 people were present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
Program	<p>Caroline Keson, Tip of the Mitt Monitoring Programs Coordinator, presented an update on Harmful Algal Blooms (HABS) and Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council and addressed numerous questions.</p> <p>Katie Wolfe, new Executive Director of Tip of the Mitt was introduced and briefly discussed plans for a watershed management plan for our watershed.</p> <p>NOTE: A pdf of the presentation PPT is attached and has been posted to the BLA website.</p>
HABs Discussion Outcomes	<p>Following discussion of obtaining water quality data to help determine cause of HABs, Caroline distributed handouts describing three options re collecting summer nutrient data and a dissolved oxygen profile of the lake. Handout attached.</p> <p>Dave Turzewski moved and Sharon Dulak seconded that we implement Option 1 for this year since equipment for other options is not available right now and that we table the discussion of other options (purchase options) until the July meeting. Option 1 is that volunteer lake monitors continue sampling and that we engage TotM to send the necessary equipment and an intern to sample and conduct analysis for time period recommended by TotM—no more than twice monthly July—October. Cost is \$150 per sampling event. Motion passed.</p> <p>Caroline Keson will prepare proposal for sampling assistance from TotM. She will also prepare a maintenance agreement for calibration of equipment, should BLA decide to purchase their own.</p>
Rules of Meeting	Questions and input were solicited for each report. Additional comments and questions were solicited at the end of the meeting.
Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports	<p>Reading of the minutes from the May 9, 2022 meeting was suspended for this meeting. Moved by Dave Turzewski and seconded by Ron Dulak. Passed.</p> <p>Treasurer's report approved as read subject to audit.</p>
Election of Directors	<p>Dave Turzewski, Cindy Trepanier, and Ron Dulak were each elected unanimously for three-year terms.</p> <p>Brett will remain as president; Roger as VP; Dave as treasurer. Board needs to elect or identify a secretary.</p>
Reports and Updates	

Membership	No formal report yet. Over 330 mail-ins received to date.
Fish	The fish committee is looking at the feasibility of establishing a walleye rearing pond. The committee visited the pond near Hillman when it was being fertilized and plan to go back later this season to see how it is emptied. Five acres supports 200,000 walleye; seven supports 350,000. BLA would have to buy land and have the pond dug and maintain it, filling and draining it yearly. It would need to be somewhere that it could be spring fed or well-fed and drained annually. The window for rearing the walleye is approximately six weeks.
Township Updates	No reports
DNR Launch Site	Still awaiting design and funding
Update re Black River Dams	Licensing still in process
Miscellaneous	Sharon received letters from Mr. Pruden's 5 th Grade class in Okemus near Lansing to BLA re zebra mussels.
Old Business	
Administration	New computer and software for secretary/treasurer are needed. Books in cloud now. Dave thinks cost will be approximately \$1000. Ron motioned and Roger seconded spending up to \$1200. Passed
Annual Banquet	Banquet scheduled for July 9 at UAW Education Center. Appetizers, drinks, and music begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner at 6:00. Have to commit to 100 meals or cancel. Plan to post fliers around town. 50/50 may not require license if for members only. Brett to check. Contact Liz Gallagher Nolde at 989-954-3074, or by email at, nightwitch57@gmail.com to volunteer or make donations for raffle.
Buoys	The old buoys are in at the Lower Black River, but one needs a new red blinking light. Jim Coleman reported that the cost of the new light is about \$125, but they are hard to obtain right now. We can use reflector tape in the interim. Dave Turzewski moved and Ron Dulak seconded to reimburse Jim Coleman up to \$200 for the light and reflector tape for the buoys. Ron Motion passed.
Boat Washes	June 30 and 3 more in July. TotM does the work and removes the water. BLA helpers are there to distribute information. Good opportunity to educate people re preventing spread of invasive species. Volunteers needed. Contact Sharon Dulak. Dave Turzewski recommends setting up a table, bringing BLA sign, newsletters, booklet re Living on Black Lake.
Next meeting	Monday, July 11, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Adjournment	Meeting adjourned 9:12 pm.

Background

To better understand harmful algal blooms (HABs), the State of Michigan needs data on dissolved oxygen, temperature, and nutrients in the late summer on Black Lake. Currently the Watershed Council only collects data every three years in the spring that includes those parameters, however, spring is not the most important time for HABs. The State thinks HABs are occurring on Black Lake because it is mostly shallow besides the deep hole and it may turn over more quickly than other lakes in the area. The turnover may be causing additional nutrients to be released from the lake bottom at an opportune time for HABs to grow. Collecting dissolved oxygen, temperature, and nutrients in the late summer would allow us to better understand the turnover time and why HABs are happening on Black Lake.

Goal: Collect summer nutrients and dissolved oxygen profile.

Option #1: Volunteer Lake Monitor collects samples.

Intern + Roger or Ron

The Watershed Council will work with the lake monitor to coordinate an intern to accompany the monitor during regular monitoring at least once per month. The intern will use Watershed Council equipment to collect samples with the help of the lake monitor on the lake monitor's boat.

Costs: BLA pays for water quality analysis fees, approximately \$150 per sampling event.

Pros: Lowest upfront costs, smallest commitment by BLA, Watershed Council handles all data

Cons: interns only available once per month through August, whereas sampling needs to be completed through October to catch HABs.

\$12,000 equipment -

Option #2: Watershed Council staff collects additional data.

Black Lake Association would hire the Watershed Council to monitor using Watershed Council equipment and boats.

BLA -
Costs: \$500 per sampling event (includes labor and water quality analysis fees) x 4 sampling events = \$2,000

Pros: Professional management, staff available throughout the HABs season, moderate upfront costs, professional quality assurance

Cons: Highest long-term costs, staff may have difficulty finding good weather days and responding to HABs due to other commitments (similar to State employees)

Option #3: BLA lake monitor collects data using BLA equipment.

Black Lake Association would buy their own set of equipment and conduct the monitoring on their own. BLA and the Watershed Council will enter into a maintenance agreement to outline maintenance/storage requirements and ensure BLA protects their investment. The Watershed Council will train lake monitors and provide an intern to help the first summer.

Costs: Equipment: \$1850 to \$4100, Water Quality Analysis: \$150 per sampling event

*temp
Dissolved Oxygen
+ Depth Probe*

*Phos
Nitrog
Chloride*

*Bio Oxygen
Probe*

*July
Aug
Sept
Oct*

Pros: Equipment costs are incurred only one time, BLA could use equipment for any monitoring they choose to do, Watershed Council would help with long-term maintenance, training, and data management. Dissolved oxygen monitoring could be conducted at any time and more frequently, beyond when staff are available.

Cons: Additional training would be needed, highest upfront costs