

**Bone Lake Management District
Annual Meeting Minutes - DRAFT
Saturday, August 12, 2023 9:00 a.m.
Bone Lake Lutheran Church and
Live stream at BoneLakers facebook page**

Cary Olson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

Roll Call: Commissioners

- ✓ Cary Olson, Chair
- ✓ Shelley Rose, Vice Chair
- ✓ Karen Engelbretson, Secretary
- ✓ Alex Chorewycz, Treasurer
- ✓ Mike Musial
- Doug Route, Polk County Supervisor, District 2
- Andy Brown, Town of Bone Lake
- Jeff Traynor, Town of Georgetown

Motion: Motion made and seconded to approve agenda.
Discussion: Motion by Alex Chorewycz to amend the published agenda to include after Item 12, a Vote to approve the Re - Allocation of Designated Surplus Funds to the 2024 Budget.
Motion seconded by Deb Dawson. Carried.

Motion: Approve annual meeting minutes 2022. Carried.

Chair Report: Cary Olson

Water Clarity: The long-range secchi trend is positive: clarity continues to improve.

Water Elevation: John Ukura maintains measuring sticks on his dock. Bone Lake began the year up 8" due to abundant snowfall. Lack of rain caused elevation to drop by the end of July, but 3.5" rain in the past week brought it back up to usual for this time of year, 5.8" below the ordinary high water mark.

DNR Updates: New DNR restrictions in 2024 on treating curly leaf pondweed with Endothall will limit spraying to beds >5.0 acres. This year, perhaps due to heavy snow cover, only two beds had tall enough and dense enough CLP growth to delineate a treatable bed. Overall, the CLP growth in 2023 was limited compared to past years. The total bed area delineated was 19.93 acres. BLMD also received three DNR grants.

CD3 Decontamination Station: The new decontamination station at the north landing is getting more use this year, especially the air hose. There is also a new smaller CD3 boat decontamination system at south landing. Owners should use the CD3 when putting boats back in the lake in the spring.

Clean Boats / Clean Waters Cameras: There were 1,580 launches on camera through July 16 vs. 1,896 in all of 2022, with no reported violations.

Ice-out Trophy: Thanks to Brent Nygaard, we now have a stunning traveling trophy to be awarded each year in Bob Boyd's famous ice-out contest!

Agenda August 12, 2023 Commissioners Meeting

1. Call to Order: Cary Olson
 2. Introductions of Commissioners and Guests: Cary Olson
 3. Approve Agenda
 4. Approve Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting
 5. Chair Report: Cary Olson
 6. Committee Reports
 7. Reports from Towns and Polk County
 - a. Polk County: Doug Route
 - b. Town of Bone Lake: Cary Olson for Andy Brown
 - c. Town of Georgetown: Jeff Traynor
 8. Commissioner Election: Deb Dawson, Nominations Chair
 - a. Candidate Introduction: Mike Musial, Incumbent
 - b. Call for Candidates from the Floor
 - c. Election: Vote for One
 9. Aquatic Plant Management Amendment: Cary Olson and Cheryl Clemens
 - a. Motion to Approve Aquatic Plant Management Amendment
 - b. Q&A
 - c. Vote to Approve Aquatic Plant Management Amendment
 10. Auditor's Report: Ron Rosenthal
 11. Treasurer's Report: Alex Chorewycz
 - a. Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report
 - b. Q&A
 - c. Vote to Approve Treasurer's Report
 12. 2024 Annual Budget: Alex Chorewycz
 - a. Motion to Approve 2024 Budget
 - b. Q&A
 - c. Vote to Approve 2024 Budget
 13. 2024 Designated Surplus Funds Allocation: Alex Chorewycz
 - a. Motion to Approve 2024 Designated Surplus Funds Allocation
 - b. Q&A
 - c. Vote to Approve 2024 Designated Surplus Funds Allocation
 14. Volunteer Awards
 15. Commissioner Election Results
 16. Old Business
 17. New Business
- Adjourn

Committee Reports

We have several active committees. Please consider getting involved.

Lake Management Plan Committees

- Watershed Runoff – Phil Foster, Shelley Rose
- Evaluation and Studies – Cary Olson, Bob Boyd
- Fisheries – Bob Boyd, Mike Belich
- Waterfront Runoff – Mary Chorewycz, Alex Chorewycz
- Wildlife and Natural Beauty – Cris Dueholm, Karen Engelbretson
- Boating Safety – Mike Musial

Other committees

- Aquatic Plant Management – Bob Boyd, Cary Olson
- Clean Boats, Clean Waters – Richard Mackie
- Communications – Karen Engelbretson
- Audit – Ron Rosenthal

Waterfront Runoff Committee: The District offers a \$ 2,500 incentive to owners to replace a failing septic system. This must get approved before you install the system – contact Dick Mackie. The north landing ramp area has been regraded and surface water is diverted to a rock trench, rain garden and native planting instead of into the lake. The south landing had problems this year with ice pushing up against the woven concrete blocks.

We all have a role to play in reducing waterfront run-off. Please do your part in helping to reduce or eliminate any chemicals from entering the lake that contribute to algae growth. Consider practices that reduce or prevent surface water draining into the lake. Prevent grass, leaves or plant trimmings etc. from being blown into the lake. Consider including a rain garden, native plantings at the shoreline. Consider not mowing grass any closer than 10 feet from the shoreline. (One can leave a 20-30 foot wide grassy opening to the lake.)

Wildlife and Natural Beauty Committee: Karen Engelbretson reported that thirteen children and fifteen adults learned about life in our lake at Bone Lake Discovery Day, July 15, 2023.

Eleven Bone Lake Sensitive Areas were identified by WDNR in 1988-89 — areas that merit special protection for aquatic vegetation, fish, wildlife, and lake organisms. The Bone Lake Sensitive Area Study, an evaluation of macrophytes, zooplankton, macroinvertebrates, herptiles, and mammals was conducted in 2021 and 2022. Find the study at bonelakewi.com.

Q & A on Committee Reports:

Question: Judy Simon asked if solid concrete on the south landing would hold better than the woven blocks.

Answer: Mike Musial responded that solid concrete can also have issues, and there are financial and permitting barriers. The south landing has been good for many years, but has had problems in the last two years.

Question: Nancy Fudali asked who owns the south landing.

Answer: Cary Olson clarified that it is the Town of Georgetown, but their responsibility ends at the shoreline.

Comment: Russ Herbst recommended that improvements be made to the north landing. He goes to many lakes and feels that Balsam and Bone are the best in the area, but that Balsam has several landings that are superior to the north landing on Bone. He would like to see us spend some dollars to get a better landing by digging out deeper and adding another span of concrete to accommodate larger boats.

Response: Cary Olson noted that such changes would require permitting by the DNR.

Town and County Reports

Polk County: Doug Route did not attend. Cary Olson will try to get something published from him.

Town of Bone Lake: Cary Olson presented on behalf of Andy Brown, who did not attend. 250th Avenue paved this summer. North landing pavement area will be patched this summer (in partnership with BLMD). Holding the line on

CAFO accountability if they try to operate in our town. Polk County is offering well testing for contaminants for a small fee (Georgetown Lutheran had unsafe nitrate levels this spring). High nitrate levels primarily come from fertilizer and manure. North landing parking lot expansion (in partnership with BLMD) proceeding in late August.

We thank the Town of Bone Lake for their efforts to keep the lake clean.

Town of Georgetown: Jeff Traynor did not attend. Shelley Rose reported that work is being done on the Sandy Hook turnaround to improve access for emergency vehicles. A culvert where West Bone Lake Drive curves west is being replaced. There is an approved liquor license for a winery on the southeast side of the lake.

Regarding the recent property tax revaluation: Big Round Lake petitioned for a reassessment. The WI Department of Revenue is investigating how the process was conducted by Georgetown, whether it was valid, and if any action is needed. A report is expected by the end of August. Possible actions could be reassessment, revaluation, discussion with the assessor, or denial of the new assessment (not likely).

To keep apprised, BLMD members are encouraged to go to the state of WI website and to attend Georgetown meetings, third Tuesday of the month, 7 pm at the Georgetown Town Hall.

Commissioner Election Deb Dawson, Nominations Chair

One commissioner is running for re-election: Mike Musial, who introduced himself. Nominations from the floor were requested three times. There were no nominations from the floor. Nominations were closed. Ballots were collected.

Aquatic Plant Management Amendment: Cary Olson

Cary acknowledged all the hard work done by our consultant, Cheryl Clemens to make our plans workable for the DNR.

This plan amendment reflects a major change in how curly leaf pondweed is managed on Bone Lake: *Use mechanical harvesting rather than an early season chemical treatment (Endothall) method to control curly leaf pondweed.*

Rationale: The WI DNR will no longer allow Endothall treatment for aquatic plant treatment areas less than 5 acres. CLP treatment beds ranged from 1.9 to 3.2 acres in 2022. A 5-acre minimum now applies for DNR permits. Permits are always required regardless of funding source. Expanding Bone Lake treatment areas to meet a 5-acre minimum is not possible because of drop-offs adjacent to the beds.

Goal 1 and Goal 3 along with related objectives and actions are detailed in the plan amendment. No other changes are made to the 2020 Bone Lake APM Plan. Actions for remaining plan goals do not change. Goal 1 and Goal 3 do not change. Goal 3: The objective to remove phosphorus with CLP control is reinstated from previous plans.

Goal 1 Maintain recreational uses important to lake residents and users while preserving important native aquatic plant functions and their values. Objectives: Maintain summer navigational channels where navigation becomes severely impaired. Allow individual corridor summer swimming and boat access where severe nuisance conditions occur. Protect native plant populations.

Goal 3 Manage curly leaf pondweed to minimize navigation problems and protect native plant populations.

Objectives: Protect native plant populations. Improve spring navigation. Improve water quality by removing phosphorus from the lake. Reduce turion density in targeted beds. Continually improve CLP management on Bone Lake.

Considerations regarding a harvester: Harvesting could be used for navigation channels later in the summer if purchased for CLP management. Harvesters cannot operate in water depths <3 ft; not intended to reach individual docks. Impacts of harvesting limited to area cut – no chemical drift. No chemical drift means less impact on native plants. Harvesting prioritized based on navigation improvements and removing the most CLP for phosphorus removal (tracked). Turion density would be measured every five years along with a point intercept survey. Balsam Lake has seen lower levels of turion and beds are shrinking with the use of a harvester.

There are 20 potential harvesting beds, ranging from 0.28 – 16.2 acres. If the amendment passes today, the amended plan would be sent to WDNR for review August 15, 2023. A WDNR Waterways grant application for partial funding of a harvester would be submitted Sept. 1, 2023 or Nov. 1, 2023.

Q & A from public comment period and this meeting:

Question: Would there be potential drift of harvested plants?

Answer: Yes, and there already is drift of plants that are killed by the chemical process.

Comment: Cost is unknown and if Bone Lake residents will pay the entire cost.

Answer: Cost will be addressed in the budget section of the agenda, but we would not buy a harvester unless we get a grant to cover part of the cost.

Question: Is there potential for introduction of invasive species?

Answer: While some harvesters are rented, most are owned by management districts and not used on other lakes.

Comment: Need for contacts for complaints/concerns about harvesting.

Answer: Mike Musial would be the contact person.

Question: Jerry Albright, who lives at the north end of the lake asked what happens to the waste product.

Answer: Cary Olson noted that it would be moved from the lake to a dumping site. It is rich organic material, and there are already two offers, one from an individual and one from a business, to take it for free.

Comment: Sheila Steiner, Sunnyside wonders about negative impacts. Harvesting is non-selective and would probably go through areas that are fish beds.

Answer: Yes, it can take northern milfoil. Mike Musial noted that the harvester operates like a sickle or scissors, “mowing the aqua-grass”, as opposed to pulling up the plants. It doesn’t damage the plants, it just cuts them off. It will not likely take fish because it operates at 1 mph. Fish spawning happens earlier in the spring, and wouldn’t be affected.

Question: Sheila Steiner. When is it operated?

Answer: CLP starts growing under the ice and forms a mat on top by early July. Harvesting is done in June/July.

Question: Sheila Steiner. Who operates it?

Answer: Mike Musial would be responsible for the harvester and would be recruiting a combination of volunteers and part-time employees to assist with operating it.

Question: Sheila Steiner. Do other lakes do this?

Answer: Balsam, Blake, Wapogasset each have one harvester and the Apple River has two. Blake reports significant reduction in CLP.

Question: Sheila Steiner: Is the reason we are looking at this because of the restrictions on chemical use?

Answer: Yes, the only other option besides using a harvester is to do nothing. Other lakes that have done nothing have seen their CLP beds explode.

Question: Nancy Fudali. Is the vote just on modifying the Aquatic Plant Management Plan, not on whether to purchase the harvester?

Answer: Cary Olson clarified that the vote is only to amend the APM to add a harvester as an option.

Question: Joe Simon, Woodland Shores, asked whether consideration is being given to controlling the lake level by controlling outflow of Fox Creek.

Answer: Cary Olson stated there is no such discussion underway. It would require too much permitting with downstream owners and wouldn’t solve the problem anyway.

Vote to Approve 2023 Aquatic Plant Management Plan Amendment Motion made by Mary Chorewycz and seconded by David Brandt. Carried with only one opposing vote.

Auditor’s Report Ron Rosenthal

Ron Rosenthal reported that everything is in order. Alex Chorewycz does a great job and everything tied perfectly. All checks were signed by the Treasurer and the BLMD Chair. There were no withdrawals from savings.

Treasurer’s Report: Alex Chorewycz

Column 1 is the 2023 budget; column 2 is revenue and expense through 6/30/23; column 3 is expected revenue and expense for the full year. Our cash balance as of 6/30 was \$269,443. The \$17,000 expense for the north landing parking lot in column 3 came from designated surplus funds. Revenue included our levy of \$67,000, grants of \$35,000,

newsletter ads of \$4500. We show septic expense for the remainder of the year at \$5000, anticipating that two more systems will be approved and done in 2023. Our designated surplus funds will remain at \$198,750 if we do nothing.

Discussion

Joe Simon: Interest income of \$733 is <1%. I can get 5% on CDs or treasury notes.

Chorewycz: Good point. You can get 5% on personal money markets but not on business. We have our checking and money market savings at Fransen Bank. I will look into other options.

Tim Fisher: I took advantage of the sewer grant about 10 years ago, which was really nice. With higher costs now, \$2,500 doesn't offer much of an incentive.

Chorewycz: We have \$5,000 budgeted for 2 additional systems this year, but none are scheduled.

Engelbretson: The amount offered was \$1000 in the first years, then \$2,000, and now \$2,500.

Tim Fisher: There should be a better incentive, say \$5,000.

Chorewycz: Holding tanks are in the \$8,000-\$10,000 range.

Olson: We will discuss this. Unfortunately, Polk County can only enforce on properties they have records for.

Mary Chorewycz: In the Designated Surplus Funds, aren't there two line-items, \$20,000 for Emergency Aquatic Invasive Species and \$90,000 for Additional CLP Control (5 yrs), that could be applied to the cost of a harvester?

Olson: Yes

Judy Simon: After the north landing parking lot expansion, are there dollars for mitigation?

Olson: There will be no runoff into the lake. It is designed so the water runs into a rock trench, a rain garden and the native planting.

Ken Prusak: I don't recall spending dollars on a decontamination station.

Olson: It was approved in the last meeting and was in the budget approved at the last meeting.

Ken Prusak: What authority does the board have if they are grossly out of synch with homeowners? What happens if we don't get the \$82k grant, do we just pay for it out of our pocket?

Chorewycz: If we don't get the grant, we're not buying the harvester.

Olson: Some lakes have gotten 50% grant, but it could be lower or none at all.

Vote to approve the Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Mark Peacock and seconded by John Kolstad. Carried.

2024 Annual Budget: Alex Chorewycz

Revenue is expected to be the same, except interest would be less because of anticipated use of designated surplus funds toward a harvester. Harvester operations expense at \$25,000 is probably on the high side, and would be offset by the \$31,000 we currently spend on chemical treatment. Apple River spends \$25,000 annually and operates 2 harvesters. Blake Lake spends \$15,000.

Harvester Information: A team of commissioners investigated the use of harvesters. Mike Musial visited manufacturers and users. Blake Lake, Balsam, Wapogasset, and Apple River all have been using harvesters for years. There are only a few manufactures. Inland is the preferred vendor.

Harvesting Equipment: Harvester (7-10 ft cutter blade), conveyor, trailer, truck or tractor. Purchase or rely on others to transport harvester and collected loads, not included in cost estimate. Capital costs: \$273,000. DNR Waterways Commission Grants up to 50 percent

Harvesting Operations: Storage, operation and maintenance of harvesting equipment. Transportation and disposal of aquatic plant material. Select off-loading sites to minimize transport time. Identify nearby disposal locations. Available trucks for hauling.

Staffing Harvesting: Harvesting Coordinator: Mike Musial (select and prioritize harvesting sites, timing for harvesting, coordinate scheduling and payroll). Harvesting operators, payroll. Insurance (workers compensation, liability, equipment), permitting (obtain WDNR APM Harvesting permit.)

Operations Costs: Harvesting annual operations cost up to \$25,000. Not grant eligible. Compared to chemical treatment, annual operations & monitoring cost \$31,000 with 50 percent grant funding (past years).

Total Costs:

Harvester	273,000
Annual Operating Cost	25,000
Insurance	7,000
Total Estimated First Year Expenditure	305,000
Less 30 Percent Grant for Equipment	[81,900]
Use of Designated Funds	[168,750]
Use of Available Cash	[54,350]
Net Cost	0

Investigated bank loans at 7.5%. Due to property tax issues we will not increase the levy this year. An increase in the tax levy will be addressed in 2025.

Q&A

Joe Simon: Can the harvester be leased?

Olson: It can be leased but doesn't qualify for the grant.

Engelbretson: Lease period is 3 years.

Nancy Fudali: There is nothing in the budget for a decontamination station on the south landing.

Olson: We purchased a small one, and will continue to use that.

Nancy Fudali: Is there budget to fix the south landing?

Musial: It would cost <\$1,000 and could come from elsewhere in the budget.

Nancy Fudali: What are the \$5,000 in Watershed Projects for?

Rose: There were two letters sent to property owners, one addressing a stream on the north end with erosion on the banks, and the other regarding water coming from spring run-off. It's early in the process, and there is not permission from the owners yet.

Jerry Lutgen: Are service and maintenance included In the annual operating cost of the harvester?

Olson: Yes

Jerry Lutgen: Is a maintenance contract available?

Olson: We haven't got that far yet.

Jerry Lutgen: Is a warranty available?

Olson: I can't remember. The Inland harvester features a greasing system with tubes and piping to areas that need grease.

Jerry Lutgen: What is the expected life of the machine?

Olson: 25 years, with proper maintenance. It is all stainless steel.

Jerry Lutgen: Will there be a flood of grant applications?

Olson: Possibly, but we jumped on it early.

John Ukura: Good job investigating. State law of such a purchase requires competitive bids.

Musial: We sought two, both Wisconsin companies. Another is in China. If there are problems, the owner comes right to us. Apple River operates two different brands of harvesters, and prefers the Inland, which is cheaper. The other harvester company is out of Milwaukee and is more expensive. CD3 is the only company with decontamination stations.

Nancy Fudali: Can you confirm that the cost of the trailer is included?

Olson: Yes

Jerry Albright: North landing parking lot budget doesn't include signage, landscaping, or regrading.

Olson: We still have funds available.

Judy Simon: When I do capital expenditures, I look at what's the payback in 5 years. The chemical treatment savings of \$31,000 over 5 years is \$155,000. Looks like it's pretty much a wash except for the equipment.

Olson: Yes, there are some cost savings.

Judy Simon: \$7,000 for insurance sounds high.

Chorewycz: Not many companies write this kind of insurance.

Joe Simon: I am under the assumption that this is a tax-exempt purchase.

Olson: Yes

Joe Simon: What is the intention for overnight storage?

Musial: It would be brought to offload at the north end and/or seek owners who would be willing to store temporarily during harvesting.

Joe Simon: How often would it be used? How many hours of operation?

Musial: The current target is 80 hours. We will monitor and adjust the target. It could increase.

Vote to Approve 2024 Budget Motion made by David Brandt to approve the 2024 budget. If we don't get the 30% grant, we will not purchase the harvester. Seconded by Kathleen Killeen. Carried with only one opposed.

2024 Designated Surplus Funds Allocation: Alex Chorewycz

Vote to Approve 2024 Designated Surplus Funds Allocation Motion made by Tim Fisher to reduce the designated surplus funds from 2023 to \$30K to fund the purchase of a harvester and seconded by Joe Simon. Carried.

Volunteer Awards

A Bone Lake platter crafted by a local artist in Osceola was given to the following two volunteers:

-Deb Dawson acts as the meeting moderator, board nominations chair, sign-in desk volunteer, and FaceBook page administrator.

-Noah Musial is responsible for buoy placement and north landing repairs.

Commissioner Election Results: Mike Musial was unanimously re-elected to the Board.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Katie Lafky and John Sorenson of Milltown Fire Department, which serves Bone Lake properties south of 240th Avenue, brought a fire safety issue as an information item. The Lafky residence had a (thankfully false) fire alarm. The rig arrived, but would not have been able to get down the driveway. John drove a fire truck to our meeting to demonstrate the size. One truck holds 4,000 gallons of water; a fire might require 16,000-20,000 gallons, so access is key. He gave the following rules of thumb for minimum clearances to get to your property:

-Driveway minimum of 8' wide, preferably 12' wide

-Corners should be 20' wide

-Turnaround should be 50'

-Overhanging limbs, which can break up light bars, should accommodate a 12'x14' box plus turnaround.

John offered to come out on request to review the access to any owner's property. Luck Fire Dept serves Bone Lake properties north of 240th. Katie noted you should be aware that the driveway you use may be an easement over another owner's property.

If your fire alarm is tripped and your security company can't get ahold of you, they are required to notify Milltown Fire Dept. The only one that can cancel is the security company. Make sure your visitors know the procedure and number to call the security company to cancel if a false alarm happens when you aren't there.

Door Prize Drawing

Door prizes including Carson magnifier flashlights, Aqua Vue Underwater Viewer and two childrens' books were given to:

-Mary Chorewycz

-_____

-Leo Rosenthal

-Susan Kolstad

-Steve Peterson

Meeting adjourned

At 11:27 a.m.

Kathleen Kileen, recorder

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Karen Engelbretson
Secretary
Bone Lake Management District
August 30, 2023