

Lake Belle Taine Association Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 20, 2026 – 9:30 am – Bethany Lutheran Church, Nevis

Board Members in Attendance: JoEllen Bailey, Jim Caratozzolo, Steve Gossen, Paul Graalum, Rob Hall, Camille Heyman, Al Lundstrum, John Maczko, Lynn Swaggert

Excused: Melanie Humburg, Phil Krahn, Tim O'Neill

Attendance: ~95

1. Introduction by Lynn Swaggert, president
 - a. Welcome and agenda were presented.
 - b. Board members were introduced.
 - c. Rob Hall, Phil Krahn, and Melanie Humburg who are leaving the board were recognized for their many years of service.
2. Election of board members: Lynn Swaggert
 - a. The nominating committee presented a slate of two current directors who were interested in continuing to serve: Jim Caratozzolo and Steve Gossen.
 - b. Motion made and seconded to approve the directors up for re-election: Jim Caratozzolo (3-year term) and Steve Gossen (1 year term).
 - c. The slate of directors was approved by voice vote.
3. Financial report: Jim Caratozzolo
 - a. Handout was provided with the budget for the fiscal year 2025 & YTD 2026 (p. 3-4)
 - b. Financial overview: Fiscal year 2025
 - i. Income: \$58,650
 - ii. Expenses: \$31,639
 - iii. Total Association funds: \$133,428
4. AIS Report: Andrea Dutcher
 - a. Explanation of the shoreline monitoring program: volunteers check assigned shoreline 2-3 times per season.
 - b. Explained the "Eyes on the Water" program: hang zebra mussel monitor tube from dock
 - c. Zebra mussels have been found in Big and Little Sand. Since we are downstream from those lakes, the zebra mussels will be in Belle Taine at some point.
 - d. Appeal for volunteers was made.
 - e. Contact information for Andrea: ajd3@cornell.edu
5. Loon Restoration Project: JoEllen Bailey
 - a. We participate in the Loon Watcher Survey conducted by the DNR; we record the number of loons at least once per month during May through August. The DNR looks at nesting behavior and breeding productivity.
 - b. We have approximately 13 nesting pairs of loons with only seven chicks currently. Two pair are still on the nest.
 - c. Educate your neighbors and visitors about staying away from the loons. It is unlawful to chase or harass wildlife with a boat or jet ski.
 - d. Contact information for JoEllen if interested in helping: joellen.bailey@cortland.edu
6. Lake Quality Committee report: John Maczko
 - a. State AIS 2027 funding will be reduced by approximately fifty percent.
 - b. Lake Belle Taine's water level management has been an ongoing point of concern.

- c. The shallow water at the landing has been an issue for putting boats in the water. Power loading of boats onto their trailers is the cause of craters and ridges on the lake bottom. The DNR will repair the area by the third week of June. Signs will also be installed to discourage power loading.
 - d. A member asked about no-wake zone markers in the river area. Hubbard County Sheriff's Office is responsible for those markers.
 - e. Commissioner DeLaHunt:
 - i. AIS funding from the state will be cut by fifty percent. The county cannot assume that shortfall because other state cuts are shifting costs to the county.
 - ii. The lake level management issue is now addressed by the Soil and Water Conservation District. A Request for Proposal (RFP) has been released. They are trying to answer, "can we fix it and how will we fix it"?
7. Speaker: Shawn Tracy, AECOM scientist
- a. His presentation is available on the Lake Belle Taine website.
8. The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 am. Members were invited to Muskie Pavilion for a pot-luck picnic.

Respectfully submitted,
JoEllen Bailey, LBTA secretary