

Lake Belle Taine Association Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 18, 2022 – 9:00 am – Bethany Lutheran Church, Nevis

Board Members in Attendance: JoEllen Bailey, Chuck Blair, Jim Caratozzolo, Rob Hall, Steve Hankey, John Maczko, Tom May, Lynn Swaggert, Kevin Swan

Excused: Phil Krahn, Tim O’Neill, Mike Stevens

Attendance: ~100?

1. Hubbard County Soil & Water Conservation District presentation: Jake Shaughnessy & Libby Marti
 - a. Discussion of Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Grant that includes Hubbard and Crow Wing Counties with the goal of promoting shoreline stewardship. Grant provides staff time for education and outreach of properties owners. Jake and Libby will come to the property and discuss goals, desires, and shoreline management/erosion control opportunities. There is no cost for this and NO obligation to do anything. It is strictly informational and has no enforcement or code implications. Site visits may be individual or group and can be scheduled through Libby at Elizabeth.marti@live.bemidjistate.edu or through Jake at jake.hcswcd@gmail.com.
 - b. Announcement of One Watershed, One Plan; see this website: [MISSISSIPPI RIVER HEADWATERS 1W1P - Hubbard SWCD that was recently submitted.](#)
 - c. HCSWCD has a free nitrate testing clinic: First Friday of every month from 9:00-2:00; bring sample to their PR office. Find info at this website: [Monthly Nitrate Clinic - Hubbard SWCD](#)
 - d. “Get the Lead Out” box for collection of lead fishing tackle will be at their office.
2. Introduction by Kevin Swan, president
 - a. Welcome and agenda
3. Introduction of board members:
 - a. Board members introduced themselves.
 - b. Dave McCurnin and Doug Scrapper were recognized for their years of service to the board.
4. Election of board members:
 - a. Five board positions were open. Four positions that reached the end of their term, and one position that was open due to the resignation of Kevin Swan.
 - b. The nominating committee presented a slate of three current directors that were interested in continuing to serve: JoEllen Bailey, Tom May, and Steve Hankey, and two new members: Camille Heyman and Steve Gossen for consideration.
 - c. Nominations were accepted from the floor: there were none.
 - d. The slate of five was approved by voice vote.
5. Financial report: Jim Caratozzolo
 - a. A handout was provided with the budget for the fiscal year 2021.
 - b. Financial overview: Fiscal year 2021
 - i. Revenue: \$37,925 (AIS donations 68%, member dues 28%, misc. ~5%)
 - ii. Expenses: \$32,209 (Inspector hours 65%, legal 19%, misc. ~16%)
 - iii. Total funds January 1, 2021: \$62,081
 - iv. Total funds December 31, 2021: \$67,830
 - c. Financial overview: YTD 2022
 - i. Revenue: \$30,417 (AIS donations 76%, member dues 22%, misc. 2%)
 - ii. Expenses: \$27,789 (Inspector hours 87%, misc. 12%)
 - iii. Total funds January 1, 2022: \$67,830
 - iv. Total funds June 16, 2022: \$70,438
6. AIS Report: Andrea Dutcher
 - a. Explained the shoreline monitoring program: check assigned shoreline 2-3 times per season
 - b. Explained the “Eyes on the Water” program: hang zebra mussel monitor tube from dock
 - c. Explained why we should care; gave examples of lakes that are infested

- d. Contact information for Andrea: ajd3@cornell.edu
- 7. Loon Restoration Project: JoEllen Bailey
 - a. 2010 BP oil rig explosion in the Gulf of Mexico; Lost 600 of the estimated 12,000 MN loons
 - b. Loon restoration project is part of the settlement: MN received \$7 million for the purpose of improving reproduction and decreasing mortality
 - c. DNR is working with eight northern MN counties to develop lake management plans.
 - d. JoEllen is the liaison to the DNR for the project; goal is to educate lake users, monitor loons, and promote lead-free fishing tackle
 - e. We currently have 8-9 nesting pairs of loons; monitoring will continue throughout the summer
 - f. Contact information for JoEllen: joellen.bailey@cortland.edu
- 8. Lake Quality Committee report: John Maczko, chair of Lake Quality Committee
 - a. Water clarity: 20-year average is 20.5 feet; best reading in last 20 years is 37.5 feet; worst reading in last 20 years is 12 feet
 - b. Water clarity: increasing Secchi readings and decreasing trophic state index indicates improving water clarity
 - c. Water level: On June 12, 2022, the water level was 1428.36. The Ordinary High Water Mark is 1428.3. The highest recorded level is 1429.77 in June 2001. The lowest recorded level is 1415.41 in November of 1936.
 - d. What the board and Lake Quality Committee has done since our last meeting:
 - i. June 2020 Annual Meeting: Membership present said water levels are a major concern; overwhelming sentiment to pursue options to address; Said we would do a survey
 - ii. July –August: Met with Rinke-Noonan Law Firm for report of options; Met with previous engineers; Continued dialogue with Commissioner Delahunt
 - iii. September – Surveyed Lake owners to get their feedback on the water levels in August of 2021: 166 responses (47% responded that the August 2021 level is good, 34% of the respondents prefer water level to be lower, 19% prefer water level to be higher)
 - iv. December through April: Reviewed information gained; Researched options; Began to focus on Lake Improvement District (LID) Option
 - v. April-June 2022: The Board formally decided that a LID was the most viable option; Met with DNR; Met with SWCD; Met with Commissioner Delahunt; Hired Ohnstad Twichell to prepare a draft petition for consideration
 - vi. June 2022: Met with County Administrator and Commissioner Delahunt; meeting today with membership to discuss LID
 - e. Discussion with membership related to a Lake Improvement District: John Maczko and Katie Schmidt, attorney for Ohnstad Twichell Law
 - i. What is a Lake Improvement District? It is a local government unit established by a political subdivision, such as county, city or commissioner of DNR. It allows for greater local involvement of lake management activities.
 - ii. Possible authorities of a Lake Improvement District:
 - 1. Work with DNR and other agencies for permits and policies for lake management projects
 - 2. Undertake lake research projects
 - 3. Conduct programs of water improvement and conservation
 - 4. Serve as a local sponsor/recipient for state and federal grants
 - 5. Maintain public docks, beaches, and other facilities
 - 6. Regulate surface water use
 - 7. Provide and finance certain services within the LID
 - 8. Implement water monitoring program

- iii. How are Lake Improvement Districts funded?
 1. County specifies the funding arrangement when the LID is established.
 2. Typically, a LID budget is passed through the County Board for approval and actual collection.
 3. Possible LID financing mechanisms: Assess costs to benefited properties as special assessments; Impose service charges; Issue bonds; Levy an ad valorem tax solely on property within the district; or any combination of the above.
 4. LIDs can also receive grants from State, Federal and private foundations.
 - iv. Current status/issues to address:
 1. Need strong lake owner support by a large majority signing a petition
 2. County board needs to be convinced that this is the correct approach
 3. Must identify how a LID fits into One watershed – one plan
 4. Obtain approval of the LID
 - f. Show of Hands vote: Overwhelming consensus from membership present for the board to continue to pursue the creation of a Lake Improvement District.
 - g. Our website, www.lakebelletaineassociation.org, has more information about the LID and other topics discussed today.
9. Kevin Swan was recognized for his service to the Lake Belle Taine Association since 2017.
10. Meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am. Members were invited to Muskie Pavilion for a pot-luck picnic.

Respectfully submitted,
JoEllen Bailey, LBTA secretary

Lake Belle Taine Financial Summary - 2021 / 2022

	18-Jun Annual Meeting		as of 6/16/2022	
	2021		2022	
Jan 1 Funds				
Check Book	\$ 6,907.79		\$ 12,622.87	
Money Market	\$ 55,173.47		\$ 55,206.84	
Total Funds	\$ 62,081.26		\$ 67,829.71	
Income:				
Member Dues	\$ 10,500.00	28%	\$ 6,580.00	22%
Member AIS Donations	\$ 20,780.00		\$ 15,526.00	
Non Member Contributions	\$ 5,000.00		\$ 7,645.00	
Total AIS Contributions	\$ 25,780.00	68%	\$ 23,171.00	76%
Lake Belle Taine Mug Sales	\$ 1,225.00		\$ -	
Dock Signs Payments Received	\$ 720.00		\$ 270.00	
Membership Directories	\$ -		\$ 720.00	
Misc	\$ 23.09		\$ -	
Membership Committee Test (PayPal)	\$ 21.52		\$ -	
MM Interest YTD	\$ 33.37	remaining	\$ 7.11	remaining
PayPal fees	(344.57)	4%	\$ (330.79)	2%
Total Income	\$ 37,958.41		\$ 30,417.32	
Checking Account Expenses:				
AIS Boater Education & Monitoring Program	\$ 21,021.00	65%	\$ 24,200.00	87%
Legal Advice - Rinke Noonan/	\$ 6,116.50	19%	\$ -	0%
Haas Printing - Dues Mailings & News Letter	\$ 1,247.17	4%	\$ 2,361.98	8%
Membership Dues - Cola / MN River/Lakes	\$ 1,177.00	4%	\$ -	0%
United State Liability Insurance	\$ 1,023.76	3%	\$ 284.00	1%
Engle Sign - Dock Signs Invoice Payments	\$ 695.00	2%	\$ 135.00	0%
Communications (Zoom, WIX Web Page)	\$ 579.30	2%	\$ 637.76	2%
Annual Meeting	\$ 187.09	1%	\$ 189.89	1%
AIS Misc	\$ 99.14	0%	\$ -	0%
Post Office Box Rent	\$ 64.00	0%	\$ -	0%
Total Expenses	\$ 32,209.96		\$ 27,808.63	

Net Income YTD 2021

\$ 5,748.45

\$ 2,608.69

Dec 31 Funds

Checking	\$ 12,622.87	\$ 10,224.45
Money Market	\$ 55,206.84	\$ 60,213.95

End of Year funds

\$ 67,829.71

\$ 70,438.40

Interesting Facts

Total Members	295	188
Avg Member Contribution	\$ 106.03	\$ 118.00
Percent Funds via PayPal	35%	45%

Prepared June 2022 by:
 Jim Caratozzolo
 Treasurer, LBTA

Onlinejimc@gmail.com
 408 623-3405