



**BUFFALO, RICE, AND ROCK LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 24, 2023
LEVOS' BUILDNG**

President Byran Olschlager called the meeting to order at 10:05 am on June 24, 2023, at Levos' Building at the corner of 26 and Killian's Road. The Board of Directors introduced themselves to those attending. A total of 29 members attended the meeting.

Secretary's Report: Deb gave a quick synopsis of the minutes from last year's meeting. Brenda Wolf made a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Veronika Wilson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Standing in for Becky Burns, Deb reviewed the treasure's report. The current balance in the checking account is \$3,984.30. Dennis Steffl made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Roger Levos. Motion carried.

Chris Krogsgaard provided an update on the audit of the Association's books which was conducted on August 27, 2022. A random sample of 4 deposits and 4 expenses were reviewed. A small recommendation was made encouraging the Treasurer to obtain copies of all future clothing order sales. Becky is meticulous in keeping the Association's financial records.

Communications Director Report: Rich Cieslak stated Kevin Wolf has been working on the new website and encouraged all to check it out at BRRLA.com. In addition, he talked about the need for effective Communications with the membership - determining what the best content is, how delivered and then the frequency. We currently communicate by direct mail, email, website, Facebook, Next Door, and may need to look at communicating via text. Rich stated the newsletter was mailed to 90 lake owners and 50 given to the Campground for distribution.

COLA Report: Roger Lee shared information about the presentation Kyle Vareberg gave at the May Becker COLA meeting. Vareberg spoke about the need to revamp the Zoning Plans, last revised in 2003. The new plans will deal with large animals, solar, VBRO and a number of other changes to bring it up to date. A total of \$100,000 has been appropriated for this project. Unfortunately, none of the five consulting firms who were contacted submitted a bid. Additional funds are needed to cover the cost of the update. Public input into the development of these new requirements will be sought. The June COLA meeting dealt with a presentation by RMB. Their purpose is to evaluate the quality of drinking water and the quality of lakes and rivers. A total of 99 lakes out of the 310 lakes in Becker County have been tested. If you are interested in having your water tested, for \$25.00 RMB will walk you through the process. COLA discussed the amount of dues lake owners pay their respective associations. BRRLA has one of the lowest dues.

Old Business:

Clothing Order: Brenda Wolf provided an update on the completion of the order. She thanked Denise and Dave Oakes for their outstanding development of the new logo. The T-shirt was the most popular item of the 167 items which were ordered.

New Business:

Membership Dues: Dues of \$20 for lake homeowners and \$10 for renters can be paid today. All dues should be sent to Becky Burns. The address is provided on the membership form. Betty Hund requested a list of the 2023 members be provided to the Beach Captains. She felt it would be helpful for the Beach Captains as they contact lake owners and encourage them to join the Association. It was suggested a membership booth be set up at Buff Stock.

By-Law Change: The current by-laws do not address the responsibility of the COLA representative. Betty Hund made a motion to add the following:

Articles V – Officers & Board Members
Section 4. Duties:

Add: F. COLA Representative: Serves as the liaison between the BRRLA and the Becker County COLA. Attends COLA meetings and reports back to the Board and the Association. Provides articles for the newsletter appropriate Communication tool.
Change F. to G

Denise Oakes seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Lake Monitoring: Roger Levos suggested the link for Lake Monitoring be added to the BRRLA website. Buffalo Lake received 17 plus inches of rain in 2022 and this year we have received 3 inches to date. The lake has gained 1-1/2 feet of clarity improvement in the last 20 years. Clarity was 11 feet in 2022 but degraded due to algae bloom. This year lake levels are about normal. There was no report from Rice and Rock. There was no good estimate of the winter kill which occurred on both Rice and Rock. The DNR will be restocking Rock.

Loon Monitoring - Veronika Wilson reported last year there were 8 loons on Buffalo Lake, 7 adult and 1 juniors with 2 eagle nests on the lake. During June 30 – July 10 this year's loon count will be conducted between 8 a.m. and noon. She reminded people to ensure they maintain their distance from loons whether riding jet ski or boating. In addition to doing the loon count, Veronika will be doing the count for Eagle and Osprey nests. Carla reported there were 7 loons on Rock Lake and 9 the previous year. So far this year they have only seen 2. There was no report for Rice Lake.

New Website: In Kevin's absence, Bryan shared the website is consistently being updated. He recommended people look at the site BRRLA. A handout containing the information now available on the website and in the future was provided to members. Kevin can be contacted at kgwolfman@gmail.com.

Election: Up for election are the following positions: Secretary, COLA Rep, Beach Captains for S. Buffalo Lk. Rd., N. Buffalo Lk. Rd., Chippewa Shores, Buffalo Lake Access, and Buffalo Run. Both Deb and Chris stated they are not seeking re-election. The following slate of officers was presented: Secretary – Carla Solem, COLA Rep – Roger Lee, Beach Captains: S. Buffalo – Dave Oakes, N. Buffalo Lk. – Marlin Pfingsten, Chippewa Shores – Bryon Bontje, Lake Access – Kurt Ehrmantraut, Buffalo Run – Betty Hund and Rock Lake – Mark Solem (replace Carla.) All positions will be a 3 year commitment 2023 – 2026. Brenda Wolf made a motion to accept the above slate of officers, Chris Krogsgaard seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4th of July Boat Parade: Will be held on Tuesday, July 4 at 10:00 a.m. Bryan will serve as the Parade Marshall. The route will be as the houses begin near the Lake Access and continue back to that area. Kevin Wolf will take pictures.

Other Discussion:

Annual Meeting Reminders: Roger Levos made a motion for the Association to buy yard signs to advertise the annual meeting. The responsibility to order will lie with the Communications Director and the signs should be so the date and location can be changed and used from year to year. Morris Hund seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Brenda invited all to Buff Stock on Saturday, August 12, beginning at 12 noon. There will be four musical acts with a free-will donation to help pay for expenses and to benefit Alzheimer's.

A recommendation was made that lake owners try to obtain the same trash pickup business to help save on the wear and tear on the roads.

Some lake owners on Rice are experiencing a significant increase in the amount of poison ivy on their shoreline. Aqua Star is a good herbicide which can be sprayed and safe for use near the lakes.

It was recommended Bryan call the DNR and ask them to remove trees or some of the trees at Public Access. Right now, there is a no Parking Sign. However, sometimes there are vehicles which park that make it difficult for people to launch their boats/pontoons.

Gina Kemper of the Pelican Water Shed presented information on Lake Stewardship. Grass clippings and fertilizer create algae bloom in the lake. It is strongly recommended lake owners keep a buffer between the water and their shoreline. This helps to keep the number of geese and swans which come up on your shore. Septic systems should be checked every three years and certified by a septic person.

Fire pits should be kept at least 25 feet away from the lake shore. Even though we may tend to remove fallen trees, it is recommended they be kept in the water to create an area for wildlife. Docks should be stored 25 feet away from shoreline and stacked up on blocks to keep the green space alive. Avoid the use of rip rap because it does not filter the water. Shrubs will stabilize the shoreline. It is important to educate people to be good lake stewards. Owners are encouraged to avoid the use of broadcast fertilizer and pesticides. More water friendly fertilizers are available. As a thank you Gina was given a BRRLA tumbler.

Door prizes were then awarded. A special thank you to Foltz Trucking, Rhonda Pfingsten, Laney's, ProResources, Richwood Store, Sunlite, Chris Krogsgaard, Country Fields, for their generous donations.

At 11:50 Deb Krogsgaard made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Rich Cieslak. Motion carried.

After the meeting, a lunch of pulled pork sandwiches, chips (donated by Marlin Pfingsten), Cole slaw and bars was served by the Association was held.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Krogsgaard
Association Secretary