**Buffalo, Rice, & Rock Lake Association**

**Annual Meeting Minutes**

June 28, 2025

# **Welcome & Introductions,** Bryan Olschlager called the meeting to order at 10:03 am. Members introduced themselves and shared how long they had been on the lake.

# **Review and approval of 2024 Annual meeting minutes & 2025 agenda.** Robin motioned to approve the agenda and 2024 minutes. Veronika seconded. Motion passed.

# **Association Reports:**

* 1. **Financial, Becky Burns reported a balance of $4,671.**91, noting that there were two one-time expenses (signs and 3-year website) that increased costs in 2024. Tom motioned to accept the report. Brenda seconded. Motion passed.
  2. **Communications, Kevin Wolf invited people to share ideas and input on the website or social media. Carla Solem asked for input on whether the association should resume mailing newsletters. Robin motioned to resume mailings but provide the option to opt into utilizing electronic correspondence only. Veronika seconded. Discussion included that mailings were useful for those who do not use social media or go online. It was also pointed out that some homes and the campground were missed when beach captains handed out the Spring Newsletter. M**otion passed.
  3. **COLA, Roger Lee reported that there has been an increase in zebra mussels and milfoil across MN lakes, affecting about 5% of 12,000 lakes. He talked about the importance of prevention to reduce the spread. He shared contact information available on the slides and referenced a report from Becker COLA that is sent out monthly and available via links on the website. Discussed mowing leafy splurge to stop it.**
  4. **Loon Monitoring**
     + **Buffalo, Veronika Wilson reported 4 adults and no babies, a significant decrease from last year. Another member saw two young this year.**
     + **Rice, Rick Morris reported 4 adults and no young due to numerous eagles.**
     + **Rock, Carla Solem reported 5 adults and 2 young on the north end of the lake. No report for the South end at this time.**
  5. **Lake Monitoring**
  + **Buffalo, Bryan read a written report from Roger Levos highlighting changes in 2024. In June, clarity was at 14 feet, about 1-2 feet greater than average due to snails and mussels.**
  + **Rice, Rick Morris reported that Rice has seen a similar increase in clarity due to snails.**
  + **Rock, Mark Solem will be testing next week.**
  1. **Zebra Mussel Monitoring**, Bryan Olschlager

# **Association Business:**

* + **Board Elections: Bryan presented the following slate: Secretary (3-year term) – Deb Krogsgaard, Communications (2-year term) – Carla Solem, Beach Captains (3-year term) - South Buffalo – Dave Oaks, North Buffalo – Robin & Jennifer Turnwall, and NW Rock – Mark Solem, Beach Captains (2-year terms) NE Rock – OPEN, and Rice – Rick Morris. The floor was then open for nominations. Robin motioned to approve the slate as presented. Roger seconded. Motion passed.**
  + **Community & Social Activities. Bryan Olschlager reviewed the list of social activities. Kevin invited people to the 11th annual Buffstock. It was determined the rummage sales will go until 2 PM. People were encouraged to meet with their beach captains about lake clean-up.**
  + **Lake Swag, There was interest in lag swag. A couple people volunteered to work with Carla on orders.**
  + **Caring for our Lakes.** Bryan Olschlager shared the **Wake-Surf Impact map.** There is only a small portion of Buffalo that is safe to utilize wake boats and no portion of Rice or Rock. There are no options to enforce restricting wake boat use, so education is the best method at this time. If members suspect **Milfoil** or other infectious weeds, they can take a sample in a plastic baggy, wrapping it in a wet paper towel, to the DNR for evaluation. There is a **potential loss of AIS Prevention Aid.** The **Buffalo Restoration Project** is not anticipated to have an impact on our lakes, but it may have a future tax impact. The **New Boater Education** law goes into effect on July 1st, requiring licensing.

1. G**uest Speaker: Bill Henke, Friends of Tamarac** discussed the importance of volunteers for keeping the Tamarac refuge open since staffing has reduced from 12 FT staff to 5. Bill shared Tamarac activities, including education and programs (including many for youth), and having opportunities for hiking and observing nature. He also highlighted their fundraising efforts.
2. **Meeting Wrap-up** A question arose about wildlife sightings around BRR lakes. Bear have been spotted around Buffalo, as have bobcats. Robin motioned to end the meeting. Tom seconded. Motion passed. Members were invited to stay for food, door prizes, and conversation.