

# BLAKE LAKE

## BUGLE

FALL 2015



### Annual Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 8-15-15

Annual meeting at Georgetown Town Hall called to order by Co-Chair Adam Elliott at 9:00 am.

Board Members present: Sam Rivers Weber/Co-Chair, Adam Elliott/ Co-Chair, Tom Borden/ Commissioner, Jim Filkins/Treasurer, and Peggy Lauritsen/Secretary, Communications. Also present Ken Sample/Polk County Board.

#### AGENDA

##### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

After Board introductions, Co-Chair Elliott proposed to approve the agenda with flexibility. Motion was made to approve agenda with flexibility by Allen Moe, second by Jerry Smith. Unanimous. Motion carries.

##### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the Spring Meeting were printed in the Bugle newsletter and mailed to members, received on August 10. An email with the Spring Meeting minutes was sent on August 13. Copies of the minutes were also handed out at the meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes by Steve Paul, second by Sue Ogren. Unanimous. Motion carries.

##### TREASURER'S REPORT

Jim Filkins reported account balances as of 7-31-15 as follows: Checking \$633.25, Dam Project checking \$1034.50; Savings \$5.00; and Money Market \$45,276.97.

### GUEST PRESENTATION

Presenter: Jeremy Williamson, Water Quality Specialist and Aquatic Invasive Species Biologist, Polk County Land & Water Resources Department, presented "A History of Blake Lake – Results of Core Sediment Sampling". Since 2006 plant studies have been done on Blake Lake. Over the last 3 years a comprehensive water quality study has been done. A sediment core sampling was done to reconstruct the ecological history of the lake. Water quality has changed substantially over the past 50 years, and not in a healthy direction. Now with the data collected, a comprehensive lake management plan can be created. What do members want the lake water quality, plant life and fishing to be over the next 20 years? A Lake Management Committee (LMC) will be formed of 5-10 people/members. A sign-up sheet was passed around and approximately 15 people signed up to be a part of this committee. There will be 3-5 meetings over the Winter at a Balsam Lake location in the evening. At the 2016 Annual Meeting, the LMC committee will present the new lake management plan for approval to district members. If members want to sign up who were not at the meeting contact Sam Rivers Weber at 715-554-1054 or 2cherokeerivers@gmail.com.

Jeremy went on to explain the findings from the sediment core samples collected. Sediment reveals atmospheric nuclear testing done in the 50s. He used historic photos of Blake Lake for a geographic reference and overlaid the watershed area. From that he is able to see a timeline of historic loading, the amount of phosphorus in water. Jeremy talked about changes in property and housing development over time. From 1938 to 1974 there was very little buildings around the lake. Since 1974 there has been dramatically more development. Originally, the

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lake land around the lake was logged off, it reforested and row cropping dramatically reduced loading. “The good news is...we can get our house in order with very little effort”.

Jeremy has analyzed loading rates for phosphorus in the mud of other Polk County lakes near the size of Blake Lake at 250 acres. Mud can have a lot of nutrients collect and it's an easy fix to get phosphorus to move. This correlates with when curly leaf pondweed really took off. Since the 60s and 70s pigments increased and drastically changed. Much greener due to algae. Blue-green algae pigment increased possibly due to internal load or curly leaf.

Jeremy went on to say that he is reconstructing the fish history from the 1800s. The lake was 10 feet deeper at one time before logging and the dam. Jeremy is one of four in North America working on plant microfossils. Part of his mission is to find ways to restore good native plants. From 1800s to 1990s the lake plant community completely changed, sediment and water quality also changed. Changes in sediment changes the plants.

In Blake Lake the curly leaf has been reduced, but the challenge is to get back to native plants that provide clear water quality and good fish habitat. He sited Deer Lake has done many best practices to achieve significantly clearer water. Deer Lake and Bone Lake used grants to help pay for 75% of the costs.

A question and answer period followed the presentation.

## OLD BUSINESS

### Dam Update by Adam Elliott/Co-chair

We have spent \$15,000 to date on the Dam Project. While there are still aspects of the project still out of our control, here are the latest projections after conferring with our Engineer.

1. **Land Transfer:** DNR approval of Transfer is expected to occur in early September. Upon DNR approval, the Deed can be signed and recorded. The property will then be transferred to the District at that point in time.
2. **Planning:** Our engineers will be working on the overall dam design this Fall and early Winter.
3. **DNR Approval:** We are expecting approval of dam plans in the Spring of 2016.
4. **Contractor:** Upon DNR approval, our engineer will help us select a contractor as soon as possible — expected in early Summer of 2016.
5. **Construction:** Our engineering team is expecting to commence work in late Summer or early Fall of 2016. Late Summer or early Fall is generally a time of lower stream flows.

6. **Completion:** Project completion and certification to the DNR is expected in the Fall of 2016.

The BLPRD Board applied for and was granted a \$150,000 loan. Here is a summary of the financing terms:

- On August 26th, 2015 a check for the entire loan amount (\$150,000) will be sent to BLPRD.
- The term of the loan is 5 years.
- The interest rate on the loan is 3%.
- The total finance charge is approximately \$12,000.
- We have the ability to pay the loan off early.

Jim Filkins, Treasurer, confirmed we are receiving the loan on 8-26-15 and reminded members that we have locked in an interest rate of 3% for a 5-year term. The style of the dam will be a rip-rap-rock-chute-style dam. The WDNR controls the water level in the lake when the new dam is complete. The WDNR and engineer recorded the “normal” water level prior to the dam failing and when the new dam is complete the water level will be returned to this standard.

### Slow-no-wake Zone Update by Tom Borden/Commissioner

Tom opened a discussion to get feedback from members about the 6 new buoys installed in late June. He reviewed that the purpose of the buoys is to protect the safety of people on the water and in the water, and to avoid shoreline erosion. The slow-no-wake zone follows state law and is 100 feet before buoys and 100 feet after buoys. Discussion ensued. The Board plans to take this under advisement and come up with solutions. They will look at buoy placement, quantity, education, enforceability and DNR support.

**The Board plans to take slow-no-wake zone feedback under advisement and come up with solutions. They will look at buoy placement, quantity, education, enforceability and DNR support.**

A motion was made as follows by Anne Yourchuck, second by Vince Teuber: The motion was to wait until next season to vote in a special session if necessary (immediately following the Spring Meeting) to make changes regarding the buoys. Unanimous. Motion carries.





**Comment by Ken Sample/Polk County Board**

Ken encouraged our district to work in unison with other districts and organizations in the county to have the most impact. He offered assistance to help "carry our message" wherever needed to achieve our lake management plan.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**  
**Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) by Peggy Lauritsen/AIS Coordinator**

There are three seasonal goals:

1. Volunteers perform 400 hours of CBCW monitoring (200 hours per each of two landings);
2. Educate boaters and the public to avoid the accidental spreading of invasives; and
3. Increase awareness with district members that our grant requires volunteer hours. Peggy thanked all past CBCW volunteers who have helped to meet our goals year after year.

From the 2014 Member Survey we learned that:

- 89% of us/members believe AIS (invasives) are a top priority
- 89% want monitoring of new AIS (invasives)
- 86% want to keep our CBCW program
- 50% believe we can identify curly leaf pondweed, the invasive weed we have now

CBCW Results – YTD: Education & boat inspections: goal is 400 hours per season.

Completed hours YTD: 295 hours, 73% complete. We are right on target.

In the 45 days until September 30 we have 105 hours remaining to finish our goal. We will meet our goal same as last year. Most of our boat inspection data is entered online and is up-to-date.

AIS Training done this year:

Seventeen volunteers attended two trainings June 6 and 13 as part of the DNR "Drain Campaign" a statewide initiative started last year to make sure anglers know about Wisconsin's invasive species laws, and the Annual 4th of July DNR 7th annual statewide Landing Blitz, focused on boaters with heightened awareness about invasives. We were one of 290 lakes in 53 counties in WI participating again this year.

Pontoon Classroom – 8 people attended on July 2, rescheduled due to rain from June 13. Instructors were Katelin and Jeremy, Polk County Land and Water Resources Department. We learned about how to extract water samples, algae samples, sediment and identification of invasives.

Public Awareness Efforts to achieve our CBCW goals:

- CBCW information published in BL Bugle sent 2-3x per year to district members.
- Literature and displays at May and August member meetings: includes the latest AIS information from state and county sources.
- Email communications to 40 volunteers 2x month, June to October.
- Distribute brochures and posters to local bait shops throughout the Summer.
- Placed 1 newspaper article in Inter-County Leader, published 2nd week of July about the Landing Blitz and featured pictures of our volunteers. We received excellent Outdoor Section page placement. This newspaper has a circulation of 13,000 readers.

Peggy is completing her fourth year as CBCW Coordinator. She asked for a new CBCW coordinator. No volunteer came forward. She suggested that a committee approach of several volunteers could be considered instead of having just one person coordinate all efforts.

**APM Harvey Report by Jim Maxwell/ APM Coordinator**

The first weed cutting this year started May 1. By May 31 we cut 131 loads of curly leaf pondweed. Since then we cut 32 more loads for a total of 163 loads YTD. In all of 2014 we cut 28 total loads. There have been a few minor repairs to the Harvester. Max Bay has been helping to drive the Harvester. We have cut 30 loads of coontail YTD. We need more places to dump weeds on the east side of the lake.

**EPP Grant Update by Sam Rivers Weber**

See guest presentation for reference to new lake management committee forming and potential for new grant too.

**NEW BUSINESS**  
**July 4th Boat Parade**

A motion was made by Ford Elliott, second by Steve Wistrill to move the July 4 Boat Parade to Sunday, July 3, at 4:00 pm. Unanimous. Motion carries.

It was also suggested that boaters in the parade leave their own dock at 4pm and start the parade from their dock and not meet at the north end. This will allow more people at the south end and east side to see the parade. Ford Elliott volunteers to fire up his shot gun at 4pm to officially start the parade.

There was discussion about the water balloon fights between parade boaters. People reported having to clean up after the parade and are picking balloons out of the water, consider them pollution and a hazard to wildlife. Water guns, on the other hand are fine in the parade. A motion was made by Sue Ogren for no water balloons in the July 4th parade, second by Vince Teuber. Unanimous. Motion carries.

**ANNUAL BUSINESS**  
**Annual Budget**

A motion was made to approve the budget by Ken Knutson, second by Roxanne Smith. Unanimous. Motion carries.

**Election of 2 New Commissioners: Vote**

Two candidates were on the ballot. Peggy Lauritsen nominated Shelley Rodriguez and Ford Elliott nominated Jen Wistrill. Roxanne Smith was nominated by Francis O'Connor. A motion was made to approve the nominees by Allen Moe, second by Vince Teuber. Unanimous. Motion carries. The voting resulted in the election of Shelley Rodriguez and Jen Wistrill.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**2016 Spring Meeting** will be May 21, 9am to noon (3rd Saturday in May)

**2016 Annual Meeting** will be August 20, 9am to noon (3rd Saturday in August)

**2016 Boat Parade** July 3 at 4pm. (July 4th falls on a Monday)

Meeting adjourned at 11:15am. A total of 83 district members attended the Annual Meeting.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peggy Lauritsen, Communications Commissioner/Secretary, plauritsen@pldg.com

The Blake Lake Bugle is a publication of the Big Blake Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. The Bugle is published seasonally for friends and members of the district. To receive lake news, send your email address to Peggy at plauritsen@pldg.com or mail to the address below.



## CONGRATS TO CLEAN BOATS, CLEAN WATERS VOLUNTEERS Annual Goal Completed - 400 hours!

Thanks to the volunteers on our lake who contribute 400 hours each season to check boats at the landings and educate boaters about invasive species.



**Pictured L to R:** Peggy Lauritsen, Vicky Dorner, Gabe Benjamin, Adriel Benjamin, Ford Elliott, Vince Teuber and Mike Rogge.  
**Seated in front:** Joanne Elliott, Diane Borden, Marge Filkins, Jim Filkins, Jim Maxwell, Joan Maxwell, and Naomi Anderson.  
**Back row:** Mary Teuber, Sue Ogren and Sam Rivers Weber. 2015 volunteers not pictured: Joyce Booth, Gail Rustad, Max and Loretta Bay, Tom Borden, Dale Butler, Larry Knutson, Shelley Rodriguez, Ann Foley, and Kathy Maradon.

Save the Dates!

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2016 Annual Meeting, August 20, 9am to noon. (3rd Saturday in August)  
2016 Boat Parade, July 3 at 4pm. (July 4th falls on a Monday)

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