



Minutes of the May 28, 2022, McKenzie Lakes Association Member Meeting

Call to Order by MLA President, Sandy Swanson, at 9:01 AM

Determination of quorum: There were 56 members present and a quorum was established to conduct association business; 8 board members were present, including Sandy Swanson, Jeff Larson, Lisa Kiener-Barnett, Swany Swanson, Scott Ballantyne, Missy Isabella, George Kuechle and Jan Caldwell. Board Director Ted Colangelo was absent and excused.

Welcome and thanks to all members in attendance.

Secretary Minutes: Minutes from the September 4, 2021, Annual Member Meeting were distributed and with no additions or corrections. They were approved.

Treasurer Report: Treasurer Jeff Larson reviewed the Treasurer's Report. Reported income of \$50.00. The Report was approved. Jeff also informed that a recent issue caused the need to shut down the PayPal membership payment site for a couple of days. The issue has been resolved and the site is operational at this time. Thanks to Becky Swanson, Jeff Larson & his staff for working with our contracted site manager to resolve the issues.

Ongoing MLA Programs:

- Secchi Reading/Water Sampling: Thanks to members Tom Foley, Scott Ballantyne and Jim Calabrese for conducting the readings this coming summer. The readings should be done at least once each month, more frequently if possible.
- Loon Watch – Lower McKenzie reports 2 nests this year; Middle also with a nest near the point and one on the Island. The water is high, so boaters should keep at least 200 feet away. Big McKenzie reports a nest on South end, and possibly one on the North end.
- Buoys are in on Big McKenzie. The buoys mark rocks, channel, and shallow areas. Thanks to Paul Sperling for his work on this over the weekend on this. Paul reports that lights will be on the buoys. Paul considered refraining from placing lights on 2 of the buoys due to close proximity to the shore and the brightness of the flashing lights, he's concerned that it may bother property owners. Member discussion took place on whether the lights are needed. Consensus was to place the lights on 3 out of 4 of the buoys.

Aquatic Invasive Species Programs:

- Purple Loosestrife – Beetles have been effective. If plants are spotted (long square stock), cut it and put it in a plastic bag to dispose of in the trash. It's best to then dab a little RoundUp on the cut stem using a sponge. Don't burn the cut plants as seeds may disperse by the hot air created by the fire.
- Zebra Mussel Monitoring Plates – Those with plates are asked to put the plates out. Sandy needs a couple of people on Big McKenzie to bring her their plates so they can be moved to Lower McKenzie on the side where there currently are no plates. Scott Ballantyne still plans to place a plate in the creek at Section 1 Road to monitor water flowing from Middle to Lower McKenzie. The DNR tracks the number and size, looking for changes from year to year.

- CB/CW Boat Monitors – Sandy informed us that 5 people have been hired and trained. They will be working all 3 landings. We still need to match paid hours with volunteer hours. Especially need volunteers on Lower McKenzie. Shifts are 8:00 am – 12:30 pm and 12:30 pm – 5:00 pm. Reminder that the DNR grant requires that the MLA Association matches paid hours with volunteer hours inspecting boats at each of the 3 landings. Thanks to all volunteers who have already signed up. Please text Sandy if you have 4 ½ hours to spare to volunteer to work on a Saturday or Sunday any upcoming weekend.
- Decontamination Stations – Any watercraft entering or leaving the lake must be sprayed with the solution made available at the decon station. We greatly appreciate those who have volunteered to empty and replace the bleach solutions regularly at each of the 3 landings. We still need a few more volunteers, so please contact Sandy if you are willing to help out.

Old Business:

- Healthy Lakes – Mike Pederson informed that the contractor didn't get the work done as expected so he's looking for a different contractor to do the work to place the fishsticks. Reminder that this is a 5-year grant, so we are still within the window, and the DNR has already approved 6 shoreline sites to place the fishsticks, 4 on Middle McKenzie and 2 on Big McKenzie. Mike is also going to see what else we can do on the lake. Possibly place rock beds in the lake. Young fish return to the rock beds each Spring. Mike will be talking to the DNR further on this to understand options. Thanks again Mike for the excellent work on this beneficial project. Additionally, the Washburn County Shoreline Restoration Grant has openings. Sandy reported that submissions need to be to Lisa Burns by June 10. Contact information is lburns@co.washburn.wi.us or [715-468-4654](tel:715-468-4654). Burnett County: Healthy Lakes plus shoreline incentive program (SIP) with \$50 annual payment. Dave Ferris, Land Services Dept, [715-349-2109](tel:715-349-2109) ext. 2615. Also Emily Moore, AIS Coordinator emoore@burnettcounty.org or [715-349-2109](tel:715-349-2109) ext. 2613.

New Business:

- Aquatic Plant Management Plan – This is MLA's 3rd time developing a 5 yr. plan, so 15 total years of monitoring plants in the McKenzie Lakes. A written plan was formulated over the winter, full report to be published next summer. Field work will start the second week of June and continue into this fall. An open meeting, conducted by Emily Ward, took place after the member meeting and everyone was welcome to attend. Past APM plans can be reviewed at: <https://www.burnettcounty.com/1120/Past-Projects> or <https://mckenzielakes.com>
- Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference – Scheduled for June 17, 2022. This event is sponsored by the WI DNR and is for all of Northwestern WI. The sessions are 45 minutes and cover plants, water, fish & boating. Food and beverages are provided. The registration fee is \$45. Register and pay at: <https://nwwislakesconference.org>
- Website - MLA-branded apparel is available for purchase on the MLA website. The Booya Mugs have been a great success! We appreciate all who have purchased mugs, the mugs are sold out. Another 25 mugs have been ordered and will be available in July. This is the final order for the limited edition mugs. Unfortunately, after the upcoming batch is sold out no more will be available this year.
- Facebook – Users must be a paid MLA member and/or an immediate family member and must also provide your lake address to join the group. Sandy reported that a few unendorsed ads had been posted on the site, violating our site guidelines. Missy Isabella and Sandy Swanson are the site administrators. They've been working to strengthen admissions and will be monitoring and will stop all posts not previously approved by Missy or Sandy.
- Booya – a huge thank you to Ann Powers, Lisa Kiener-Barnett, and George Kuechle for their work to keep this event going successfully. The 2022 Booya will be in-person again this year. It be held Saturday, August 6. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting.

Other New Business

- Boat Landing on Big McKenzie – Following discussion last year at member meetings, we

successfully engaged the county to level and pave the landing on Big McKenzie. Member discussion on whether the level can be changed, and a dock added. The lake association cannot install a dock or porta-potty at the landing on Big McKenzie; this would need to be done by Washburn County. Sandy will research to possibility of dredging. Burnett County recently passed an ordinance (fine associated) stating there is to be NO power loading at the landing. Power loading a watercraft onto a trailer at the landing creates deep holes and a ridge/dune behind the hole. Emily Moore explained that momentum should be used to load onto the trailer, not the power of the engine. Washburn County is expected to pass a similar ordinance very soon.

- Walleye stocking – member discussion on walleye stocking. It was noted that walleye stocking is managed by the DNR.

2022 MLA Calendar:

- Next meeting is 6/25/22. The agenda will include a vote on the budget and election for 3 openings. Please talk to Sandy if are interesting in stepping up to help.
- Ongoing calendar:

June 25 – 2nd Meeting – Annual Meeting

July 4 – Boat Parade

July 30 – 3rd Member Meeting

August 6 – Booya

Sep 3 – our 4th Member Meeting

Adjourned 9:59 AM