

Becker County COLA Meeting Minutes

Holiday Inn, Detroit Lakes, MN

Thursday, September 22, 2022, 5:00 PM CST

Attendees:

Larry Anderson – Floyd Lake

Sue Borstad – Pickerel Lake

Jim Brown – Height of Land

Rich Cieslak – Buffalo, Rice, Rock

Marietta Keenan – Island Lake

Roger & Jan Lee – Buffalo Lake

Steve Lindow – Bad Medicine Lake

Gordy and Mel Olson – White Earth

Wanda Roden – Melissa/Sallie

David Suby – Pickerel Lake

Vicky Williams – Melissa/Sallie

5:00 pm Social

5:30 pm Dr. Nicholas Kludt, from the Becker County DNR, presented very interesting information on Lake Sturgeon; their past and present. He also discussed modern river management and habitat projects that are supporting the return of lake sturgeon to our lakes and rivers.

Interesting points that were covered during Dr. Kludt's presentation included:

- There are nine species of lake sturgeon that are native to N. America
- Lake sturgeon are primitive fish in an evolutionary sense. They are unchanged as a species for 133 million years.
- They are very large in size. Their life span is 80 – 150 years.
- The female reaches sexual maturity between 20 – 25 years old. April 15 – June 15 is the ideal time for sturgeon reproduction/spawning. They are very sensitive to human impact and need a specific habitat/environment to lay eggs.
- 1947 was the last sturgeon seen in Lake Ida.
- A stocking program began in 2022. Mature females have been found, so the plan is to stop stocking in 2023. Currently, lake sturgeon are on a catch and release ONLY basis!
- Lake sturgeon buffer the bottom of a lake against AIS!

6:15 pm **Old Business**

Larry Anderson made a motion to approve the July 2022 minutes. Sue Borstad seconded the motion. Minutes were approved.

Note: The August 2022 meeting was canceled due to speaker contracting covid.

New Business:

Treasurer's report comparing the August actual spending against the Budget was provided for all members attending the meeting. No questions were discussed.

2022 Payment of Lake Association dues. Wanda will be forwarding another dues reminder to the Lake Associations that have not paid their dues.

The Administrative Position has been divided into two positions: Secretarial and Program coordinator. Prior to this meeting Marietta Keenan has agreed to take on the Secretarial position until June 2024.

The Lake Stewardship Program which originally began on Gull Lake, is now being managed by MN Lakes & Rivers. Fox Lake currently has three properties signed up to be stewards of their Lake. Stephen Corbin is responsible for moving this program forward on Fox Lake. The Board will be asking Stephen to present at one of our 2023 meetings.

2022 Meetings were discussed:

1. Possible Programs/Speakers mentioned included Steven Green from the DNR to present on shoreline Do's/Don'ts for particular lakes. Members also mentioned that field trip/projects would be welcomed.
2. The meeting time was discussed, and everyone agreed that the 5:00 social and 5:30 start were appropriate.
3. Meeting Locations were mentioned:
 - Bricks Mill Brewery – The Tap Room
 - The DL Police Department
 - The DL Library
 - Shorewood Pub
 - Holmes Theatre

Steve Lindow brought up the subject of 2022 Election candidates. He asked about the possibility of contacting the candidates and having them attend our October 20 meeting. Marietta Keenan suggested that anyone interested in hearing the candidates, could attend the DL Area League of Women Voters candidate forum on Monday, September 26th at 6:00 PM in the DL Police Department conference room.

Wanda said that the timing would be very short to get candidates to come to an October meeting, but that she would try to contact them to inquire about availability.

Our next meeting will be at the Holiday Inn in Detroit Lakes. The Business meeting will begin at 5:30. The 2023 Budget will be approved at this meeting.

A suggestion was made that we make sure that introductions are made at the beginning of each meeting, so that Lake Association representatives can get a chance to meet/get to know each other.

7:15 pm

Meeting adjourned