

# BPLROA

## Annual Meeting

July 2, 2011 Land O'Lakes Fire Barn  
Social time with refreshments at 8:30 a.m.

President Dale Ekkela called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. There were 35 in attendance. He welcomed all and introduced himself and the other Board members present: Dawn Eckstein, Jill Edwards, Dan Johns, Dave Leifheit, Jules Eberhardt, Dale Reilley, Alice Muehlethaler, Keith Chapman, and John Alt.

President Ekkela asked that everyone please sign the attendance sheet because we receive credit for each person present.

**Agenda:** President Ekkela added Jon Helminiak to the agenda to talk about the Land O'Lakes history book, and called for a motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was approved.

**Financial Report:** Alice Muehlethaler gave the financial report:

As of July 1, 2010 Assets of BPLROA are as follows:

Checking account	.....\$6,601.11
Savings account	.....10,372.17
Grant account	.....10,059.74
Grant Reimbursement pending	.....6,409.00
<u>Fidelity Investments</u>	.....14,355.42
Total assets	.....\$47,797.44
Of this, Environmental Fund is	.....5,868.64

A motion by Jules Eberhardt to approve the financial report was passed.

**Boat Landing:** Dale Ekkela introduced Keith Chapman to report on plans to carry repair of the boat landing according to the DNR permit received. Keith told us the berm was removed down 4 feet, in a dump truck. The first 2 feet was gravel, the next 2 feet was smelly muck. Concrete pads have been ordered to replace 2 of the existing bars and add 3 more. The Town of Land O'Lakes will install the pads after Association members connect them. The bars will lay on sand, with the substrate as recommended by the town. Gravel will fill the space between the pads and the existing pads will be repaired with cold patch. The ramp will be approximately 7 feet longer than the current one.

**Clean Boats Clean Waters Inspections:** Dale Reilley thanked everyone, especially John Alt, who has volunteered and helped with monitoring boats entering and leaving at the public landing. A total of 600 hours was volunteered in the 2010 season, 400 of those for actual monitoring, and 200 hours for organizing. The main purpose is to restrict invasives from Big Portage Lake, and secondarily to earn credit at \$12/hour toward the Management Grant. 135 boats were inspected, and only 3 people were not knowledgeable. In 2011, we will rely more on email than phone calls to organize volunteers and try to cover more Saturdays and Sundays in July and August. Volunteering has been lighter so far, 44 hours in May compared to 66 in May 2010, and 38 hours in June, 2011 compared to 66 in June 2010. We will aim for 250 hours this season.

From 2011 forward, we will try to find a better way to prevent invasives than spending all of our energy on 3% of the people. This could include paid staff, a combination of paid and volunteer monitors, and signage. Dale outlined the penalties and fines given for failure to remove, transporting, transporting on highways, and launching plant material or aquatic animals. There is a media blitz for this holiday weekend and we are giving away towels from the DNR at the landing this weekend. Tony Kranner suggested signage about the penalties in the display board at our landing. Alice Muehlethaler announced that the cell phone number of the area Warden Tim Price is on the door of the supply box at the landing, and that there is a one use camera for monitors to use in the box also.

**Directories:** Dale Ekkela announced that 1 directory with map is free with each membership and that extra directories with a map are for sale for \$10 each.

**Lake Management Project:** Jules Eberhardt distributed a one page summary of the project status. He also brought and displayed the plant specimen book which holds a named specimen of each plant represented in Big Portage. Onterra is finishing their analysis, drafting a report and will meet with the planning committee soon. The water quality sampling is done by Forrest Muehlethaler. From the aquatic plant surveys that map which plants are where in the lake, there are no aquatic invasive plants. The shoreline assessment looked for unnatural areas for which restoration grant money is available. The stakeholder survey had a 73% return. The most common comments were about water quality and fishing.

Jules said our volunteer hour component is satisfied already from the boat landing. The final outcome of the grant is a management plan to protect Big Portage Lake from invasives and other detriments. There will be a resident wide Wrap-up meeting when all is finished. The report will be put on our website, and the results will go to each member. All this work would have to be done before receiving any treatment assistance in the event we contract invasive species in Big Portage.

There was discussion of the walleye fishery in Big Portage. Comments were made about spearing and what can be done, DNR studies of lake structure, growth of walleye and stocking of walleye. It was noted that this Association successfully petitioned a change in smallmouth limits on Big Portage from a size limit of 14 inches to 18 inches and a bag limit of three to a bag limit of one. Dale Ekkela said the fishery of Big Portage, specifically walleye, would be an issue for the board to investigate.

**Bat Study:** Dale Reilley told about a survey being done by the DNR on bats to see how widespread White Nose Syndrome is in our area. This syndrome affects bats on the east coast and is spreading west. The survey uses echo-location to find the location of bat colonies. Each bat species has a different frequency. The device is hand held while riding in a boat or car and pointed at the shoreline. It records and transmits the bat frequencies to the DNR by GPS. Stacy Hron mentioned that there are also emergency rules for cavers to disinfect equipment used. There will be a training session given at the Discovery Center in July. The equipment costs \$2,000, and it may be shared with other groups.

**Lake Histories:** Dave Leifheit introduced himself as the new organizer and would like to receive resident's lake histories by email, through the website, or in the PO Box. Nancy Mayne has volunteered to work with Dave and Dawn. He mentioned his own family's log book.

**Land O'Lakes History Book:** Jon Helminiak was introduced as the author of a new book. He began June/July of 2010 to sort photos and coalesce research done by the Historical Society.

The book was published by Arcadia Publishers. Profits will benefit the Land O'Lakes Historical Society. The book is for sale from the Historical Society for \$20. After the meeting, Jon autographed copies sold here.

**Bird Feeder Giveaway:** John Alt announced Jim Tidwell has built 3 birdfeeders to raise funds for the Association over the last few years. 28 tickets out of 30 available have been sold for this one. The youngest member present at this Annual Meeting, Jorie Goldman, drew Tom Shields Jr.'s name as the recipient of the bird feeder. John will deliver it to him. Congratulations Tom!

**Elections:** There are 3 openings for Board members. Tom Gratz, Jules Eberhardt and Jill Edwards have expiring terms, and they were nominated to be re-elected. All are 3 year terms. There were no further nominations from the floor. It was moved, seconded and passed that the slate of 3 nominees be elected. President Ekkela welcomed the 3 returning board members.

**Questions and Comments:**

Fred Prehn introduced himself as a resident of Big Portage since 2004 after 25 years on the Cisco Chain. He would like this Association to be cautious about what issues are printed in the newsletter. Issues affecting the lake such as water quality or the boat landing are appropriate in his view, but issues such as fireworks or ATV's are too opinionated, and are situations for the town, not the lake association.

John Alt suggested a caption on the FYI section of the newsletter such as "Not a Board position."

Jon Helminiak pointed out that the Association has not ever taken strong stands on any issues. The mission is to Protect and Maintain Quality of life on Big Portage Lake. He feels suggestions were stated fairly in the newsletter.

Dale Ekkela said that part of the function of the newsletter is to point out issues.

Dawn Eckstein apologized for omitting the name of Sue Drum who wrote the article printed in our newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alice Muehlethaler  
Secretary/Treasurer