

Lake & Wildlife Executive Meeting
Monday, December 9, 2024
Club Tamarack- Fireside Room

Call to Order: Brian called the meeting to order at 3:35 pm.

Roll Call: Present - Brian Vassar, Rick Patterson, Denise McCabe, Calvert Huffines, Dara Sinclair, Mary Ada Kidd, Andy Kidd, Travis Bryan, Elden Bonette, Mason Holland, Arty Allen

Absent – LuAnn Chambers, Carolyn LaHatte, Sandra Stewart

Opening Reports:

Review and approval of October and November Executive Minutes: Carolyn emailed October minutes to committee members and were approved. November minutes to be emailed from Carolyn for approval.

Review and approval of November Finance Report: Denise distributed the November Treasurer's summary with an ending checkbook balance of \$18,232.80. Tamarack Treasures made \$8271.26 net profit. Committee chairs to work on 2025 budgets and submit by next week. Elden and Andy submitted theirs so far. Andy approved by motion and Elden seconded to approve the November finance report; all approved.

Partners Meeting Presentations:

December – Jim Pryor's annual report was received well by all 51 attending. Ed Pichette put a Facebook article out on how well and informative the meeting was.

2025 Topics (items of interest-birds, trees, bears, bugs)

February – Dara-native plants (speaker), bats, or another topic

March – (TBD)

April – Mark Warren

May – snakes

June – BT whiskey-Chris Feldt

August- (TBD)

September – marble history (Andy to contact speaker)

October – (TBD)

November – (TBD)

December – Jim Pryor

Board Liaison Report – Arty mentioned budget was done and \$100,000 was set aside for dredging. \$10,000 was approved for Huff's fishery request. \$10,000 was approved for Forestry Habitat tree removal. Arty to check on table replacement request of \$10,000. He clarified that the Forestry Habitat plan had been accepted by the BOD and **not approved** and was to be used as Best Practices in the future for Bent Tree. Any further requests for funding for Forestry Habitat needs to be submitted to the BOD. The board is working on how to fund the dredging and requested Lake & Wildlife help raise awareness of the need for that in future partners meetings. Liaison for Lake & Wildlife for 2025 to be decided by the Board at the next meeting. A vote for the recent CCR changes will be coming out next week.

BTCI report by Travis noted that Mulligan Streambank restoration was priority for December and early January. Floats arrived for Sallie Doss dock and do not have any Styrofoam and are very good and easy to maintain.

Mission, Vision, Planning

Beach Recreation Area Update – Rick to make recommendations. A drawing which is large enough to see the total area is now being developed.

Executive Team Positions /organization plan for 2025 - open positions include replacements for Rick, Mary Ada, and LuAnn, with Rick stepping back during 2025. Jim White and Miguel Rodriguez are interested and will be contacted. Rick and Brian to review organization and budgets and contact Committee members in January 2025. Waiting on BOD decision on Forestry Habitat and Fishery to determine budgets and plan.

Budgets – look over and send to Brian or Denise within the next two weeks.

Sub-Committee Updates:

Wildlife – No bear problems, or hog. Beacons out to discourage geese. Deer population is being managed with Bent Tree and DNR.

Trails – Mason and Dara working on plantings for Chestnut Cove. Some additional fencing is needed at parking area. Furniture for trails ordered per budget. Mason continues to work on new trail and blazes are out and last areas hard to work on due to rock and steep terrain.

Fundraising – Tamarack Treasures spring sale to be managed by Deb White and updates to come on January drop off January 13 from 10-11am. Position changing in 2025. Denise to handle Whispering Springs, no poinsettia sales, hanging baskets possibly a KBTB item.

KBTB – Outdoor Holiday decorations up and took longer due to cold weather. Take down of decorations will be done in January. Ribbons made, and shrubs around Bent Tree sign to be trimmed. Some landscaping around the Cottage will be needed, and an additional \$1000 for budget in 2025.

Habitat Conservation

-Cameron Park area (area near Admin and Smoky the Bear sign) will experiment with eight-foot deer exclusion fencing. Dara to determine cost for budgeting. Will be used for fruit tree planting first few years.

Plantings continue around the dam and lake outlet areas.

Forestry Habitat plan submitted had 17 action items and 8 L&W are currently working on and will continue to work on and budget for in 2025.

Power line maintenance and work will be emailed to volunteers in January to begin annual work.

Dara and Rick to work with budgets and plans for 2025.

Communication:

Dara working with Taree to get consistent Wednesday nature news out. Been difficult with Tavern and Cyber-attack at BTCI.

Ed Pichette asked if he could help with social media items for L&W at partners meeting Saturday. Dara will work with Ed to have him monitor and announcements needed.
Dara to investigate L&W website set up and cost. To be on BTCI Bent Tree website under L&W.

Lakes – No projects currently. Still need to remove the smaller fish. The plan for 2025 is to stock crayfish, Red Fin Shad, and others as needed. Fish Feeders are off and will be turned on again in April. Artificial fish habitats will increase from 25 to 36 in 2025.

Streams – November: oxygen and PH are good between 7 and 8, sediment low and alkalinity high. The lake is down a foot and the streams are low, but healthy. Stream Keepers had 8 people certified in Chemical and MACRO categories during training on December 8th.
Silt Project, A proposal and pricing for study of the silt composition at boat dock, Coffey Cove, and Mulligan was submitted to Jim Pryor for presentation to BOD in January.
Mulligan streambank restoration started December 2 and is about 1/3 completed.

Special Events – Holiday Party had some 82 people in attendance and was well received.
Position reviewed on how to manage with lots of input.

Sunshine – Request for cards for Peaches and Randy, Larry Watkins, and Jim Pryor. (all BTCI employees) Brian to coordinate with Carolyn.

Membership Support – Send hours to Meghan for year-end numbers. 1400 hours so far and another 1071 for Tamarack Treasures. Numbers presented by Meghan at partners meeting.

Special Projects: Position to be eliminated in 2025. Projects will remain with subcommittees where work is being performed.

Adjournment: 5:12 pm