

The Beaver Island Association

*Supporting Environmental and
Economic Sustainability*

beaverislandassociation@gmail.com

P.O. Box 390

Beaver Island, Michigan 49782

Minutes for Beaver Island Association Board Meeting Monday, August 29, 1:30 – 3:30pm

Attending: Keith, Kevin, Alan, Patrick, Mark, Bob A, Bob T, Ken, Jim J, Taffy, Don, Sheri

1. Financial Status (Kevin)
 - a. See attached
2. BIBT sponsor proposal (letter attached) (Keith/Pam/Beth)
 - a. See attached
3. Waterways Trail Update (Mark)
 - a. Mark is attending conference in Bellaire, DNR is working well with it. Received \$42K grant through Office of Great Lakes. No additional support needed at this time.
4. Madeline Island Trip Update (Pam)
 - a. We were asked to participate with this because of work with Jon Allan. Learned of Internet initiative there that was successful due to closeness of island to mainland.
 - b. Madeline Island talked about the positive economic impact they've seen in a short time.
 - c. Conference call week of 8/23 with Northland College, 3 of chamber members, and town manager. Population similar to BI. Visit from BI. Gwen Marsten has quilting seminar there (\$2500/class) with less resources available than on BI. They do all planning between May 1 and October 1 because most of their taxpayers are on the island then.
 - d. Working to have an Island Fellow and discussion of what the Fellow would do. Key area identified was Fellow for Cultural Resources (e.g., need for policies for connection to tribes). Will be discussed in the next conversation. Cost of \$50K shared among DNR, Tribal organization, Great Lakes organization. Administration of the position would be through Island Institute, and may connect

- to Historical Society. All facilitated by BIA. Fellows' candidate would be post M.A. in relevant degree field (e.g., history) who fits profile Institute would develop.
- e. First step to bigger vision to start a Great Lakes Collaborative

5. Beach Clean-Up Update (Ken)

- a. Signs are up around the island.
- b. September 10th date, with Community Center as location for materials. Lunch provided at noon. Donations from Carol Creasser and McDonoughs for hotdogs and buns.

6. BIA Web Site Home Page link policy discussion (Jim, Pam)

- a. Suggestion to set up so that landing page is comprehensive with links to relevant details through hot links or additional pages.
- b. Need to decide what is on the front page
- c. When time permits, Kevin and Jim will explore what it would take and who could host a revised website

7. NMU Broadband Initiative Update & next step discussion (Kevin, Alan)

- a. Subgroup of board members met with NMU to look into 4G LTE service as a temporary solution to the slow service currently on the island. NMU has an educational service arm that could provide service to the island for anyone who signs up for extension course services offered by NMU or possibly CMU. Cost would be about \$35.00. Download would be about 12 and upload about 5. Not broadband level quality but a significant improvement to current service as an interim step. Building the infrastructure on the island for the interim solution would support the eventual construction of a wireless format across the lake, EMS service links, BICS to make it available to students who don't have home access, among other solutions.
- b. NMU followed up to let us know that a tower in northern Michigan may be available. Not sure if it is possible, but indicates NMU's interest in partnering with us.
- c. CMU service is now being offered at the school, but there is not going to be sufficient bandwidth for wide-spread use, which means the interim solution is still necessary.
- d. Survey – 46% were year round islanders, then seasonal residents, summer less than 6 months to yield 80% of the respondents. Remaining percentage were visitors to the island. Clear support for improving both Internet and wireless service.
- e. Library is on residential Internet service with 2 servers running. Their system has the same limitations as rest of island.

8. ALS Initiative Update—BIEMS.org, brochure, donations, contact strategy (All)

- a. Meeting to occur in the next week to explore relationships, designating BIRHC as emergency room, getting teams to work together to provide health care for island: Bill Kohls (ESA), subcommittee Denny Cook, Wojan, Kubic (BIRHC), Lynn Jenks from Munson
- b. Suggestion for an EMS consultant to look at the budget that we would come up with based on a vision of what we are trying to accomplish.
- c. We need a plan that makes clear what the budget represents in terms of ALS on the island that is sustainable.
- d. Discussion of what role BIA can provide to move the process toward successful EMS support
- e. MOTION Passed Unanimously: Moved to explore costs (RFI or Order of Magnitude) associated with service to BI to provide EMS using public data from services provided in past 12 months.
 - i. Jim Jones to contact North Flight
 - ii. Don Fix to contact AMR
 - iii. Plan to share business plan, quotes, and updated fact sheet with chair of EMS
 - iv. Our goal is to educate the community about costs and options

9. Annual Meeting Follow Up Items (Bob A.)

- a. Check with Kevin re paypal option for dues
- b. Discuss 'opt out' for mail version pros and cons
- c. Explore publishing sections of the newsletter in BI Beacon every issue
- d. Follow up with Cindy R by Patrick and/or Jim Jones to explore possibilities
- e. Land Information Access Association (LIAA) Master Plan meeting this week. BIA members invited to attend (11:00 a.m. Wednesday at the Community Center). Will share former newsletters with them.
- f. BIRHC Association Board – 10:00 on September 17th

Meeting adjourned 3:50 p.m.



Beaver Island Birding Trail (BIBT)
Warblers on the Water 2017

Dear BIBT Business Partner,

Thank you for your past support of the Beaver Island Birding Trail! Plans are now underway for the 4th annual Warblers on the Water birding event on Memorial Day weekend, May 26-28, 2017. Participants in the 2016 event asked for more field trips and speakers in 2017, and our proposed program addresses those requests. However, to produce such an ambitious program, we will need more financial support. Due to a change in university policy, the Central Michigan University Biological Station will no longer donate the use of their vans to the birding event. Therefore, we will have an added expense of \$2500 for van rental in addition to the expansion of the weekend program for birders.

To defray costs next year, we will implement a modest participant registration fee, but we must also rely on our local business partners' support to help meet our expenses. Therefore, we have established two levels of business support (see next page) for sponsors that will benefit both sponsors and event participants. Business supporters at both levels will be recognized on the Beaver Island Birding Trail web site (www.beaverislandbirdingtrail.org), in the program brochures, and on the back of the new 2017 Warblers on the Water T-Shirt, which will be given to registered participants when they arrive on the island. The logo of major sponsors will appear on the T-shirt back at approximately twice the size of that of business sponsors.

We hope that you will continue to support Warblers on the Water by purchasing a logo. Doing so will be a win-win situation for both business sponsors and the Warblers on the Water birding event, and here's why:

- The BIBT web site has been praised for its quality, and changes we will undertake to the web site this winter will make it even more attractive to visitors. Your business will be advertised to hundreds of thousands of wildlife enthusiasts around the world.
- Web blasts by the DNR and Audubon Society directly reach 150,000 birders, who are urged to visit the BIBT web site in the blasts.
- Press releases to area media outlets educate northern Michiganders about Beaver Island and also direct readers to the BIBT web site.
- We anticipate 60-75 participants at the Warblers on the Water event next May, and all of them will advertise your business both on and off-island when they wear their T-shirts.

Thank you for your past support and we look forward to your continued support of the 2017 Warblers on the Water birding event. Please complete the form on the next page at the level of support with which you are comfortable. We hope our entire island business community will embrace this kickoff event to the summer season.

Keith Brothers, Pam Grassmick and Beth Leuck
Beaver Island Birding Trail Committee, Beaver Island Association

Warblers on the Water 2017 Sponsor

Please complete by October 31 and mail to:

Beaver Island Association
P.O. Box 390
Beaver Island, MI 49782

Major Sponsor (\$150) _____ Business Sponsor (\$75) _____

Business Name _____

Address _____

Contact Person _____

Contact Person's phone # and email _____