Synopsis of Aug. 9 Board of Directors meeting

Approximately 40 people attended today’s meeting, including several new lake residents and some who have not ever been to a meeting.

Minutes from the July meeting were approved. Read the minutes. https://barronlakeassociation.org/board-meeting-minutes-july-2025/

The treasurer’s report was presented, showing a balance of $56,096.72 in lake association accounts. Jim Muckerheide reported the association has a CD and it came due in July. He said the rates were good, so it was rolled into a five-month CD. Membership count is at 109 as of yesterday.

Two representatives from Restorative Lake Sciences gave a brief presentation on the health of the lake water, saying Barron Lake has great water quality and is in top three for its clarity. She noted you can see down about 9-10 feet in Barron Lake, compared to other lakes where sometimes it is less than 3 feet. Overall, they said Barron Lake looks fantastic and there will be no treatment at this time. Tom Hable, who accompanies RLS when they come out, said this is the first time in five years the lake did not require treatment. He noted RLS will be back on the water in two weeks to inspect again. One of the representatives said people should not fertilize during a rain event so as to avoid those chemicals washing into the lake.

There was discussion about a wash station so people bringing in outside boats can wash the boats to help reduce the risk of bringing in invasive weeds, etc. It was mentioned that someone from the lake should contact the state of Michigan to work on getting help with obtaining a wash station to install near the launch off Lake Shore Drive. It was mentioned this has been an issue because there is not enough space in that area.

A resident also inquired about putting a chart together that would show comparisons of lake water quality from the past few years to now so people can see the differences. The RLS representative said she will talk to Jen (the owner of RLS) for that chart and she will forward to Tom Hable. Tom said once he gets it, he will have it put onto the Barron Lake Association website.

Adam Bass, owner of a local trapping company, gave a brief presentation on what his company does to trap wild animals—from mice and muskrats, to coyote and deer. He said his company is fully licensed and usually uses a live trap, but not all are trapped alive. As far as geese, he said stationary statues don’t really work and the geese eventually ignore them. He did recommend any type of moving objects saying that can help. Tom Dan pointed out that geese don’t cross over the path of lawn and that has helped. Adam left his business cards for anyone that might need his services.

Discussion was also held about the augmentation well—a project that Fred Fornell has worked diligently on for the past seven years. He explained that we have provided all of the information EGLE has requested and are at their mercy to get the approval needed to turn the well back on. Another resident said his daughter lives on another lake in Cass County and they are also having problems with the drain commissioner not answering calls or helping to remedy issues. It was noted again the new pump will not be filling the lake, but will help to offset the evaporation. Fred pointed out we are losing water so fast right now because we are in a drought, with much heat and humidity. The board is confident this will be rectified because Barron Lake is one of the lakes that has a court-ordered mandate for its level to be 757’ and we are not at that level.

Fred also has been overseeing the water monitor project. At last meeting it was noted the drain commissioner lost the code to get into the program to see data. Fred Fornell called the company himself. The company made Fred the administrator and Fred said now everyone can see the data by going to [www.tolthawk.com](http://www.tolthawk.com). Go into the menu click on log in. You will see a list of lakes. Tap on Barron Lake and our data will be shown. He said to keep in mind it will show a measurement of the sensor at that particular location. He also thanked Jon and Cheryl Allen for allowing the sensor to be placed on their seawall.

Megan Stolz asked about the comment from a previous meeting where the township supervisor said the township would like to use the old well as a fire hydrant and that would help with people’s homeowners insurance. Tom Hable said the old pump will NOT be turned into a fire hydrant before the new pump is operational and that the old pump will serve a dual purpose—pump when needed, hydrant when needed.

Tom Hable reported 800 fish have been ordered and the lake will be restocked in late October/early November. Much discussion ensued about people ice fishing who take and keep the fish during the winter when they are still small. Tom said he will talk to the people at the DNR about coming out to assist with this matter.

Several residents discussed the issues they are seeing with the people who are utilizing Bruno Eidietis’ property and using the lake. Some people questioned the fact that several people are leaving their watercraft (mostly pontoon boats) docked at Bruno’s property, It was pointed out that some people have seen tents pitched on the land. Concerns were raised about not having washroom facilities nor garbage containers available for the people using this land. It was also suggested that each of the people who rent Bruno’s property should be given a copy of the rules of waterways in Michigan. After the meeting was over, several people continued this discussion with Bruno and offered suggestions on what he can do to curtail these issues. Bruno said he is looking to get cameras installed and take other measures to rectify the situation.

The election of officers followed the regular meeting. Two positions were open and two people were elected by acclamation. Rick Marneris stepped down as president. The officers for next year will be Tom Hable, president; Bill Newhouse, vice president; Jim Muckerheide, treasurer; Debbie Floor, secretary and Rick Marneris, director-at-large.