

Bass Lakes Area Environmental Partnership

17 September 2025

- Commence: 1500
- Adjourn: 1630
- Location: Lisa Adams' home & dial-in
- Attendees:
 - Board Members Present
 - President: Lisa Adams
 - Vice-President: Tom Shear
 - Secretary: Heidi Haskins
 - Treasurer: Barb Seiler
 - Director: Linda Irmscher (dial-in)
 - Director: Laura McKay
- Agenda:
 - Treasurer's report
 - Labor Day fishing tournament update
 - Atta boy card update
 - CLMP samples and DO meter turn-in
 - DASH boat and BLAEP board insurance
 - Re-evaluate Grant Watch subscription
 - Turbidity curtain update
 - Herbicide treatment in LBL
 - EGLE permit search

- Meeting with Eric Elgin
- Fundraising webinar
- Possible car/boat/ORV wash opportunity
- Any Other Business
 - emails received from Mr. Dan Shine
 - BBL and LBL milfoil genotyping samples
 - Lake foam email from MLSA
 - 2026 annual meeting guest speaker recommendation
- Treasurer's report
 - quarterly statements will be generated and issued at quarter close 30 September
 - Michigan State LARA annual report submitted online 16 Sep 25; \$20 fee paid
 - Checking account balance in total is \$12,357.21
 - line of accounting distribution:
 - General Fund: \$48.56
 - all remains funds are allocated to DASH boat and operations lines of account
 - special event income (less in-kind donations) net: \$415
 - fair market value of in kind and donated items was \$1015
 - annual net income projected through end of quarter is \$6265.60
- Labor Day fishing tournament update
 - 3 children won the contest for largest fish caught; no adults submitted photos to participate in the contest
 - intend to keep fishing contest next year
 - ideas to encourage adults to participate as well as kids?

Thursday, 18 September 2025

- plaque for 2025 winner will be engraved and awarded to the Johnson family
- Atta boy card update
 - 78 homes were surveyed on the west shoreline of BBL in 2025 with 32 cards awarded (~41% of houses had at least one positive shoreline attribute; 59% had zero positive attributes)
 - card distribution will secure for fall but will recommence in the spring on both BBL & LBL
- CLMP samples and DO meter turn-in
 - BBL and LBL 2025 CLMP samples, as well as issued DO meter CLMP-3, were turned in on 09 Sep 2025 at assigned EGLE office location in Cadillac by Lisa
- DASH boat and BLAEP board insurance
 - DASH boat liability insurance: gap policy until spring so that coverage is over period of operations rather than period of lay-up
 - Board Liability insurance: need to maintain liability coverage for board members; however, all board members will reach out to their individual insurance brokers to request quotes in order to try to reduce ~\$600 policy premium from current policy holder
 - policy lapsed 03Aug25 with current policy holder
 - Lisa will send copy of 2024-2025 policy to board members to facilitate additional quote requests
- Re-evaluate Grant Watch subscription
 - board discussion determined that Grant Watch subscription will not be acquired this year
 - revisit in one year
- Turbidity curtain update
 - Lisa discussed turbidity curtain use in DASH in detail with BBL property owner in July. She later discussed turbidity curtain use in DASH with state district representative Curt VanderWall, no follow up has been received from VanderWall. As the summer progressed, it was recommended from a personal acquaintance that Lisa submit a request to modify language within a current proposed state house bill to remove DASH operations from the EGLE definition of dredging operations, thereby eliminating a requirement for turbidity curtain use while performing permitted DASH operations. Lisa sent email with

Thursday, 18 September 2025

recommended request to state district representative Joe Fox staff point of contact. There has been no response.

- Herbicide treatment in LBL
 - EGLE permit search reflected one active permit on LBL
 - Lisa reached out to property owner to inquire if treatments had been conducted in 2025. Reply received that treatments were conducted twice during summer of 2025, and that third treatment was not performed.
 - Meeting with Eric Elgin: working to coordinate meeting to discuss EWM status in LBL
- Fundraising webinar
 - Lisa attended fundraising webinar through the conservation district.
 - ideas recommended for BLAEP to consider for fundraising improvement:
 - Giving Tuesday (Tuesday after Thanksgiving; 02 Dec 2025): people often open to making donation when given a reason to donate
 - generate a Giving Guide: best practice is to distribute to potential donors in September or October. Tells how can give and is useful for giving to any organization not just ours
 - make more donation dollar amounts available on electronic donation site check box options
 - send out a “we’re thinking of you note:” typically yields best results when hand addressed and mailed
 - expensive option....maybe try electronic distribution of content late in the year
 - send a thank you that encourages additional donations
 - monthly communications with a philanthropy plan, to include direct distributions from accounts that require annual minimum distributions
 - end of year checklist of successes from the year
 - already incorporated into annual report
- Possible car/boat/ORV wash opportunity

Thursday, 18 September 2025

- Lisa was contacted by Terry Kramer, who owns the disabled car wash on the corner of 8 Mile Rd and Bass Lake Road, asking if she would be willing to help him find a grant to restore the car wash bays to operational status for use as car wash/boat wash/ORV wash. Terry has received a quote for repair/restoration of car wash to operational status.
- Lisa contacted Zack Peklo (North Country Cisma) who is interested in partnering, but indicated that there is likely no AIS-type grant that would support. However, he referred Lisa to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) point of contact as they often have matching type grants available for ag infrastructure development projects.
- if project moved forward, it would likely be co-sponsored by multiple organizations
- board concurred with Lisa continuing to pursue the opportunity to see where it goes
- Any Other Business
 - Emails received from Mr. Dan Shine
 - in May Lisa received email from Dan reporting his observations regarding leaves in the lake, increasing weed growth and significant increase of aquatic plant growth in channel between BBL and LBL over the past five years
 - in July Dan emailed Lisa to discuss potential to use DASH boat to remove leaves from lakebed near beach and dock areas for his property, and potentially other properties on the lake
 - Lisa discussed generic use of DASH boat for such purposes with MSU extension scientist Erick Elgin shortly after receiving July email. From an ecological standpoint, he suggested this was not good for the lake or the littoral zone around Dan's house.
 - board discussion of topic centered around proposed use of DASH to remove leaf debris from beach or dock areas would be outside of the scope of permitted operations as it may be characterized as dredging, as well as outside the scope of our organizations operations
 - vote of the board was held to document those members of the board NOT in favor of performing dredging type services
 - board vote was unanimous to NOT perform dredging type services or operations outside the scope of properly permitted activities utilizing the DASH boat
 - BBL and LBL milfoil genotyping samples

Thursday, 18 September 2025

- BLAEP was contacted earlier in the summer regarding the opportunity to conduct milfoil genotyping by Montana State University researchers paid for by existing grant funds.
- samples were taken from both BBL and LBL and submitted to Montana State University researchers
- genotyping results are pending, but anticipated sometime this winter
- Lake foam PFAS study email from MLSA
 - Lisa distributed lake foam reporting opportunity from MLSA. Lake foam is being analyzed for PFAS content.
 - those interested in reporting foam may contact designated point of contact listed in email
 - as of 17 Sep 25, Lisa has been contacted by one property owner who is interested in participating
- 2026 annual meeting guest speaker recommendation
 - Laura recommended a potential native shoreline guest speaker for the 2026 annual meeting. The person is scheduled to give a presentation for another organization in October 2025, and Laura intends to attend. More information to follow after October event.

- In-progress tasks:
 - Giving Tuesday (02Dec25) email to distribution list
 - (In progress) Discussion regarding Lake Association board engagement tabled to future board meeting
 - Discussion on specific DASH rules of operation tabled
 - DASH volunteer recruitment focus project over winter months
 - DASH volunteers complete online plant identification and verification course
 - (postpone until further notice) Tom procure additional turbidity curtain and required DASH operations items (up to \$1630 approved)
 - Tom and Heidi establish line of communication with Force Blue Team regarding partnership with operations on Big and Little Bass lakes
 - (complete) Lisa coordinate with Michael Ramsey for coordinated community outreach opportunities and messaging.
 - (complete) Lisa coordinate with Emily Fredricks and Michael Ramsey for photo opportunities during 2025 season support operations.
- Upcoming Deadlines:
 - 02 December 2025: giving Tuesday email to distribution
 - September 2026: re-evaluate Grant Watch subscription
 - TBD: modified from 15 July 2025; distribute DASH operations volunteer solicitation email once schedule rough draft coordinated
 - TBD: fundraising idea roundtable; initial discussion opened at November 2024 board meeting, but is on-going based on message and engagement refinement