

**Little Bitterroot Lake Assoc.
Annual Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Date: 8/6/2025 6pm-7:50**

Location: Marion Fire Hall

Roll Call: Dan H., Robbie T., Tanya G., Grant S., Tyler, Mike L. Buck M., Kate T., Jadin D., Mike and Shirley H., Steve M.

Treasurer Report:

- See treasurer report (approx 40K)

Guest Speaker(s):

*Hannah Shields - Daily Interlake Reporter

Randy Broedel

- 26000 Acre feet of water part of CSKT water rights (soverein nation)
- Top 8.5 ft. below full pool
- Water goes into 4 different reservoirs: LBL, Hubbard, Dry creek 1&2
- Water levels have not been maintained
- (Depeartment of Interior) above BIA. BIA over FIIP
- \$900 million over 10 years to FIIP. Dam is in need of repair
- Communication between Ryan Zinke and Flathead County Commissioners and others
- Commissioners would like to see the Bureu of Reclamation govern in this process.
- The dam has been open since atleast February 2025.

Questions for Commissioner Broedel:

Water level at both boat launches are a challenge.

The two streams that fill the lake are not refilling the lake?

Is there funding for 24/7 check stations?

Tom Millet (Montana House of Representative HD#2)

- Researched current laws about AIS
- Fines had not changed in 15 years. Laws and fines updated 2025 legislative session (see current laws)
 - Accident vs purposeful
- AIS has a lasting and devistating effect on industry

Steve Moore:

- Dan and Steve have put together a multi level defense plan. Currently working with Gov. Gianforte staff for development.

Kate Thomas (SEAP) Lori Shotnick:

- Awarded \$20,000 grant w/ \$5000 match
- Julia, principal at Marion Elementary will be assisting with implementation of grant
- 140 people as active members on the lake

John Babcock (Lake research):

- 2024 report is available on our website
- August will be his next visit
- Nitrogen levels have gone down over last 4 years
- Algae hot spots for prolific growth. We are looking

Mike and Shirley (Loon Awareness):

- Loons nest on the shore
- Sandhill cranes are using the lake shore as a nesting
- *Bring in a porta potty for events larger than your septic can handle. Most systems are designed for 3 bedroom

Skye Cooley (hydrologist and new support staff for LBLA)

- Former FIIP employee
- FIIP developed from the ground up
- Be a part of system,
- Core of FIIP in St. Ignasius
- Be at the meetings, ask the good questions,
- Water management is about data.
- Can't be anti FIIP - Budget comes from fees charged to water users.
- Who will be our data gatherer? Who will be our liaison with FIIP and others?
- Water Compact with Tribe - 1.8 bill. To SKT Not to BIA. 10s of millions used Heavy structure
- Montana Bureau and mines out of Butte is a communications avenue