

**Little Bitterroot Lake Assoc.  
2024 Annual Meeting  
Meeting Minutes  
Date:8/7/2024**

**Location: Marion Fire Hall**

**Roll Call:** Dan H., Robbie T., ~~Tanya G.~~, Tyler A., Mike H., Shirley H. Mike L. Buck M., Steve M.

**Treasurer Report:**

- See 2024 Report (Website)

**General Reports:**

- History of organization (Dan)
- Introduction of LBLA CLEAN Team: a paid team of local youth doing lakeshore clean up
- Introduction of Kate - Informational officer of septic education awareness program (SEAP). Information presented door to door.
- Intro. John B.- Tests lake water.
- Intro. Tom Millet - Running for HD2 Montana Legislature. Available for support at state level.

**Guest Speaker(s):**

- Mike Koopal (Whitefish Lake Institute and Western Mont. Conservation District)
  - Discussion risk assessment. Overlayment of septic maps and geographic features.
  - 21,400 septic systems. Known permits after 1980
  - 30 years is a typical lifespan for systems.
  - Focus on tank and leach field
  - Septage Treatment: Where does the septage go?
  - Lakeshore Violations: Construction etc.
  - Amendments to the 1975 lakeshore protection act.
  - 31 mussel fouled boats stopped so far in MT 2024
  - Microplastics and their role in the environment

- How can LBLA
  - Keep the association moving forward
  - Become involved in the Western Montana Conservation District (WMCD)
- Mike Hemmer
  - Take care of our loons “they are our canary in a coal mine”
  - Nesting taking place on Bitterroot Lake. Atleast 3 chicks seen.
  - Protect nesting areas: marshy, secluded environment
- Chris Saucier
  - New website design.
  - Please provide email so LBLA can communicate
- Dan H.
  - Dam information and water levels. 8.5 top ft belong to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai
  - Working with county on both boat launches
  - Thank you for all of your contributions.
  - Be an active boater. Out of state boats are a risk and/or our boats that we travel and return to infected waters.  
Use 1-800-TIP-MONT
- John Babcock
  - 2023 water report will be available soon (see website)
  - August is our water test time
  - Algae
  - LBLA has a fluorometer. We need to do measurements early in the morning.
  - Citizen science is really important to our mission.
  - Herig Creek has a high reading of fluorescents. Unknown reasons at this point.

Meeting adjourned: 7:50PM

