



## *Big Eau Pleine Citizens Organization*

*The purpose of the Big Eau Pleine Citizens Organization is to preserve, protect, and improve the quality of the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir, its watershed area, its surroundings, and to enhance the water quality, fishery, boating safety, and aesthetic values, as a year round public recreational facility for today and for future generations. With that in mind, we would like to show the Bepco membership what their membership dues have accomplished. It is only through your participation that these goals were achieved.*

## **BEPCO'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **2008**

- Bepco revived
- Officers & Board of Directors formed
- Website Launched

### **2009**

- By-laws are written and approved
- BEPCO communicated to the local, state & national media drawing attention to the massive fish kill
- Symposium - BEPCO rallied many organizations (DNR, WVIC, Marathon County, Media, and State & Federal Officials) to begin to address massive fish kill
- First BEPCO Annual Meeting & Picnic held at Big Eau Pleine County Park
- BEPCO participated in the Marathon County Big Eau Pleine Task Force
- Granted tax exempt 501(c)(3) status-all dues & donations tax deductible
- Joined River Alliance of Wisconsin
- Joined Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
- Joined Walleyes for Tomorrow
- Communications with other state lake groups
- Initiated the 2011 FERC/ WVIC's License Review

### **2010**

- Aerator fundraising goal exceeded
- Marathon County ATC (Environmental Impact Fund) matching funds approved
- Installation & Upgrade work completed on Aerator
- 1st Newsletter (Bepco Bulletin) sent to individuals in the BEP watershed
- "60% Solution" identified as a way to prevent future fish kills
- Membership nears 200

### **2011**

- BEPCO creates a Facebook page
- Series of informational articles on the 2011 FERC/ WVIC License Review were communicated to members and media
- PowerPoint presentation completed on the 60% Solution to Prevent Future Fish Kills
- First Carp Bow Fishing Contest held
- Awarded a \$3,000 grant from DNR to improve our communication to membership & record keeping
- First Annual Boat Parade
- Upgraded the Oxbo Boat Landing with grant along with help and donated materials from members
- A strategic plan was developed for 2012

## **2012**

- Manure Digester Study started-tours in Clark County and Dane County
- BEPCO members participated in water clarity testing on the BEP
- BEPCO sponsored Wisconsin Bowfishing Assoc. tournament and provided breakfast
- Life Jacket Day Loan Project launched & successful at Lisa's Landing
- Second Annual Boat Parade doubles in participation
- Slow-No Wake signs put on all bridges on the BEP
- BEPCO sponsored WDNR Boaters
- Safety Course
- BEPCO tours dam operations of the Big Eau Pleine

## **2013**

- Updated BEPCO Brochure
- Walleyes for Tomorrow fish hatchery
- Updated Fisherman's Cove Landing with a grant along with help and donated materials from members
- Granite added to the Maryel Boat Landing
- Meeting with Marathon County Conservation, Planning, & Zoning(CPZ), BEPCO & River Alliance to discuss partnerships/collaboration
- Attended Lake Wausau Assoc. Annual Meeting & Fundraiser
- DNR River planning grant submitted
- Science Committee formed for ongoing meetings Marathon County, DNR, UWSP Etc. to discuss fisheries and lake management planning
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Boat Parade
- AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) Signs placed at boat landings
- Fenwood Creek Project where BEPCO continues to test the water for phosphorus levels
- Bridge lights for Hwy S, Hwy O and Spindler's Bridges
- Application for grant to have UWSP study oxygen depletion in winter
- Aerator operation meeting with DNR and WVIC and Marathon County
- Met with DNR to discuss the fishery
- Attended WI River Water Quality Improvement Symposium
- Attended River Alliance Workshop

## **2014**

- BEPCO purchased coasters and can coolers for members and area bars.
- WI River Symposium
- Lake Planning Grant submitted and was awarded a two \$25,000 grants working towards a Lake Management plan for the Big Eau Pleine
- \$2,500 Grant awarded to BEPCO for their website
- Communication Committee formed to work on BEPCO's website
- President and Vice President attended WI River Gathering
- Walleyes for Tomorrow Hatchery Project in year two of a five plan to stock Walleyes
- BEPCO purchased a motor and pump for the aerator system
- Manure Discharge in Marathon County
- BEPCO members attended a Farm tour of two area farms
- BEPCO's website updated and revised

## **2015**

- PayPal Account set up on our website for paying memberships
- Attended 5<sup>th</sup> Annual WI River Quality Improvement Symposium

- Lake Management Planning Kick-off at BEPCO's February General Meeting
- Presentation on the Fisheries on the Big Eau Pleine in May
- 7<sup>TH</sup> Annual Meeting and Picnic was held at Hotchkiss's Last Cast where BEPCO sponsored the Central Wisconsin Water Walkers Ski show.
- Community Conversation was held at Town of Emmet Halder Community center with a presentation on Shoreland Management on the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir.
- Aaron Thompson, Land Use Specialist, UW-Extension Center for Land Use Education, "Over 300 people weighed in on the Big Eau Pleine—now what?" provided discussion and interpretation of Big Eau Pleine rural landowner and waterfront property owner survey results at the August General Meeting. There was a 73% response, which is well above the normal response rate to surveys of 10-15%.
- Jean Abreu-Biology Teacher from Edgar High School gave a presentation on her work with her students over the last three years on Fenwood Creek Testing.
- BEPCO along with several lake association groups from the state participated in a meeting with the Secretary of WDNR, Cathy Stepp to discuss shared interests.
- WDNR awarded BEPCO an extension until June 2016 to complete the Lake Management Plan for the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir.

## **2016**

- Board members met with Allison Werner and Matt Krueger from River Alliance of WI to work on our organizational plan for BEPCO for 2016.
- Supported Walleyes For Tomorrow with their drive to stock three million fry into the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir
- Eighth Annual Meeting and Picnic held at Hotchkiss's Last Cast.
- 2016 Fall BEPCO Boat Tour with area farmers, local & state government officials, BEPCO members, & DNR staff. The participants were given pontoon rides to observe some of BEPCO'S Projects and to network regarding shared concerns about the status of the Big Eau Pleine Reservoir.
- Participated in the initial meeting of the Lake Management Grant Advisory Board, which will address the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with interested parties to the operation of the Aerator.

## **2017**

- Final paperwork submitted to the DNR on the two grants Bepco was awarded.
- Finalization on the Big Eau Pleine Lake Management plan
- Partnered with Walleyes for Tomorrow to stock Walleye Fry (approx. 3 million) in the Big Eau Pleine
- Implemented a 3 tier system for our membership dues consisting of a Household Perch, Walleye, & Muskie memberships (\$25/\$50/\$100) and Business (\$40/\$80/\$120)
- BEPCO involved with partners to update the Memorandum of Agreement for the operation of the aerator
- 2017 Annual Meeting & Picnic held at the Marathon County Big Eau Pleine Park-South Shelter
- BEPCO members rebuilt the Life jacket Kiosk at the Maryel Boat Landing after the previous Kiosk was vandalized.
- BEPCO participated in a meeting with local stakeholders to discuss the issues relating to the Big Eau Pleine Watershed

Updated January 14, 2018