**Blue Lake Improvement District (BLID)**

**Membership Annual Meeting Minutes: August 28, 2021, 10:00 a.m.**

**Place:** ZOOM Electronic Meeting (meeting recorded)

**Directors Present:** David Badger (2022), Dan Dixon (2021), Don Davies (2021), Bill Fredell (2023), John Bistodeau (2021), Jill Gohman (2022), Becky Schulz (2023) Guests: Tiffany Determan SWCO, Brad Brown Spencer Brook Township Supervisor, Greg Anderson Isanti County Commissioner.

**Members present:** 20 property owners

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by David Badger at 10:00 a.m. and the agenda was approved as presented. **Minutes Approval:** Minutes of the 2020 BLID Membership meeting were reviewed by Jill and approved.

**County Commissioner Greg Anderson:** Greg shared the county’s water shed plan which includes Blue Lake. There is a new American Rescue Plan of 2021. Due to Covid monies have been allocated to the county from Federal funds. $7.8 Million, half of which has been received. Road construction is planned for County Road 5 next year, from Hwy 47 to Co. Rd. 10. The Auction of tax forfeited-properties is scheduled for October 1-9am at the Government Center. Please see county website for info.

**Spencer Brook Supervisor Brad Brown:** Update given on the North landing. No parking ordinance is in place. Sheriff will not tow but will enforce no parking by ticketing cards. It is a long walk to drop boat and then find parking so may discourage use of the north landing. Concern that the East landing will be utilized more. Loren Daudt of Stanford township reported to Brad that unfortunately someone had pushed the porta pottie from the east landing into the lake and Lyle had retrieved it.

Lisa Lovering, Isanti County Sheriffs Office (ICSO). Stated she was happy to hear about the work that has been done on the North Access for parking issues. She stated the county sees parking issues at all of the lakes with Green Lake being the worse. ICSO recently received a $4,500 grant to go towards more boat patrol wages. They are also going to ensure that all of ICS have life jackets in their cars with those funds so they don’t have any accidents like there has been in the past. They are working with the DNR on cold water rescues. She noted that they have had some high profile cases recently and they are still struggling with being fully staffed. She noted they were hosting an ATV class for the youth this weekend.

**Committee Reports:**

**AIS Boat Monitoring Report:** Waterguards is the vendor BLID has been unting to hire DNR trained monitors for the North and East landings on Blue Lake. Blue Lake had good coverage for the summer season with a total of 790 hours. Total budget for employees of $15,000.00. Monies are given from the County ($7,800), BLID ($3,000) and Stanford Township ($3,500).

**Water Quality Reports:** Dan Dixon: Water quality testing is off cycle this year. Samples are gathered every three years. Next year samples will be taken.

**Healthy Lake Project: Tiffany Determan, District Manager Isanti SWCD**

Blue Lake is on a 10-year water quality study. Blue Lake would most likely have reached the impaired status if nothing had been done in the last few years to restore the water quality. Blue Lake is in good condition and qualifies to continue the healthy lake projects. County is invested in getting Blue Lake healthier. Phosphate-reduction projects so far have been successful.

Blue Lake is not currently listed as impaired by the State of Minnesota, but we believe it will be placed on the 303(d) impaired waters list during the next 10-year MPCA watershed assessment cycle (2026-27). Growing season total phosphorus concentrations in Blue Lake’s south basin have average 41 µg/L, and Chlorophyll-a concentrations have average 19.1 µg/L over the most recent 10-year period. The results only slightly exceed the 40 µg/L standard for TP and 13 µg/L standard for chlorophyll-a for deep lakes within the North Central Hardwoods ecoregion.

No lake monitoring was done in 2020 or 2021. Based on the monitoring plan developed in 2014, lake monitoring would occur again in 2023. Determan suggests that the BLID consider lake monitoring in 2022. This monitoring would help us track changes in lake health in response to the projects that have been done on the upland and, in the future, to the Alum Treatment. If we receive the grant for Alum, monitoring in 2022 is necessary. If we don’t, the BLID should consider Secchi disk monitoring at a minimum.

Based on the extensive studies and monitoring we have done on Blue Lake- our goal is to reduce phosphorus loading by 360 pounds/yr. 102 pounds from external sources (the land area draining to the lake) and the rest from internal sources (this is nutrients being recycled from within the lake itself). The reduction will bring the lake back into the protection zone (keeping it from being listed as impaired and clean for recreation).

**Alum Project**: A grant request in the amount of $384,630k has been submitted to help finance the project and has a good chance of being approved. The County should know if they have received the grant by the end of 2021. BLID would be matching those funds at $96k in order to pay for the entire project. The plan would be to begin in 2022. ALUM has been known to be effective for over 20 years. It captures 90% of the phosphates, the water will become more clear, more plants. She noted that John Bistodeau has done an excellent job in keeping our curly leaf down and that doing this alum project would result in more vegetation growing including curly leaf. The DNR has already been in communication with the County to help with a vegetation plan including but not limited to a variance to treat even more area for curly leaf should we need to. One Watershed/One Plan – Blue Lake is a priority.

**Weed Treatment:** John Bistodeau

Each year the BLID does general area chemical treatment for Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). This treatment is limited to about a total of 20 acres for Blue lake (DNR limit 15% of Littoral area).

For 2021 we again received a grant from DNR for spraying (Helps pay for the lake wide spraying).

Activities for 2021 spraying:

1. Grant Application (Feb) – Grant was approved and fully executed March 22. Grant required pretreatment delineation report. - COMPLETED
2. Lake Management – Selected as spraying contractor. AIS Consulting – selected for Delineation Survey. Both were used in 2020 with good results. COMPLETED
3. Gained approval from DNR to use Diquat in 2021. April 9th. COMPLETED
4. Signature Waiver – Sent out to all lake owners April 20th with responses due no later than April 30th. Responses built into plan. COMPLETED
5. Delineation Survey Completed (5/10) and submitted to DNR (MAP included below from AIS consulting) COMPLETED
6. DNR Permit issued with focus on areas of highest density and potential effectiveness (5/13– DNR approved map included) COMPLETED
7. Lake Wide spraying occurred (5/20) COMPLETED
8. Post Treatment Survey(s) – AIS Consulting (Scheduled Mid-June), DNR is scheduled to come out 5/21/2021 COMPLETED
9. Planning for 2022 (Started)
   1. Diquat approval from DNR COMPLETED
   2. Working with DNR on a plan for late bloom within North Bay (AIS Consulting Recommendation)
   3. Starting to explore shifting from AIS only control to AIS and Native plant control post Alum treatment.
   4. Would like to better understand effectiveness of mechanical contractors by individual homeowners. Please provide feedback to BLID Board members.

If anyone has any questions or feedback relating to lake weeds or general spraying feel free to contact John Bistodeau 763-389-4500.

**Education: Website and Newsletters – Jill Gohman, Bill Fredell**

Jill discussed welcome packets for new owners going back to 2019. Packet would include Education on being a lake advocate. Jill has been working on an education card to be given to boats owners using the public boat accesses, that will mainly focus on boat etiquette.

Jill also encouraged members to seek out information on the Website. This will be BLID’s one stop shop for education, information, history, and Board contact information.

Bill reviewed the monthly **Blue Lake Bulletin** which is sent out to approximately 150 recipients. Report shows about 65% open the newsletter. Jill noted everyone has really enjoyed the newsletter and appreciate Bill’s efforts.

**Financial Report – Don Davies**

Don presented the budget and reported finances are in good shape and we have reserves set aside for the Alum Project. The budget projects a deficit of $8,970 due primarily to an increase int the amount to be transferred to the Major Project Reserve in anticipation of the Alum Project. He stated that the Lake Owner Assessment would remain at $250 per property owner.

A motion to accept the 2022 budget including the owner assessment of $250 was made, seconded and approved.

He reminded the members that the BLID is legally on a fiscal year ending June 30th. He briefly reviewed the results of the year ending June 30, 2021:

* + Actual beginning cash: $86,546.
  + Income from assessments totaled: $36,500.
  + Cash Expenses included: Boat Monitoring ($15000 less subsidies of $7,800 from Isanti County and $3,500 from Stanford Township); Water Quality Study ($100.00); weed mapping ($1500) Weed Control ($4000.00); and administrative expenses ($1,650).
  + Ending cash was $117,879.

Additionally, $54,002 was transferred to a SWCD Project Reserve and $15,000 to the Rapid Response Reserve.

A motion to accept the fiscal year 2021 financials was made, seconded and approved.

**Election of Directors** – Bill Fredell reported the results of the elections. Unfortunately, only 13 ballots were returned.

John Bistodeau was once again elected for a three year period as Aquatic Invasive Species Chair. Don Davies was also once again elected as treasurer for the next three years. We appreciate John and Don’s commitment.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully, submitted

Rebecca Schulz, BLID Secretary