

Blue Lake Improvement District (BLID)

Membership Annual Meeting Minutes: August 26, 2017, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Stanford Township Meeting Hall.

Directors Present: Bill Yueill (2017), George Golden (2017), Don Davies (2018), Don Herman (2019), Jim Lefebvre (2019), John Bistodeau (2018)

Member Attendance: 20 property owners represented.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Bill Yueill at 10:00 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the approval of the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the Prior Annual Meeting: A motion was made and seconded to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the Annual Meeting of August 27, 2016 which had been previously distributed to members.

Financial Report: Don Davies briefly discussed the fiscal year (July 1, 2016 to June 30 2017) comparative financial report which had been previously distributed to members. He noted that while assessments remained constant, government grants had increased by nearly \$4,000 between years and total expenses decreased by \$5,000 (including a \$3,600 decrease in Boat Monitoring fees. The cash balance as of June 30th was \$36,693. A motion was made and seconded to accept the annual financial statements.

Report from the Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District: Tiffany Determan gave a brief background of the SWCD's involvement at Blue Lake and the findings from the water quality monitoring over the past two years. She noted that while the lake as a whole is still fairly healthy, recorded readings of phosphorus and algae have been high enough to potentially warrant being added to the State's 2018 Impaired Lake list.

She reviewed the SWCD Stormwater Retrofit Assessment process which identified and ranked water quality projects by cost and effectiveness for purposes of determining potential grant eligibility. The results identified 12 direct drainage projects and 97 rural (off-lake) projects. Six projects achieved the highest priority and have been included in a Clean Water Fund grant proposal (with *30 year cost/pound of phosphorus removal* noted):

- Two rain gardens on the upper lake to contain road runoff – matching funds to be provided by Spencer Brook Township
- One private owner erosion project for lakeshore restoration (*\$280 cost/pound*) - with owner match
- Erosion project at east boat landing (*\$237 cost/pound*) – matching funds provided by Stanford Township
- Berm and sand filter project on tributary coming through camp ground by east access (*\$150 cost/pound*) This tributary recorded the highest phosphorus readings on the lake.

She noted that these six projects could potentially reduce the phosphorous entering the lake by 10% over two years. An overall 35% reduction would bring the lake well back into line.

Next, Tiffany focused on the camp ground tributary. She noted that their research determined that the phosphorus was coming from the 256 acres of wetlands upstream from the tributary and was not initiated by the camp grounds, but required their cooperation to correct. The project

would include a berm to hold back some of the water coming out of the wetland and direct the remaining through a sand filter which would contain the particulates. The berm would be constructed in a way to handle up to a 1 ½ inch rain event without creating any flooding of the camp ground. It is estimated that the project could remove up to 81 pounds of phosphorus runoff per year which translates into a 40,000 pound reduction of algae in the lake. The berm and filter should have a 30 year life with proper maintenance which includes annual filter raking and vegetation removal, 5 year drain tile cleaning and some sand replacement. She recommended setting up a maintenance reserve and funding it with \$1,000 per year.

The total cost of all of the projects in the grant proposal is \$250,000. The BLID match for the berm and sand filter project would be \$33,000 payable over two years. She also recommended that a maintenance agreement be signed between the BLID and camp ground in terms of access for maintenance.

Finally, Tiffany addressed several questions from the members:

- In response to a question about accessing more information, she indicated that she would provide the executive summary of the SWCD report for adding or linking to the BLID website.
- As far as what members can do on their own to improve water quality, she suggested addressing any areas where water run-off could enter the lake and making use of rain gardens or other shoreline buffer options.
- It was requested that SWCD add one more tributary to its monitoring procedures that is located on the west side of the lower lake. She agreed to meet with the neighboring owner to assess how best to accomplish.

The Chairman and all those present thanked Tiffany for a very informative presentation.

2018 BLID Budget Presentation: Don Davies briefly highlighted the 2018 budget draft that had previously been distributed to all BLID members. He made special note of the following:

- There would be no change in the member assessment for 2018 (\$250).
- The estimated first year cost of the camp ground phosphorus remediation project (\$21,500) and the first year addition to the maintenance reserve (\$1,000) would create a planned deficit for the year which would reduce the cumulative reserve to approximately \$16,000.

After brief discussion, a motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the 2018 budget and commit to funding the matching portion of the remediation project.

Isanti County Sheriff Annual Report: Sheriff Chris Caulk discussed a few pertinent law enforcement issues relating to our area of the county:

- His office has received only one complaint this year about parking problems near the accesses.
- There have been minimal crime calls in this area of the county which he attributes to more deputy visibility.
- His department is now tallying security checks of businesses and properties as a reference point to analyzing impact on crime calls.
- The department currently consists of 13 deputies and 3 investigators along with 150 volunteers in various areas. Their headquarters has moved to a new location which allowed for a significant expansion of the dispatch center.

- In response to a question about response time in this area of the county, he noted that the average emergency response time is 8-10 minutes and that there is cooperation with Sherburne County as well as access to trained emergency responders in the area.

All present thanked the Sheriff for what he and the department are doing for us.

Committee Reports:

- **Water Quality** – Jim Lefebvre thanked Tiffany for delivering his report and also thanked the volunteers for their monitoring efforts that provided information for SWCD.
- **Weed Spraying** – John Bistodeau discussed his committee's objectives in reviewing historical spraying and effectiveness data from the last two vendors. He pointed out the need to negotiate with the DNR for larger areas to spray in order to have an impact on the lake. Concern was voiced by the members as to the effectiveness of spraying over the last two years which could compound the problems in following years. The timing of spraying in the spring is the key, and optimum timing is affected by a variety of components including changes in temperature and delays in the permit approval process. He felt that our participation in the Isanti County Coalition of Lake Associations (IC-COLA) could provide more leverage with the DNR going forward. He and Tiffany also addressed questions about eliminating purple loosestrife and coontail weed which require observance of DNR regulations.
- **Boat Monitoring** – Don Herman provided a brief report on the boat monitoring at the two access areas. He noted that the teen inspectors hired through WaterGuards seem to be doing their jobs well based on monitoring done by his committee. Fortunately, only one boat with an invasive species was caught so far this year. The inspectors provide data for each boat to the DNR by cell phone which can be accessed (with some difficulty) each fall.

Results of Director Election – Don Davies reported the results of the election for filling three open Director positions, noting that 20 owners had voted. Votes were cast for all three incumbents plus write-in votes for Janet Burda. The three incumbent Directors (Dan Dixon, George Golden and Bill Yueill) received the most votes and were therefore elected to serve new three year terms.

Other Business – In response to a question about Director recruitment, Don Davies recommended that the Board develop a more comprehensive process to open up nominations each year. This could include creating an application form and determining a specific application period prior to each Annual Meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m. The group was reminded of the annual Blue Lake Association picnic that would take place at 5:00 p.m. this afternoon at the home of Danielle Thompson, 28647 Blue Lake Drive NW Zimmerman (Little Blue).

Respectfully submitted,

Don Davies, Secretary