

## Blue Lake Improvement District (BLID)

### Membership Annual Meeting Minutes: August 27, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

**Place:** Stanford Township Meeting Hall.

**Directors Present:** Bill Yueill (2017), George Golden (2017), Don Davies (2018), Don Herman (2016), Jim Lefebvre (2016), 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 29, 2015 which had been previously distributed to members.

**Isanti County Sheriff Report:** Chris Caulk, Isanti County Sheriff was introduced and he, in turn, introduced three deputies who cover our area of the county. He addressed several issues relating to the lake:

- Boat Accesses and Parking – He addressed questions and concerns about parking problems, particularly at the north access. Solutions are limited, especially on holiday weekends, but safety issues will always be addressed.
- Noise Complaints – In response to a question regarding loud parties late at night, he indicated that registering complaints with his office is encouraged and his staff will encourage turning down sound by 10pm and off by 11-12pm on weekends. No permits are required for DJ-type events.
- Burglaries – He noted that there have been a number of “crimes of opportunity” around the lake relating to mostly unsecured equipment. He encouraged securing such items when possible and the effectiveness of neighborhood watch programs.
- New Sheriff’s Office – Sheriff’s office functions will be consolidated into a new building by March 2017. He noted that 100M 911 calls are received annually.
- Coverage – He indicated that his deputies cover over 500 square miles in the county and that coverage has more recently been affected by the need to have two officers cover certain incidents for safety reasons.

#### Committee Reports:

- **Weed Control** – George Golden distributed and discussed a handout from Lake Restoration which provided information and a map describing this year’s common area curlyleaf pondweed treatment. He noted that it was probably not as effective as in the past years because the treatment occurred a bit too early based on DNR calendar requirements. He also reported that Christine Jurek of the DNR chose eight spots to release beetles in the channel where the vegetation mat met the purple loosestrife plants. Questions were raised about the effectiveness of such treatments in the rest of the lake.
- **Water Quality** – Jim Lefebvre reported that water temperature and clarity monitoring procedures are performed twice a month by BLID volunteers (Jim and Dave Bebeau). Water clarity early in the year was particularly good. Isanti

SWCD manager, Tiffany Determan and technician Todd Kulaf were introduced and distributed a Projects and Monitoring Report. Tiffany noted that there is a high priority to protect and improve the health of Blue Lake because, based on the trending of monitoring results, it is close to being categorized as impaired due to excess nutrients in the lake. Voluntary efforts will be required to correct the situation as regulatory resources are not sufficient. Todd described the spring curlyleaf pondweed mapping survey process to determine areas of weed density which is followed up by a late summer survey of results. Questions were raised to Tiffany and Todd regarding the increase in weeds such as coontail and celery grass. It was noted that some spraying is possible with a DNR permit and the harvesting by Dockside could also be effective in a limited area. Tiffany noted that it is natural that when some weeds are removed by spraying, other weeds tend to fill in the void – the result of more phosphorus in the lake will be more weed diversity.. Purple loosestrife was also discussed.

In terms of ongoing initiatives:

- Blue Lake Watershed Study – SWCD is identifying projects within the watershed that will benefit lake water quality. The study is 75% funded by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Eight potential projects have been identified as potential sources of nutrient and sediment pollution and are being prioritized on cost effectiveness. The study should be completed by the end of the year.
- Project Grant Applications – Two grants are being applied for by SWCD which will require 25% matching by BLID and/or individual owners:
  - Storm water Reduction – target highest priority areas for lakeshore restoration to protect runoff and erosion. Members could participate by implementing shoreline restoration projects on their property.
  - Tributary Monitoring – Study the SE tributary to determine the extent it may be contributing to nutrient pollution and how that could be treated at the lake. 68 pound potential phosphorous reduction. An additional grant would be needed to fund the remediation solution. (iron or limestone filter system).

**Education:** George Golden reported that Jeanne Fanning is the new website coordinator. Deanna Louie coordinates information on reducing phosphorus into the lake, and to that point, she rapidly provided several tips on how lake owners could prevent nutrients going into the lake from their properties.

**Access Monitoring:** Don Herman provided an update on the results of access monitoring contracted through WaterGuards. We pay \$17/hour for this contract work (\$19,200 budget) with funding coming from Stanford Township (\$3,500), Spencer Brook Township (\$200) and Isanti County (\$3,400). He then introduced Austin Scherer, team leader and inspector for WaterGuards, who provided the following information for this year so far:

- 1,166 boats checked – 472 east access, 694 northwest access
- 27 boats sent away because drain plugs still in
- 10 boats had mud that needed to be removed
- 13 boats with plants that needed to be removed
- **1 boat with zebra mussels that was denied entry.**

**Financial Report:** Don Davies presented the *2017 Calendar Year Budget Comparison* which had been previously distributed to members. He noted that 2016 was estimated to end with a small excess due to underspending in weed treatment and education. This could potentially result in a reserve of nearly \$14,000 at year-end. The 2017 budget was anticipated to have no change in weed treatment, water quality monitoring and boat inspection services, but anticipated new costs relating to the tributary study and lakeshore buffer projects that would create a deficit for the year that would reduce the cumulative reserve to just over \$5,000 at the end of 2017 with a continuing assessment of \$250 per owner. Don then reminded the members that, although budgets and assessments are developed on a calendar year basis, the organization's year-end technically ends on June 30<sup>th</sup> of each year to accommodate an August Annual Meeting. An accrual basis Profit and Loss statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 was then distributed and briefly discussed which reflected net income of \$8,820.57 for the year and an ending member equity of \$19,031.64.

**Assessment and Financial Statement Approval:** A motion was made and seconded to accept the fiscal year financial report and approve the Board recommendation that the 2017 member assessment remain at \$250.00. The motion passes unanimously.

**Board Election Results:** Don Davies reported that the Board election results, tallied by John and Jean Touhy, confirmed the approval of the replacement appointments of Dan Dixon (2017) and John Bistodeau (2018), and the re-election of Don Herman and Jim Lefebvre for new three year terms.

**New Business:**

- It was suggested that a Member meeting be called following the completion of the watershed report to discuss its ramifications. It was agreed that the Board will make the decision as to the timing of such a meeting if it deems it necessary.
- Members were reminded that scheduled Board and member meetings are provided on the BLID website (BLIDMN.org) and also in the legal reporting section of the Isanti County News and through member emails when appropriate.

**County Commissioner Report:** Greg Anderson, commissioner for District 3 (Bradford, Spencer Brook and Stanford townships) briefly described his background (35 years in the MN Department of Agriculture in conservation areas) and the Isanti County Water Plan which dovetails well with what BLID is doing by focusing on (1) ground water, (2) surface water, (3) land use, and (4) invasive species.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m. Jean and John Touhy reminded the group of the Blue Lake Association picnic at their home beginning at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Davies, Secretary