

Blue Lake Improvement District (BLID)

Board of Directors and Membership Annual Meeting, Aug. 29, 2015

10 a.m. Stanford Township Hall

Directors Present: Kathy Rabenberg, Don Davies, George Golden, Don Herman, Bill Fredell

Attendance: Approximately 45 people attended the meeting.

1. **Call to Order.** George Golden called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and welcomed guests and members of the Blue Lake Community.
2. **Introductions:** George Golden introduced Stephanie Johnson who reported on the activities of Water Guards over the summer, citing that 1445 boats were inspected as they entered Blue Lake from both access points. Austin Shearer and Jon Jackson, the principal inspectors during the 2015 summer season, were introduced. Stephanie Johnson went on to explain that in the 2016 summer, she recommends adding other inspectors as well as tablet technology to track boat traffic into the lake.
3. George Golden then introduced Isanti County Sheriff, Chris Caulk. Sheriff Caulk summarized the activities of his team as it relates to Blue Lake. There is a boat patrol periodically on Blue Lake, the result of a DNR grant. Some personnel are licensed deputies, while others are volunteer deputies. The officers have weekly scans of side roads throughout the county to detect problem areas. When asked if the Sheriff's patrols the ice for disruptive behavior of ice fishermen, Sheriff Caulk said that he does not routinely want vehicles and deputies on the ice, but they will respond in emergencies. Another resident asked about the responsibility for fish houses left on the ice after the spring deadline. Sheriff Caulk said that the DNR has full responsibility for fish houses left on the lakes after the removal deadline. Sheriff Caulk also encouraged lake residents to capture video, photos, license plates numbers whenever they see things that appear suspicious or illegal or are a nuisance. Contact the sheriff's office with this information as soon as possible.
4. **Committee Reports:**
 - **Water Quality Committee.** Todd Kulaf, Isanti County Conservation Technician, was introduced. He provided a written and oral summary of the activities of the Water Quality Committee. The report encompassed activities relative to weed mapping, lake quality monitoring with the help of BLID volunteers, tributary stream monitoring, also with the assistance of BLID volunteers and the lake watershed study to identify and rank projects that will benefit the lake. A detailed report was distributed to the meeting attendees, and is attached to these minutes.
 - **Invasive weed control and lakeshore weed control.** Mike Norton, field representative of Lake Restoration, our supplier of weed treatments, presented a report showing the off-shore treatments areas for curly leaf pondweed. He also explained how a mid-season review of the treated areas shows that all CLP had been fully eradicated in the target areas. In addition, Norton explained that Lake Restoration had also provided on-shore treatment for a wide variety of nuisance weeds for shore line property owners. The off-shore and on-shore treatment areas amounted to 15 treatment acres, the amount allowed by the DNR. A written report is attached to these minutes.
 - Bill Fredell, Weed Committee Chair, provided an update on the issue of purple loosestrife. While this is an obvious issue on Blue Lake shore and marsh areas, the DNR specialist,

Christine Jurek, evaluated the purple loosestrife growth on Blue Lake. Her opinion is that it is not a significant problem because there is still widespread natural vegetation such as cattails and that the infestations were not serious enough to warrant alarm. Lake shore property owners are encouraged to spray purple loosestrife plants with Round Up to contain the spread of this weed. In marshy areas, the best approach is to use beetles because they eat the seeds of the plant. The weed committee will continue to monitor purple loosestrife and to find a way to secure and distribute beetles into affected areas in the future.

- Fredell also explained how lakeshore property owners would be receiving a “signature waiver” from BLID in the winter. This signature waiver offers property owners a chance to refuse off-shore weed treatments if they come within 150 feet of the property owner’s shore. If a property owner objects to weed treatments within 150 feet, the property owner must send in the signature waiver. If the property owner doesn’t object to the treatment within 150 feet of his/her property, no action is necessary.

Becky Shultz asked Norton about a product called Muck Mate, distributed by Lake Restoration. Norton explained that this is an enzyme product that helps break down organic lake muck. It can be applied anytime, and it does not require a permit. Shultz has been quite satisfied with the results. She suggested that Muck Mate be considered to reduce much in the channel between the little and big lake. Norton said that before that it done, he recommends getting a core sample of the lake bottom in that area.

- **Education Committee.** George Golden summarized the activities of the education committee. BLID received only a \$102 grant for education. This money was used for brochures and signage to be used at the inspection points.
 - **Don Herman, chair of the watercraft inspections committee, added to the report given earlier by Stephanie Johnson of Water Guards.** Key information included the following:
 - Watercraft inspections ranged from zero to six watercraft per hour at an access.
 - The NW access was the busier of the two accesses. Friday through Sunday represent the busiest days, and June is the busiest month. Busiest days were June 19, with 67 watercraft, June 21, with 70, and July 3 with 92.
 - Herman also pointed out that while Stanford Township supports the inspections with a \$3,500 grants each year, Spencer Brook Township does not. Spencer Brook did offer to provide a portable toilet and service this year. Herman encouraged Spencer Brook township residents to attend the March 2016 meeting when grants are decided. The volume of boat traffic at the NW access (located in Spencer Brook Township) would warrant additional support in 2016 and going forward.
5. **Election Results.** Ben Connors was elected to the board, and Don Davies was elected for an additional term. Kathy Rabenberg was thanked for her service for two years. She did not seek re-election. Thanks to Bob and Mary Fredell for serving as tellers for the voting.
6. **Financial Report.** Don Davies distributed copies of the BLID Budget and Expenses to date. He reviewed the financial activities of the fiscal year ending June 30, yet showed how the calendar and fiscal year activities are reported. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve all line items that amounted to more than \$5,000. There will be a surplus estimated at \$10, 018 at the calendar year end. This surplus will be kept for emergencies – such as a sudden invasion of a specific plant or animal that requires immediate attention.
- Davies then went on to explain the board’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2015-16 (from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016). This budget is based on Lake Owner property assessments of

\$36,000. And while some grants are anticipated, but budget is not based on money not-yet granted. It was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to accept the budget as presented. In a related action, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to approve a \$250 per lake property owner assessment via Isanti County property taxation. A written financial report is attached to these minutes.

7. New Business

- Don Herman spoke to emphasize the importance of attending the Spencer Brook Township Meeting on March 8, at the Spencer Brook Town Hall. It was mentioned that the NW access on Blue Lake is the biggest and most used park in the township. Property owners must be residents of the township to vote, but attendance is encouraged.
 - Steve Fredell mentioned that the sign explaining hours of use had gone missing from the NW access. BLID will investigate.
 - Becky Shultz mentioned the seriousness of shoreline erosion caused by large boats.
 - Cindy Miller mentioned that during evening hours at times, there were bumpered together pontoons in the large bay, often with young people who were partying and drinking heavily. It was suggested that when this happens she should call the Sheriff's office.
8. **Greg Anderson, Isanti County** Commissioner for an area including Blue Lake, was introduced. He was encouraged by the work of BLID and explained that the 10-year water plan for the county would impact Blue Lake. The county is investigating deep underground reservoirs, involved an MRI type of imaging to determine the health and problems of deep ground water. He was happy that Blue Lake would be involved in this study.
9. **Adjournment.** There being no further business, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Jean and John Touhy reminded the assembled group of the Blue Lake Picnic at their home beginning a 5 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Fredell, Secretary