

Blue Lake Improvement District

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: June 6, 2014, 4 p.m.

Place: Stanford Township Hall

Directors Attending: Bill Yueill, George Golden, Jim Lefebvre, Jean Tuohy, Don Herman

Directors absent: Don Davies, Kathy Rabenberg

Bill Fredell was present to record the minutes of the meeting

Guests in Attendance: Holly Nelson, Isanti Count Pollution Control, Jamie Schurborn, Matt Cook, Isanti County intern.

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Bill Yueill at 4 p.m.

An agenda for the meeting had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

1. **Approval of Minutes.** A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to accept the minutes of the May 2, 2014 meeting as submitted.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** George Golden said that there was nothing new to report on the budget or finances since the last meeting. We have been approved for the MN Intercounty Trust Program (insurance pool) and are still awaiting an invoice for this service.
3. **Lake Management Plan Proposal.** Open discussion with Jamie Schurbon, Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation Manager, Holly Nelson, Isanti County Zoning Office – environment and compliance manager, and Matt Cook, Isanti County intern working with Jamie Schurbon. The Board members present were impressed by the level of knowledge and experience shared as well as the representatives' willingness to help the BLID develop its lake management approach and plan. Items discussed follow:
 - a. Rum River Watershed Study. This five-year program includes all waters in the Rum River Watershed, especially those that are considered impaired. Blue Lake is considered borderline impaired.
 - b. MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is monitoring Blue Lake, but we are not sure who is responsible for this monitoring. Holly suggested that we contact Aaron at the MPCA to determine who is monitoring, why the lake is being monitored, and what the results of the monitoring are. Normally in these studies, the full water column sample is studied to determine where the phosphorous is coming from – internal sources or external ones. This is referred to as internal or external loading.
 - c. We learned that there is currently no monitoring of the streams that flow into Blue Lake, so we are not sure whether or not the streams feeding the lake are clean or not. This will be important information going forward with planning.
 - d. We learned that there is a county-wide Water Management Plan that we should reference as we determine our lake management plan. This plan is published on the Isanti County website --
[http://www.co.isanti.mn.us/media/userfiles/subsite_93/files/Table%20of%20Contents%20Water%20Plan%202006-2015\(2\).pdf](http://www.co.isanti.mn.us/media/userfiles/subsite_93/files/Table%20of%20Contents%20Water%20Plan%202006-2015(2).pdf).

- e. A question was raised about the mapping of the lake for weed spraying in the past, present and future. Who is handling this mapping? Bill Yueill to check with Lake Management, the spraying supplier. Paul Isensee and Doug Oster may have some history on spraying for curly leaf pond weed.
- f. When asked about successful projects, Holly Nelson offered an experiment that is underway at Rush Lake, an impaired water. There, the Lake Improvement District has secured permission to spread iron filings on the lake to reduce phosphorous. It seems to be working.
- g. When asked about technology to help individual lakeshore owners cope with weeds, the team suggested contacting Craig Wills, the Hydrologist for Isanti County (tel: 763-689-7100) for the latest in technology available to the lake shore owner.
- h. Jamie Schurbon mentioned that there will be study of storm water on lakes, and that Blue Lake could be included. This study begins on July 1.
- i. Holly Nelson mentioned that the county has grants for helping homeowners replace defective septic systems, ones that are causing pollution in public waters. These grants are based on the homeowner's income, offering from 20% to 50% of the cost for homeowners who qualify.

4. Governance Issues.

- a. There was a motion to accept Tracy Dreschler's resignation. This motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- b. There was a motion to appoint Don Herman to fill Tracy Dreschler's term. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.
- c. There was a motion to appoint Jim Lefebvre to the position of Vice Chair. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

5. Working Committee Reports. George Golden distributed starter sheets for each of the five committees, all focused on water quality in different ways. These included possible members, possible projects and relevant resources.

- Weeds – Control invasive and non-invasive species. Five people are considering this committee assignment. Bill Fredell to lead the start-up effort with this team.
- Muck – Understanding the water quality and chemistry, and investigating the possibility of dredging the channel and north dam areas. This committee will not be formed at this time as there was little interest.
- Education – Best practices for shore land improvement and expectations of what is possible and doable. George Golden to lead this effort.
- Landings – Controlling invasive species at the landings. This would be a 2015 program. Don Herman will lead this effort.
- Input and upstream watershed management – protecting input to the lake by understanding storm water and runoff from lots, streams, pastures. Jim Lefebvre and Don Herman to lead this effort.

There will be a meeting of the BLID Working Committees on June 16, at 5 p.m., at the Stanford Township Hall. Leads will invite committee members to this meeting.

6. **Annual Meeting.** The BLID Annual Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on August 23, 2014 at the Stanford Township Hall. Bill Fredell offered to organize the voting procedures, ballots and counters for the annual meeting. Information packets will go out to members by July 23rd.
7. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Submitted by, Bill Fredell (acting secretary)

Donald M. Davies



Secretary