

Blue Lake Improvement District

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: May 2, 2014, 4 p.m.

Place: Stanford Township Hall

Directors Attending: Bill Yueill, Tracy Drechsler (by telephone), Kathy Rabenberg, Don Davies, George Golden, Jim Lefebvre, Bill Fredell (non-director)

Directors absent: Jean Touhy

Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Bill Yueill.

The meeting agenda had been distributed in advance of the meeting.

1. **Minutes.** Motions were made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the March 2014 and April 2014 Board Meetings.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** George Golden presented current expenditures, noting that they were within the budget of \$2000 for the 2014 calendar year. Budget expenditures are attached to these minutes. He also noted that the liability insurance application is waiting for approval by the Trust Fund.
3. **PICKM Report** (Pine, Isanti, Chisago, Kanabec, and Mille Lac counties). This group shares information and activities that relate to lakes, water and natural resources in these counties. Bill Yueill attended the monthly meeting held in Braham, and reported on a number of initiatives with Long Lake, Rush Lake and the total Rum River watershed area. PICKM will have a dinner meeting on September 15th where initiatives and activities will be shared. The group is looking for topics to be addressed during the meeting.

Jim Lefebvre and George Golden noted that during their discussions with Soil and Water Conservation Districts in both Stearns and Isanti Counties, it was emphasized how important it is for LIDs to work with as many government groups as possible to show involvement in shared problems, solutions and initiative funding. Government agency funding as well as Legacy funds are available to help with lake problems, but they are best accessed by working with a number of government agency organizations.

4. **Old Business.**
 - a) **Weed spraying.** A permit has been received from the MN Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) to spray 15.6 acres for weed control. We are locked into a contract for this spraying with Lake Management for 2013, so the process is moving forward with the BLA. A \$1,560 grant has been awarded to help the BLA pay for this spraying of areas not adjacent to lakeshore properties.
 - b) **Planning for 2015.** George Golden suggested 5 initiatives based on member ideas from the summer of 2013 petition drive, 2014 priority list, board discussions, and conversations with other LIDs and SWCDs. As suggested by BLID By-Laws, committees of members can be appointed to offer input and suggestions as well as to do research and planning in order to

develop and propose a budget for 2015 (which needs to be approved by members at the annual August meeting):

- **Weeds** –Control invasive and non-invasive species.
- **Muck** – Understanding the water quality and chemistry, and investigating the possibility of dredging the channel and north dam areas.
- **Education** – Best practices for shore land improvement and expectations of what is possible and doable.
- **Landings** – Controlling invasive species at the landings.
- **Input and upstream watershed management** – protecting input to the lake by understanding storm water and runoff from lots, streams, pasture and croplands. Requires cooperation from Sherburne County since much of the Blue Lake watershed is located in Sherburne County.

Board members were asked to share these initiatives with Blue Lake Association members to find committee membership and leadership based on interest.

5. **New Business.**

- a) Blue Lake Association Meeting, May 24. Tracy Dreschler offered to present BLID information to BLA attendees and solicit people to join the five initiative committees. Board agreed.
- b) Pollution Control Agency and the Rum River Watershed. Evaluating the watershed means that Blue Lake will be tested for water clarity, algae, and phosphorous levels [no prior data exists on algae and phosphorus in Blue Lake] in 2013 and 2014. Data such as these are important to understanding problems and determining solutions.
- c) Jim Lefebvre and George Golden mentioned that they had met with Jamie Schurbon, the District Manager from the Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District. The Board asked that Schurbon be invited to a meeting to be arranged as soon as possible since he has great insight into what it will take to move some of the planned initiatives forward. Bill Yueill said that he would speak to Schurbon about such a meeting.

6. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned about 5:15 p.m.

7. **Next Meeting:** 4 p.m. at Stanford Township Hall on June 6, 2014.

Respectfully Submitted,



Donald M. Davies, Secretary