

Blue Lake Improvement District (BLID)

Membership Annual Meeting Minutes: August 24, 2019, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Stanford Township Meeting Hall.

Directors Present: Bill Yueill (2020), George Golden (2020), Don Davies (2021), Dan Dixon (2020), John Bistodeau (2021)

Member Attendance: 26 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.

Report from Isanti County Soil & Water District (SWCD): Tiffany Determan, District Manager, presented a *Blue Lake Management Plan* spreadsheet which summarized historic, current and future water quality initiatives on a year-by-year basis. She noted that since 2015, nearly \$500,000 has been spent on such initiatives with 25% coming from the BLID. Her report focused on three primary areas:

1. Setting Yourself Up for Success

- a. Annual lake and stream monitoring and Curlyleaf Pondweed mapping (BLID – 2015-2019)
- b. Aquatic invasive species early detection (County AIS – 2015-2019)
- c. Preparation of reports and studies to map out the future.
 - i. Subwatershed Assessment (SWCD/BLID - 2017)
 - ii. Diagnostic Study (SWCD - 2019)

2. Taking Action to Improve Lake Health

- a. Successful application for \$250,000 Blue Lake Protection Grant from the State Legacy Fund
 - i. Lakeshore restorations and rain gardens (SWCD/Landowners - 2018-2020)
 - ii. Stanford Township access restoration (SWCD/Township - 2018)
 - iii. Spencer Brook Township Tiger Street projects (SWCD/Township - 2018)
 - iv. Wetland restorations (SWCD/BLID - 2019-2020)
- b. Aquatic Plant Management – annual curlyleaf pondweed management (BLID)

3. Planning for the Future

- a. Continuing to focus on projects to protect the lake that arose from previous assessments and studies (2020 – 2027)
 - i. Campground sand filter (SWCD – TBD)
 - ii. Agricultural projects (SWCD – TBD)
 - iii. Additional lakeshore restorations and rain gardens (SWCD/Landowners)
 - iv. Additional wetland restorations (SWCD/BLID)
- b. Ongoing Project Maintenance (SWCD/BLID/Landowners)
- c. Pursue new water quality initiatives which may require additional grants (SWCD/BLID)
 - i. Internal Phosphorus Feasibility Study (2020) – determine what can be done to reduce the amount of phosphorus that the lake generates itself through vegetation composting.
 - ii. Implement internal phosphorus remediation project (2021)

Finally, she presented the proposed SWCD Work Plan for 2020 which totals \$11,550 and includes the following:

1. Lake water quality monitoring including clarity, dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles (\$3,600).
2. AIS Mapping – pre- and post-treatment (\$950).
3. Internal Load Feasibility Study including sediment core sampling, lab analysis, alum dosing rates and schedule, determining most effective treatment areas and estimating treatment costs. (\$14,000 cost less \$7,000 from SWCD funding sources)

Committee Reports:

- **AIS Boat Inspections** – George Golden reported that the BLID again contracted with WaterGuards to provide inspectors at both lake accesses this year. It appears that the accesses have been busier this year than other lakes. He estimated that we will use 650 inspection hours this year at a total cost of \$13,500 of which Isanti County and Stanford Township subsidize \$6,900. Unfortunately, two inspectors had to be terminated during the year for poor work performance. WaterGuards has been put on notice to improve the monitoring of their employees.
- **Weed Treatment** – John Bistodeau provided a report on this year's weed treatments. He noted that 15.8 acres were sprayed in total with 9 acres near the north access and the rest in the upper lake. A new vendor, Lake Management, was hired this year and the results seem to be successful, particularly in the upper lake based on a post-treatment review with SWCD and landowner feedback. Timing is important because spraying is most effective when the weeds are 12-18 inches tall. Concerns have been raised about the abundance of floating weeds ending up along the shoreline. He noted that the spraying typically drops the weeds to the lake floor and most floating weeds come from boat traffic. A brief discussion ensued regarding purple loosestrife infestations around the lake and the lack of effective treatment options.
- **Isanti County Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA)** – John Bistodeau briefly discussed the BLID's involvement in the COLA which is to participate in monthly meetings with other lake associations of LIDs in Isanti County in order to cooperate in improving all of our lakes' water quality. He noted that several residents of Green Lake purchased a weed harvester this year to remove Eurasian watermilfoil this year and found the process to be much more challenging than they expected.
- **Water Quality** – Tiffany Determan discussed the results of water quality testing so far this year. She noted that there were improved nutrient levels but that the average clarity was just over 4 feet which was due in part to the higher rainfall this year.

Don Davies provided a brief update on the sand filter project on the campground near the east access. He noted that what had begun as a reasonable solution to reducing phosphorus entering the lake through that tributary, had ended in disappointment as the owner changed his mind and refused to allow the filter to be built. At the same time a number of members have expressed concern over the impact on the lake of the 30-40 boats docked along the campground shore. Some research indicated that there appeared to be no limitations on either campers or boats set by either the county or the

DNR. He indicated that additional work would be done to address the issue including more contacts with township and county officials.

The members thanked all of the committee leaders for their efforts this year.

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 25, 2018 which had been previously been made available to members on the BLID website.

2019/2020 BLID Financial Presentation: Don Davies presented the following financial information relating to 2019 results and the proposed 2020 budget:

- He reminded the members that the BLID is legally on a fiscal year ending June 30th. He briefly reviewed the results of the year ending June 30, 2019:
 - Beginning cash was \$39,599
 - Income from assessments totaled \$36,344.
 - Cash Expenses included: Boat Monitoring (\$14,037 less subsidies of \$3,600 from Isanti County and \$3,500 from Stanford Township); Water Quality Study (\$10,043); weed mapping (\$1,900) Weed Control (\$7,252); and administrative expenses (\$1,289).
 - Ending cash was \$55,431
 - Additionally, \$16,500 was transferred to a SWCD Project Reserve.

A motion to accept the financial results of fiscal year 2019 was made, seconded and approved.

- He then discussed the proposed *2020 Calendar Year Budget Comparison* report which had been distributed to members prior to the meeting:
 - He noted that estimated expenses for calendar year 2019 were expected to be more than the 2018 calendar year budget due to the \$16,500 project reserve transfer and an increase in expected AIS inspection costs.
 - He discussed the proposed 2020 calendar year budget which had estimated expenditures of \$56,450, a \$14,200 increase due to the addition of a \$14,000 Internal Phosphorus Load Feasibility Study.
 - The expected deficit of \$20,450 resulted in estimated year-end reserves (dedicated and general) of \$45,215.

A motion to accept the 2020 budget and annual member assessment of \$250 was made, seconded and approved.

Recognition of Retired Board Members – Bill Yueill recognized a number of former members of the BLID Board who have served over the years. George Golden paid special tribute to Jim Lefebvre who passed away earlier this year. Jim was a founding Board member and was instrumental in initiating the BLID's involvement with the SWCD. Each retired Board member received a Certificate of Appreciation reflecting their service to the betterment of the Lake.

Election of New Board Members – Don Davies announced the results of the Board election. David Badger and Jill Gohman were unanimously elected to three-year terms on the Board.

Isanti County Sheriff's Department Annual Report: Deputy Sheriff Scott Fredell joined the meeting discussed a few pertinent law enforcement issues relating to our area of the county. He provided copies of 911 call summaries for this year for both Stanford and Spencer Brook Townships. A member asked about controlling excess parking around the access points, particularly where the roads are posted *No Parking*. Scott indicated that a call to Sherriff's Department is the appropriate notification of such problems. Additional *No Parking* signs would be helpful, but some members indicated difficulty in getting the Townships or County to act.

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

Other Business - None

Adjournment: There being no further business, it was moved, seconded and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m. The group was reminded of the annual Blue Lake Association picnic that would take place at 5:00 p.m. that afternoon at the home of Tracy and Steve Dreschler.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Davies, Secretary