

## **BLUE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

### **Minutes of the Annual Meeting, August 24, 2024**

Chair, David Badger, called the meeting to order about 10 a.m. at the Spencer Brook Township Hall. The meeting followed a social hour with treats provided by Tayler Guinn.

Attending: David Badger (2025), Bill Fredell (2026), John Bistodeau (2026) Teresa Bouten (2025), Don Davies (2024). Tayler Guinn (2026)

Not Attending: Dennis Bouten (2024).

25-30 members were in attendance. The guests were Isanti County Sheriff Deputy, Josh Steine, Isanti Count Commissioner, Steve Westerberg.

#### **Chair's Comments: David Badger**

Badger welcomed the members and recognized Josh Steine, Isanti County Sheriff's Office. In addition, Badger called attention to the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blue Lake Improvement District and recognized the founding members of the Board of Directors:

Bill Yueill, George Golden, Don Davies, Jim LeFebrve, Jean Touhy, Tracey Deschler, and Kathy Rabenberg; Bill Fredell participated as a non-director member of the Board initially.

Members outlined some of the key milestones and accomplishments during the 10-year history.

Alum Treatment. Badger explained that the second Alum Treatment would be applied September 11-14. During these days, there will be no access to Blue Lake from the access points, and lake dwellers are encouraged to NOT use their watercraft during this time. Applications will be made at points twenty feet or deeper. The funding has been provided by grants and the BLID treasury.

#### **Aquatic Invasive Species: John Bistodeau**

Bistodeau worked with the Isanti County Coalition of Lake Associations (ICCOLA) to negotiate better pricing for survey and treatment (7 lakes in Isanti county participated). Lake Management and AIS Consulting were chosen as the suppliers for all the lakes. AIS treatment for Curly leaf Pond Weed occurred April 24th.

- Treatment was very early this year due to early spring.
- Treated about was sixteen acres (all acres that showed on the pretreatment survey)

- A new chemical was used this year: Flumioxazin. All lakes had to make this change due to the new fisheries chief in our region. This new chemical will be required next year.

Post treatment survey conducted in June and showed the following results:

- Good results in areas that were sprayed.
- We had quite a few areas that showed late growth CLP.
  - o North bay
  - o East side shore areas
  - o A few other smaller areas

Plans for 2025

- Continue to leverage ICCOLA for better pricing (Sounds like same contractors will be used next year due to good results this year)
- Leverage both pretreatment and post treatment survey information to target areas for 2025.
- Potentially expand the number of acres depending on pre survey in 2025. John has discussed this with Chris Jurek at the DNR, and she has agreed to review in the spring and potentially allow more treatment acres.
- Loosestrife -- need to get out at areas where beetles were placed for loosestrife to see if there was any effect.
  - o We will need to gather our own beetles in an event sponsored by DNR.
  - o Will also investigate costs for spraying for loosestrife.

Discussion ensued about loosestrife and invasive cattails. We will figure out how these cattails are to be identified. Loosestrife is out of control everywhere.

### **Water Clarity: Dennis Bouten (report given by Teresa Bouten)**

The latest water clarity tests reveal great clarity.

Big Blue – measured at 28 feet, with 9 ft. clarity.

Little Blue – measured at 9 feet, with 6 ft. clarity.

These numbers reveal significant improvements over pre-alum treatment years.

### **Watercraft Inspections: Teresa Bouten**

Inspections have worked well on the Friday-Sunday inspection schedule.

Discussion ensued relating to the limitation of boats on the lake, like what has been done at Christmas Lake in Hennepin County. Also raised from the members were the effects of wake boats on disruptions to the lake bottom, and to the positive effects that the alum treatments have delivered to water clarity.

It was shared that, according to a study by the Hydrology Department at the UofM, a normal runabout's wave action dissipates after 125 feet. Wake boats wave action

dissipates after 250 feet. A report covering the results of a follow-up study relating to the impact of the downward thrust created by wake boats is expected sometime this year.

### **Education and Communications: Bill Fredell**

Fredell referenced the handout on the Alum Treatment and improvements in the water quality that have resulted.

Public relations relating to the second alum treatment will be shared by BLID and Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Issues of the **Blue Lake Bulletin** published monthly, augmented by the Blue Lake Association FB page.

### **Financial Report: Don Davies**

Davies presented the Financial Statement for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 in a new format (attached). He noted that receipts and expenditures for the year were similar to the prior year with the exception of the \$32,053 payment to Isanti County SWCD as the second of three payments for the Alum Treatment Project.

George Golden moved, and Deanne Louie seconded the acceptance of the report. Passed unanimously.

Members liked the new format.

Further, Davies presented a similar 10-year summary of receipts and expenditures, showing what money has been raised and where it has been spent. (report attached)

Finally, Davies presented the projections for the 2024 calendar year and the budget for 2025. This budget is attached which reflects no change in the \$250 per lakeshore owner assessment Earl Bunker moved, and John Touhy seconded the motion to approve this proposed budget. Passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Appointed Director: David Badger**

Badger asked for a motion to approve the appointment of Tayler Guinn to the Board of Directors, since there was an opening following the last annual meeting.

Dan Dixon moved, and Teresa Bouten seconded the motion to approve this appointment. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Election of Directors:**

Don Davies and Dennis Bouten were re-elected for three-year terms.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Fredell, Secretary