

Blue Lake Improvement District (BLID)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: January 25, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Place: John Bistodeau's home: 27995 Blue Lake Drive NW, Zimmerman, MN.

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

Directors not in attendance: Janet Burda (2019), Don Herman (2019), Dan Dixon (2020)

Also in attendance: Tiffany Determan (District Mgr.) from the Isanti County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD)

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

1. Tiffany Determan first presented the findings of a Blue Lake Diagnostic Study prepared by Wenck Associates dated January 22, 2019. The findings were as follows:
 - While the lake is not currently impaired, average summer growing season total phosphorus (TP) concentrations (37 micrograms/liter) are close to exceeding State standards (40 micrograms/liter) and chlorophyll-a concentrations commonly exceed State standards.
 - The 2017 Rum River Watershed Study identified Blue Lake as a Type A (highest priority) protection lake and recommend a surface water TP concentration target/goal of 31 micrograms/liter. Wenck model scenarios indicate that annual TP loading to the lake will need to be reduced by 360 pounds in order to meet the goal.
 - In reviewing the results of the Isanti SWCD 2015-2018 water quality reports, average TP concentrations were highest in Tributary 4 (near east lake access) (191 micrograms /liter) likely driven by phosphorus attached to sediment rather than dissolved/soluble sources.
 - Test models suggest that internal loading of phosphorus from lake sediments are likely the largest source of TP loading to the lake (45%) followed by watershed/tributary loading (38%).
 - Recommendations:
 - Determine the feasibility of wetland hydrologic restorations throughout the watershed;
 - Conduct an internal load feasibility study;
 - Make minor adjustments to the current monitoring program.

Tiffany noted that one of the Wenck scenario assumptions to reduce internal TP loading was Alum treatment which traps phosphorus on the bottom of the lake. Sediment cores would be taken to determine target areas based on the phosphorus release rates. She suggested to move toward internal loading scenarios in the near term. She presented a proposed budget for phosphorus monitoring at 4 locations and taking 8 samples during low and high flow periods with an approximate cost of \$3,200.

In terms of wetland restorations, one of the proven options is to construct wiers to hold back tributaries and allow particle phosphorus to settle before entering the lake. She noted that the State Board of Water & Soil Resources is favorable to wetland restoration grants.

Funding comes from the Legacy Fund. To that point, she recommended that Isanti SWCD amend the current grant (which focused on the construction of a sand filter at Tributary 4) to a wetland restoration grant. The sand filter grant totaled \$165,000 with \$33,000 coming from the BLID. The amended grant is estimated at \$116,500 with the BLID portion totaling \$28,300. The plan would be to monitor tributaries 1, 2, 3 and 6 this year to establish base data the complete the study and begin construction of weirs in 2020.

2. After discussion by the Board, a motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize Isanti SWCD to submit the amendment to the current grant. Ms. Determan left the meeting.
3. The minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of January 25, 2019, previously distributed, were reviewed. Following discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to approve the minutes.
4. Mr. Davies presented accrual-basis financial statements for calendar year 2018. He noted a cash balance of \$55,322 and net income for the year of \$13,339 consisting of receipts of \$43,523 in assessments and grants and \$30,184 in expenses (including weed mapping and weed control spraying and mechanical removal of \$5,515, boat monitoring fees of \$10,680, water quality monitoring services of \$12,451 and organizational expenses of \$1,438)
5. John Bistodeau discussed the plan for spring weed treatments. He recommended spraying 9 acres at the north end of the lower lake and two areas in the upper lake of 2-3 acres each. The Board authorized John to proceed as recommended.
6. Bill Yueill noted that Dan Dixon was agreeable to continuing the water quality/clarity tests that he performed several times last year.
7. George Golden indicated that WaterGuards boat inspection fees were increasing this year to \$19 per hour. The Board agreed that the scheduling and operation of the inspections was satisfactory in 2018 and authorized the contracting with WaterGuards for 2019.
8. John Bistodeau noted that the Isanti COLA was working with Isanti County to build a “rapid response fund” at the county level to deal quickly with outbreaks of invasive species in county lakes. The Board discussed the benefits of creating a rapid response reserve in the BLID.
9. **Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Davies, Secretary