

Blue Lake Improvement District (BLID)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: March 24, 2020 4:30 p.m.

Place: Phone Conference

Directors Present: David Badger (2022), Don Davies (2021), Dan Dixon (2020), Jill Gohman (2022), George Golden (2020), Bill Yueill (2020)

Also Present: Tiffany Determan, District Manager, Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. upon phone connection by meeting participants. The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the 2019 Blue Lake Monitoring Report.

2019 Blue Lake Monitoring Report Presentation: Tiffany Determan discussed the results and findings of the report which had previously been emailed to Board members. Following are the key points in her presentation:

1. Lake monitoring was performed by BLID volunteers from May to October 2019 with training, equipment and lab testing provided by SWCD.
2. In summary, Upper Blue Lake continued to meet all of the Clean Water Goals (Shallow Lake) for total phosphorus (TP), Chlorophyll-a (Chl-a) and Secchi Transparency (ST) while Lower Blue Lake did not meet the Deep Lake Goals for TP, thus remaining close to an “impaired” designation. “Recreational Suitability” was deemed to be very good through the sampling period.
3. Both lakes had negative spikes in all three categories during sampling in September after significant rainfall events. The report noted that 7.4 more inches of rain fell in the May-September period in 2019 compared to 2018.
4. In 2019 7 sample events were performed at 3 tributary sites focusing on phosphorus, suspended solids and transparency:
 - a. 281st Avenue NW
 - i. TP concentrations lowest of all tributaries due to sandy bottom and healthy wetland plants
 - b. Blue Lake Drive NW (southeast of lake)
 - i. Phosphorus levels similar to 2015-2018 testing averages
 - c. Fortmann Curve (due south of lake at Co. Rd. 50 curve)
 - i. Highest concentration measured among 3 test sites and higher than 2018 results.
 - d. It was noted that the b. and c. tributaries come together before entering at the southern end of the lake.
5. SWCD also worked with Wenck, Inc. to complete site inspections at each location to determine if a wetland restoration would be feasible.

6. Report Recommendations:

- a. Additional monitoring in 2020 is not recommended due to the sufficiency of data recorded over the past 5 years.
- b. Consider collecting lake sediment cores in 2020 or 2021 to determine internal recycling of phosphorus and potential solutions.

Tiffany noted that the SWCD will consult with Wenck, Inc. to determine if there are any potential mitigation efforts at the south end of the lake where the two tributaries converge., including working with the local farmer on runoff restrictions. If a feasible solution is found, SWCD will apply for grants to fund.

Tiffany also indicated that there are four lakeshore projects scheduled for this year under the previous grant. Although the grant is scheduled to end in December, she feels that it might be extended for another year.

Board Discussion and Action: The Board thanked Tiffany for her presentation and the work of SWCD on our behalf. It was discussed and agreed that we should (1) not engage in any lake monitoring activities in 2020 and (2) move forward with engaging Wenck, Inc. to perform the sediment core sampling and provide us with a solution proposal based on their findings. Tiffany indicated that the potential cost of the sampling could be \$14,000 which could possibly be split between the BLID and SWCD funding sources. She noted that alum treatments as a solution for internal phosphorus loading could range from \$200-\$600K requiring new grant funding.

A motion was passed to commit up to \$7,000 for the sediment core sampling project.

Tiffany Determan left the conference call.

Other Business:

1. Bill Yueill reported that he was unsuccessful in further attempts to reach the owner of the camp grounds to discuss other ways to remediate the phosphorus flow from the stream on his property. This included letters which were not responded to and an attempt to find a current phone number. In discussion it was noted that the new Isanti County Administrator might be willing to take a new look at the situation. Bill agreed to approaching Ms. Lines with the help of Tiffany Determan. Bill also indicated that the Isanti County SWCD would now focus on determining if a farmland runoff remediation project might make sense at the south end of Lower Blue Lake.
2. George Golden reported that WaterGuards will hire (and DNR will train) AIS boat inspections at both access points on the lake for 710 hours in 2020. At \$19/hour the estimated cost will be \$14,250, with a net cost of \$7,800 after county and township grants.

Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Davies, Secretary