

Blue Lake Improvement District (BLID)

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes: March 21, 2018

Place: Home of Bill Yueill, 27202 Carr Street, Zimmerman, MN 55398

Directors Present: Bill Yueill (2020), George Golden (2020), Don Davies (2018), Jim Lefebvre (2019), Don Herman (2019), Dan Dixon (2020)

Directors not in attendance: John Bistodeau (2018)

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

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. and the agenda was approved.

1. Tiffany and Todd presented their Annual Report to the Board regarding water quality initiatives on Blue Lake.
 - a. **Blue Lake Clean Water Fund Grant** – It was confirmed that the BLID had received a 3 year (ending 12/31/2020), \$258K grant! The focus of the grant is on a prioritized list of remediation projects around the lake to reduce phosphorus entering the lake (upland remedies). SWCD would manage these projects. The projects include:
 - A sand filter system on the creek through the camp grounds near the Stanford Township access.
 - Erosion stabilization at the Stanford Township boat access.
 - Redirecting and filtering rainwater runoff on Tiger Street
 - Lakeshore owner projects to eliminate runoff into the lake

The breakdown of the project costs and funding sources is as follows:

<u>Project Description</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Sources of Funding</u>			
	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Grant</u>	<u>Townships</u>	<u>Owners</u>	<u>BLID</u>
Camp Grounds Sand Filter	\$ 165,000	\$ 132,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 33,000
Stanford Twp Access Erosion	56,580	45,645	14,215	-	-
Spencer Brook Twp Runoff	36,378	22,593	7,515	-	-
Landowner Runoff Projects	40,700	33,600	-	8,800	-
SWCD Staff Time	20,648	20,648	-	-	-
	\$ 319,306	\$ 254,486	\$ 21,730	\$ 8,800	\$ 33,000

The BLID share of the project cost is due in equal installments of \$16,500 in 2018 and 2019.

The Sand Filter System is projected to prevent over 80 pounds of phosphorus from entering the lake annually. Survey work, final design

and permitting should be completed this year with construction anticipated in the spring of 2019. Requirements include: (1) a contract with the camp grounds owner relating to access rights and responsibilities of the owner, SWCD and BLID; (2) a 30-year management agreement with SWCD; and (3) a maintenance agreement with BLID to establish annual raking and upkeep of the filter.

A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to authorize the signing of the Sand Filter Operation & Maintenance Agreement.

The Stanford Township Boat Access project is to remedy the erosion and runoff from the steep bank next to the access point. Stanford Township has already signed a contract to fund their portion of the work.

The Spencer Brook Township Water Runoff project on Tiger Street will include new curbing to redirect runoff water, a sump in the storm drain on the lake side of the road and two rain gardens on the other side. The township has agreed to fund the curb and sump portions of the project. This project will require ongoing maintenance including cleaning the sump when necessary and maintaining the water gardens (initial first year watering, weeding frequently in the 1st year and as needed thereafter, and replacing vegetation and mulch when needed). Under a maintenance agreement, the BLID would take responsibility to maintain the integrity of the project for 10 years.

The Board discussed the Operation and Maintenance Agreement presented by SWCD that would cover the sand filter and Tiger Street projects. It was noted that the potential liability for defaulting on the agreement would be a demand by SWCD for up to 150% of the project cost. After an extended discussion regarding the ongoing responsibility that the BLID would be taking on:

A motion was made, seconded and approved (five voting yes with one abstention) to authorize the signing of this Operation & Maintenance agreement for the Tiger Street project.

The Landowner Projects include runoff remediation work such as buffers and rain gardens that require matching funds or work by individual owners. SWCD is currently working on two such projects.

- b. **Agriculture Practice Targeting** – 16 farm sites were identified as potential sources of nutrients in the lake's watershed area within Isanti County. The owners will be approached by SWCD regarding the availability of federal funding to do buffering/remediation projects.
- c. **Blue Lake Monitoring Report Summary** – Todd presented a prepared *Blue Lake Monitoring Report 2017* which provided specific water quality data for the upper and lower lakes. The data was provided by BLID

volunteers working with Todd to collect samples and information over the course of the summer. In terms of meeting Minnesota Clean Water Goals, the overall results were as follows:

	<u>Upper</u>	<u>Lower</u>
Total Phosphorus	No	No
Chlorophyll-a	Yes	No
Secchi Transparency	Yes	Yes

The report included detailed charts and graphs reflecting the dates and data points of the respective tests. Conclusions included the fact that over the most recent 10 years water quality has been declining and that the lake may soon be declared endangered.

Todd then presented the *Blue Lake Tributary Monitoring Report 2017* which described the results of monitoring the health of four tributaries that empty into Blue Lake. Samples were taken during four rain events and four base/low flow periods. He noted that a beaver dam at the SW inlet site significantly impacted the flow and water level from that stream and being the second year that this has occurred, recommends discontinuing monitoring there. The Tiger Street camp ground tributary repeated as showing the highest concentration of phosphorus. This is the site of the proposed sand filter project. The other sites were within typical range for the region, but on the high end. Todd noted that for all sites, nutrient concentrations and water levels were the lowest observed out of the three years of monitoring. Plan for 2018 is to continue sampling on sites 1, 3 and 4 with the possible addition of a new site on the west side of the lake.

d. Future Considerations for Water Quality Improvement - Tiffany

provided recommendations for ongoing and future initiatives:

- Continue the various monitoring and testing procedures.
- Complete the upland remedies (filters, buffers, etc.) that reduce or eliminate nutrients entering the lake before focusing on in-lake remediation projects.
- In anticipation of that time, consider looking for grants in 2019-2020 for ways to remediate internal loading from dead plants by binding phosphorus on the bottom of the lake. She indicated that iron filings have proven effective in other lakes.

The Board thanked Tiffany and Todd for their presentation and the efforts they have made to help us improve the quality of Blue Lake. Tiffany and Todd left the meeting.

2. The Board ratified the March 7, 2018 email approval to authorize George Golden to sign the following vendor contracts for 2018:

- Curlyleaf pond weed chemical treatment and mechanical removal contract with Jacobson Environmental. George noted that they will do

9.05 acres of chemical treatment (@ 1.5 ppm of chemicals and at 55+ degree water temperature) and 12.11 acres of mechanical cutting (along with an offload platform and weed barrier net). The vendor will store cut weeds at the SW access, until a local person removes them when dry.

- Boat access inspection contract with WaterGuards which will hire DNR-trained inspectors for up to 720 hours to do boat and trailer inspections for invasive weeds.
- Water quality services from Isanti County Soil and Water Conservation District. The SWCD will again do lake and tributary water quality studies as well as an after-treatment survey of chemical/mechanical weed treatment, cutting, and removal results.

3. Discussion returned to the beaver issue that was disrupting monitoring of the SW tributary. Bill Yueill noted that the Blue Lake Association had offered \$250 to fund a trapping project. Don Herman will check with a trapper in Zimmerman who might be interested in live-trapping.
4. The Annual Meeting and Board Meeting minutes of August 26, 2017, having been submitted previously to the Board for review, were approved. Discussion followed regarding the board recruitment process, particularly in light of Jim Lefebvre's announcement that he is selling his home on the lake.
5. Don Davies presented the 12/31/2017 Balance Sheet, 2017 calendar year Profit & Loss Statement and a detailed listing of expenses incurred since the last board meeting. After brief discussion, the financial statements and expenses were approved.
6. George Golden presented an updated budget for 2018 based on the results of recent 2018 vendor contract negotiations. If all goes in accordance with the new budget, expenses could be reduced by \$5,000 over the next year and BLID would have a cumulative reserve balance of \$28K at the end of the year.

7. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Davies, Secretary