

Meeting Minutes for 2021 TLID Annual Meeting - August 21, 2021

Meeting was called to order by Scott Ruiter at 10:00 AM at the Palmer Township Hall with The Pledge of Allegiance. Twenty-five members were present including the board members. We also had two guests from Big Elk Lake observing.

Directors in Attendance: Scott Ruiter, Walt Munsterman, Harry Ernzer, John Schnell, Diane Stangler, Nancy Hahne, Mike Flanery and Advisor Kenzie Phelps.

Adoption of the Agenda: Walt Munsterman pointed out meeting rules which include when members speak they are to address the board and give their name for the minutes. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Roger Johnson and seconded by Steve Demeules. Motion passed.

Introduction of Board Members: Scott Ruiter introduced the board members and thanked Harry Ernzer, outgoing board member, for his years of service as the treasurer of the TLID.

Adopt minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting: Nancy Hahne, Secretary, mentioned that the minutes have been on the BLCA website and also that copies were available at this meeting. A motion was made by Steve Demeules to approve the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, the motion was seconded by Brad Kipp. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report: Diane Stangler reviewed money coming in and expenses going out. The biggest expense is for weed spraying. The current balance stands at 86,411.03 (which includes \$20,000 in the contingency fund). Beginning balance in January of 2021 was \$82,505.18, total income to date is \$36,336.23 and total expenses to date is \$32,430.38. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Todd Lorsung and seconded by John Schnell. Motion passed.

Officers Reports:

Chairperson: Scott Ruiter thanked everyone for attending and outlined the purpose of the annual meeting: Discuss projects, elect directors and approve the

2022 budget. He also encouraged everyone to become familiar with the BLCA website, there is a lot of information under the TLID tab. He also mentioned we applied for and received a DNR grant in the amount of \$9,975.

Vice President: Walt Munsterman reminded members to state their name and to address the board with questions and/or comments.

Secretary: Nancy Hahne mentioned to the group that all monthly meetings are posted on the TLID website and that members are also welcome to attend meetings throughout the year.

Treasurer: Diane Stangler stated that we are using Sherburne State Bank in Becker for our accounts.

Advisor: Kenzie Phelps commented that TLID has maintained a good working relationship with the BLCA and Healthy Lakes. He stated that some Big Elk Lake residents are now interested in joining our TLID or forming their own. Two Big Elk Lake residents are at this meeting to observe. This is in its early stage and a lot of work is ahead for them to make this happen.

Old Business:

Report on AIS activities in 2021 - Mike Flanery reported on the spraying of Curly Pondweed for 2021. It seems like the results this year were poor, possibly due to early ice out, warmer lakes and low water. The TLID advisors will be obtaining bids from other companies for the 2022 weed spraying. Mike also reported that Eurasian Water Milfoil was not found again for the second year in a row in a recent survey. Therefore, no spraying was necessary.

Water Stabilization is Incremental - Mike Flanery reported on what we would need to do BEFORE we could treat our lakes with Alum. The first step is to determine how much phosphorus is currently in our lakes by taking core samples and analyzing them. This can be costly; we will be looking into grants or matching funds if they are available. We will continue to research this and bring back our findings to our members.

Lake Surveys - Walt Munsterman talked about before and after point intercept studies (every five years). These surveys find all plants and locates them on a map by using GPS. Then in five years another survey is done to see any changes. This is very important if we want to receive any grant money and DNR permits for spraying.

Boat Landing Surveillance - Walt Munsterman reported that the Soil & Water Conservation District pays some of the landing inspections based on landing use. We purchase another 200 hours in partnership with the BLCA. At the end of the season the SWCD will summarize the activity of all the landings (number of launches, where boats came from and what was found on boats and trailers).

Water Stabilization - Mike Flanery spoke regarding the purchase of a water logger. We were also able to borrow one so that we have two locations. This will give us real time readings for the water flow and level in and out of our three lakes.

New Business:

Purple Loosestrife - Scott Ruitter reported that the invasive plant, purple loosestrife was recently found in the bayou (and one plant on Rush). TLID hired a company to come in to dig up the plants. Money will be taken from our contingency fund to pay them. The cost will not exceed \$5,000. Some members of the TLID board were active in this endeavor and were pleased with the work and the results.

Proposed Projects for 2022 - John Schnell went through the 2022 projects that the TLID board will be working on. They are: Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Water Level Stabilization (Water Logger Monitoring), Algae Reduction, Explore Shoreline Weed Removal, Boat Access Monitoring and Purple Loosestrife. One of the new ones on the list is Explore Shoreline Weed Removal. John is researching equipment that can help to cleanup floating weeds along shorelines.

Propose Budget for 2022 - Nancy Hahne explained the "Two Times" expenses policy. In response to last year's discussion regarding the balance in our account,

we have adopted a two times budget policy - we will multiple our proposed budget by two and then subtract our estimated yearend balance to determine the amount of money we'll propose to collect on property taxes. By doing so this allows our bills to be paid on time. Our bills do not always coincide with our distributions from the county.

Proposed Budget - Diane Stangler, Treasurer, presented the proposed budget along with a slide that showed the two times figures that were used to determine the 2022 tax assessment. The 2022 assessment will be \$31.13. A motion was made by Todd Lorsung to approve the assessment of \$31.13 for 2022. The motion was seconded by John Reber. There was a short discussion, our members were happy that we listened to their concerns regarding our account balance and have a policy in place. The motion passed.

Election of Board Members - Kenzie Phelps explained the two vacancies and terms, Harry Ernser's and Diane Stangler's - Harry cannot rerun but Diane can. There are three candidates running for the two open positions: Diane Stangler (Briggs), Todd Lorsung (Julia) and Stacy Strang (Briggs). Kenzie opened up the nominations from the floor, there were none. Diane Stangler spoke regarding her interest in continuing on the Board. Stacy was not present (she was out of town), Kenzie read her statement and background information. Todd Lorsung stood and spoke regarding his qualifications and interest in becoming a board member.

All present members were given a ballot - Brad Kipp and Steve Demeules volunteered to count the ballots. The results were: Diane Stangler 22 votes, Stacy Strang 5 votes and Todd Lorsung 19 votes. **Diane Stangler will continue on the board and Todd Lorsung will join the board (replacing Harry Ernzer).**

Other - Walt Munsterman stated that this is the time set aside for member comments, suggestions, complaints or thanks.

Arnold Mead thanked the board for volunteering and for all their work. He was wondering how the money for spraying curly leaf pondweed is split between the three lakes. Scott replied that a survey has to be done before the DNR will issue a permit to spray and that a limit is set by the DNR on total acres that can be

sprayed on each lake. Historically Briggs and Rush's survey results exceed the limit set by the DNR while Julia does not. Meaning, both Briggs and Rush will be sprayed to the limit set by the DNR and Julia will be under. We cannot take the acreage that is not sprayed on Julia and apply to either of the other two lakes.

Brad Kipp mentioned that individuals may also treat their own shoreline (with a DNR permit) according to DNR regulations.

Chuck Stanger questioned that fact that Julia does have heavy weeds on the north end that are not being sprayed and was wondering why if we have acreage left to spray in Julia.

Response:

- The number of plants at time of survey is not enough to warrant treatment. Many other native plants are mixed in these areas and treatment does not affect them (and shouldn't).
- Native plants keep algae down and prevent curly leaf pondweed from increasing.
- Curly leaf pondweed is bad due to rapid decay around first of July which creates more algae.
- Most plants within 100 feet of shore require the newspaper notification. (which we now do)
- The north end of Julia is surveyed, and LID will react if there is an increase year over year. Because of near shore plants due to depth, it is easy for homeowners to remove by hand.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Annual Meeting August 20, 2022.

Monthly Board Meetings are on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Palmer Township Hall

The meeting was adjourned by Scott Ruiter at 11:01 AM