

Big Swan Lake Improvement District (LID), Todd County, MN

Annual Meeting – August 27, 2022 – Hub Supper Club

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 AM by Secretary, Lee Daly, who was filling in for Board Chairman Chuck Macy. Board members in attendance were Lee Daly, Mike Wolters, Al Leinen, and Mark Brauch. There was a total of 29 property owners present plus Steve Henry from RMB Environmental Labs. Lee Daly reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Mark Brauch to move the Election of Officers portion on the agenda to after the Treasurer's report because a board member had to leave early. Second by Steve Richter. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report: *Lee Daly presented the annual meeting minute from August 28, 2021, for review and recap. No corrections were requested, and the minutes were accepted as written from Mark Brauch, second by Mike Wolters, motion passed. The minutes will be published on the Big Swan Lake Improvement District and Association website.*

Treasurer's Report: *Mike Wolters present the financials from 8/27/2021 through 8/25/2022 detailing our starting balance of \$97,116.99, deposits, checks, and ending balance of \$107,947.69. The major expenses this past year have been \$4,004 for the AIS treatment, the insurance payment of \$227, postage of \$245 and the RMB Lab testing payments of \$418. A motion was made by Ed Hennek to approve the report, second by Jim Macy, motion passed.*

Election of Officers: *Lee Daly reported that the terms for both himself and Mike Wolters were expiring and asked for volunteers to fill their positions. This was discussed at the 2021 meeting. They both agreed that since no one came forward they would serve two more years and then step down. They reminded all attendees that more board members are needed to share with the workload. They do not need to be assigned a title but instead could serve as board members at-large. If anyone is interested, they are encouraged to contact Chuck Macy or any of the other current board members. A motion was made by Al Leinen to reelect both Lee Daly and Mike Wolters, second by Steve Richter, motion passed.*

Old Business:

- *Mark Brauch reported on the curly leaf treatment for 2022 and the plan for next year. He shared with everyone that the DNR, after inspection of the lake, determines how many acres we are allowed to treat for curly leaf. In 2022 we were granted approval by the DNR to treat 24.16 acres at the cost of just over \$10,000 – the cost was shared by both the LID (\$4,004) and the county(\$6,289). In 2023 it is estimated that we again will be given permission to treat 24 acres at the estimated cost of \$11,000. Unfortunately, we have been notified that we should not expect a cost sharing with the county, therefore, we will be responsible for the full cost. Mark also shared that Denny Harder would no longer be volunteering to organize the curly leaf treatment in the lake and is looking for a volunteer to take over. Currently Steve Richter has offered to help but*

because he volunteers for other duties, he is also asking for someone else to step up. If anyone is willing to assist, they are encouraged to contact Chuck Macy or any of the other board members. A motion was made by Al Leinen to approve the payment of \$11,000 to pay for the curly leaf treatment in 2023, second by Joan Ganley, motion passed.

- Mark Brauch recognized that several landowners had questions concerning bogs on the lake. He read the DNR permit that was issued to Big Swan Lake. In summary, he reminded everyone that a lake shore owner may remove any bog that is no larger than 8 feet by 8 feet. To remove a bog that is larger would require a permit by the DNR. Instead, if the bog exceeds 8x8 it can be moved to the west side of the lake (the approved parking site) and staked with wooden stakes. A few current homeowners do have some stakes on hand otherwise you are allowed to purchase them at a hardware store and can be reimbursed by the LID.*
- Al Leinen reported on the walleye stocking program. He reminded everyone that the DNR stocks fry on odd number years and fingerlings on even number years. On those even number years, the DNR normally approves 800 pounds of fingerlings to be stocked in our lake – 400 pounds provided by the DNR, and 400 pounds provided by the LID. This year, the DNR contacted Al to let him know that they intend to stock all 800 pounds this year, so we will not have to pay to have any stocking done. A recent survey shows that the stocking has been successful, and walleyes of “good” size are being caught. The LID will not be stocking again until 2024 so no funding approval will be necessary until the 2023 meeting.*
- Lee Daly shared that there was an update from the TMDL committee and introduced our lake consultant, Steve Henry, from RMB Environmental Labs. Steve explained that he is working with the TMDL committee to reduce the phosphorus in the lake. He has worked for 20 years with water quality and because he grew up in the Alexandria, he is very familiar with lakes in this area. He explained that he took core samples from the bottom of the lake in March and is still waiting for the official results but suspects it will show a high level of phosphorus. In June, he was also able to perform a Ground Truthing of the area which involved driving around and looking at different suspected problem areas. Fortunately, this was performed right after a rain event, so he was able to see significant problem areas of run off from fields. Other than run off, he did mention the changes in wetlands and how that impacts our lake. Over time, the wetlands become clogged with debris and are no longer able to filter out phosphorus and other contaminants. One of these areas is at the inlet from Schwanke Creek. An option he is advising is the possibility of adding a settling pond to help with the filtering. This process is expensive and would require permission from the landowner. He also stated that he feels our biggest problem is the bottom settlement of the lake. Those nutrients become stirred up during wind events and once they come up to the top, they feed the algae which reduces water clarity. This process is called an Internal Load. An option to help with that is called an Alum Treatment. When this is applied, the nutrients get stuck to the Alum and stay at the bottom of the lake. They have seen success in other lakes and if successful, it could work for up to 15 plus years. Lake Associations*

that have had the treatment performed includes: Lake Agnus which seen recent success, Bald Eagle Lake saw clarity go from 6 feet to 12 feet and Lake Sinclair reduced the phosphorus output by 90%. Again, this treatment is very expensive and would require grants from the county to help cover the costs. We would need to work with Deja Anton, the District Manager of the Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District. She will need to demonstrate that the Alum Treatment and other options (holding ponds, water gardens, etc) are necessary and she will be able to help us with grant applications and approvals. Lee Daly stated that he will be reaching out to Deja to set up a meeting in September with the TMDL Committee and Steve Henry to discuss our plans and request her assistance. She is currently working on a new lake quality report that should be done in the Spring 2023. After that time the process will include - applying for the grant in the Fall of 2023, receiving the funds in the Spring of 2024 and then arranging for the treatment in the Fall of 2024. It is a long process but could be very beneficial to our lake and its future. More updates will be posted on the website and discussed at the 2023 LID meeting.

New Business:

- *Al Leinen asked if there was a way to control the level of the lake. The last 2 years we have seen low lake levels which has made it difficult for boating. Mark Brauch shared that the only way to raise the level would be to make changes to the culverts and possibly repair the Dam site that was taken out of operation in 1952. He suspected that it may require 100% of the landowners to approve and but we would need clarification from the DNR. It was decided that there is no easy fix to the problem, and we will need to live with the fluctuating water levels brought on each year by rain, snow and heat.*

Motion to Adjourn: *A motion to adjourn was made by Steve Richter at 10:05 AM, second by Jim Macy, motion passed.*

Submitted by Joan Ganley, landowner, assisting Lee Daly who was Acting Board Chair for the absent Chuck Macy.