

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

### **Annual Meeting – August 24, 2024 – Hub Supper Club**

The meeting was called to order at 10:04AM by Board Chairman Chuck Macy. Board members in attendance were Chuck Macy, Mike Wolters, Al Leinen, and Lee Daly. There was a total of 25 property owners present and 2 guest speakers from Todd County Soil & Water. Chuck Macy reviewed the agenda, revised the order to accommodate our speakers, and the meeting proceeded.

Chairman's Statement: Chuck Macy talked about the Alum Grant being resubmitted this year and the new Schwanke Creek Feasibility Study Grant we recently received approval on from Todd County and that details will be provided by Lee Daly and Deja Anton. He also talked about the somewhat contentious spring meeting of the Lake Association, but thanked Joan Ganley and the new volunteers for a strong come back with that organization.

Secretary's Report: Lee Daly presented the annual meeting minutes from August 26, 2023 for review and recap including last year's Alum grant application. The minutes were accepted as written with a motion from Sue Krippner, second by Joan Ganley, motion passed. The minutes will be published on the Big Swan Lake Improvement District and Association website.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Wolters presented the financials from 8/24/2023 through 8/22/2024 detailing our starting balance of \$117,203.84, deposits, checks, and a correction was made for a deposit in the amount of \$994.01 that was originally listed in error as a check, with a final ending balance of \$122,399.58. A motion was made by Sue Krippner to approve the report, second by Steve Richter, motion passed.

#### Old Business:

- Chuck Macy reported on the curly leaf (CLP) treatment for 2024 and a plan for next year. This year the DNR required a lake survey since they're needed every 5 years and we were past due. RMB Labs conducted an early survey in April due to the mild winter, but they found little evidence of active curly leaf at that time. Steve Baker contacted Christine from the DNR to explain the problem and she agreed that we could treat the same acres that we treated last year as long as we completed another survey by late June. The 2<sup>nd</sup> survey by RMB Labs showed no curly leaf in the treated areas due to successful chemical application in May, but did find approximately 12.5 additional acres not on the original survey. A discussion was held regarding the optional shoreline treatment this year with residents having mixed success stories, however Chuck has talked to Aquatic Solutions and they expect improvements can be made for 2025. Chuck reported that he and Steve Baker will start the permit process for next year in January. A motion was made by Al Leinen to apply for CLP treatment of approximately 38 acres in 2025 or the maximum amount that the DNR will approve, second by Bonnie Alsleben, motion passed.

#### New Business (revised agenda):

- Guest Speaker: Adam Ossefoort, Director Todd County Soil & Water. Adam provided a slide projector presentation on Planning, Zoning, & Variances for lakeshore property owners. He explained how many people buy existing old cabins, tear them down, and build their dream lake home. However, they must follow the zoning 101 plan that includes setbacks, structure

limitations, height limitations, and no more than 25% total of impervious surface area. Big Swan is considered a RD (recreational lake) and must follow those guidelines. There are 7 requirements when building and all must be met. Adam provided examples and different scenarios regarding variances showing why some are accepted and others are not. Cost is not a factor and won't be considered. Questions were asked about why it costs so much and takes so long to get variances approved and changing the size of a deck.

For more details Adam has provided his complete power point presentation and it will be posted to our website.

- Guest Speaker: Deja Anton, District Manager Todd County Soil & Water. Deja provided a slide projector presentation on the Mississippi-Brainerd One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) that was recently implemented after 2 years of meetings and public hearings. There is now an approved budget of \$1,641,920.50 as of July 1, 2024 and work is under way on various projects. Of that total amount there is \$290,000 available for cost-share projects around Big Swan Lake. Deja also took time to apologize for not being able to attend our spring meeting, but said that we should all be proud of the work both our association and LID has done over the last several years. She then explained how Big Swan Lake became a target for funding because we are a natural lake that draws a lot of people and that we are a source in the Mississippi River for drinking water in St. Cloud and the Twin Cities.

She provided a handout for our members that showed actual examples of approved projects starting this year including the Schwanke Creek feasibility study, field erosion control, forest management, and cover crops.

Deja discussed our Alum Grant from last year and that we were not successful primarily because the 1W1P wasn't completed yet and we needed to add a feasibility study to the application. She has provided the state and MPCA with a list of 35 ground projects completed in recent years, facts about how alum will last longer than 3 years in Big Swan, landowner's shoreline projects, and our CLP treatment. This year's grant will be decided by the end of the year.

Deja then discussed AIS and that Lake Charolette has zebra mussels which could be a threat to Big Swan. She recommended inspections and signage at the public access. Chuck Macy added that he is looking for volunteers for the AIS committee that meets each year in January. Al Leinen asked if the county could provide a report of what lakes and what % now have zebra mussels.

Deja then talked about Todd County being primarily an agricultural county with feedlots in zoning compliance and how that makes lakeshore issues and odor complaints more difficult. She stated that anyone can get odor monitoring forms from her office, but they need to record 14 consecutive days. Concerns were voiced about the feedlot being expanded, trees that are were supposed to be planted, and messy conditions along the road. She said her office tries to work with farmers, but they don't have an enforcement ability. Everyone agreed that water quality in our lake is more important than cosmetics of the landowners and farmers. She told us that the Hollerman field improvement project is on the back burner and the county is now focused on adding cover crops. Regarding the feedlot expansion, we will receive notice, and a public hearing would be held. A discussion followed about the lakeshore owner's frustration and possible valuation issues for those trying to sell their lake property. Deja stressed that the county cannot tell farmers what to do, but will continue to communicate and try to work with them.

Old Business (continued):

- Chuck Macy provided an update on our bog committee and removal/relocation permit. Our current permit is being renewed and we have stakes if anyone requests them.
- Al Leinen reported on a recent DNR netting survey of fish in Big Swan. As usual northern pike are dominant, with crappie, panfish, and largemouth bass also being numerous. Walleye are doing OK and we also have a fair number of bullheads. A copy will be posted on our website for more details. We are scheduled for walleye fingerlings to be stocked this fall. We are now doing this only on even years with the DNR stocking fry on odd years. There was no motion required since the \$6,000 funding was approved last year for the fall of 2024.
- The TMDL Committee Update & Clean Water Grant progress report was provided by Lee Daly. Deja had already covered this in detail, so Lee provided a short handout showing that our approved funding from last year was under budget for both the alum treatment and the Schwanke Creek project. Our new estimate for the 2024 alum grant is now only \$59,840 over 3 years rather than \$89,000. The Schwanke Creek project will cost us \$6,178.75 with Todd County cost sharing, well under the \$12,000 budget approved last year. Lee also stated that ISG Environmental Engineering was awarded the contract and they had 2 people out on August 23<sup>rd</sup> doing a survey of the entire creek from Highway 287 to the lake. A final report with recommendations will be issued by 12/31/24.

#### New Business & Open Discussion:

- Chuck Macy opened discussion for any new business, and there were some questions about the lake levels and if we can have the culvert lowered or raised again. However, the DNR must approve any changes and they have been very reluctant to allow it because someone will always be negatively affected.

Election of Officers: Chuck Macy reported that the term of board member Al Leinen was expiring and asked if anyone wanted to volunteer. There were no volunteers so Al agreed to be reelected for another three years if approved by the membership. A motion to approve Al Leinen as a board members was made by Ed Heneck, second by Sue Krippner, motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Sue Krippner at 12:29PM, second by Greg Hegeholz, motion passed.

Submitted by Lee Daly, Secretary