

Minutes of the August 23, 2014 membership meeting of
Big Swan Lake Improvement Association of Todd County

The Big Swan Lake Improvement Association meeting was called to order during the preceding meeting of the Big Swan Lake Improvement District (LID) to discuss common issues and concerns regarding the lake's long-term fluctuating high and low water levels. Fluctuations reached historic levels this year when heavy rains caused an all-time high water level of 1195.38 in June. By early August, the lake level had dropped 25 inches.

Dennis Harder, association president, presented a timeline since 2002 showing several instances of added or increased culvert capacity on streams flowing into the lake, while outflow capacity was decreased at two locations during the same period. He reported having initiated action with the DNR, including applying for a permit that requests a "stop log" to control low water levels and adding overflow culvert capacity on Era Circle and Erie Drive to handle extreme high water spikes. He proposed adding overflow culverts set 7 to 12 inches above existing culverts and a stop log set to 7 inches at the Era Circle site to minimize low water levels. The DNR had done a site visit and Harder was waiting to hear its findings and ruling on the permit. He also received a project cost estimate from Irv Herdering amounting to between \$16,000 and \$20,000.

After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Sue Krippner requesting proposed project funding for additional culverts and a "stop log" for up to \$25,000, pending proper DNR permits and agreement of affected land owners. Recommend joint funding from BSLA and BSLID to be determined by BLSA and BSLID Boards. Second by Nancy Hillman. Motion passed. LID President George Brezinka said any action may require the approval of Todd County Soil and Water, the LID's supervisory agency.

When the association meeting reconvened following the rest of the LID meeting, members approved the May meeting minutes on a motion by Sue Krippner and a second by Betty Richter. The treasurer's report showed a balance of \$42,143.76. Members approved the report on a motion by Denny Harder and a second by Tom Dingman.

In other business, Sue Krippner reported the final disbursement from the charitable gambling operation was: Big Swan Lake - \$3,133, Long Lake - \$2,686, City of Grey Eagle's Fire Department - \$2,686, and Swanville Dollar for Scholars - \$697.

Nancy Hillman reported the Lakes Golf Tournament and Dinner netted \$2,238 each for Big Swan and Long Lakes. More teams than expected took part, raising expenses for added carts. The silent auction was successful again.

In the director election, Steve Richter and Bonnie Alsleben were re-elected to the positions of secretary and treasurer. Robin Robotcek, the at-large director, declined to run again due to health issues. Denny Harder with a second from George Brezinka nominated Mark Redding from the Big Swan Lake Association (former resort) on the north end of the lake to fill that position. Motion passed.

Betty Richter requested up to \$1,000 to investigate the possibility of DNR help with providing improved loon habitat on the lake. Her motion and a second by Jean Harder passed.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Dennis Harder and second by George Brezinka.