

**Minutes of the Aug. 27, 2016 meeting
of the Big Swan Lake Association of Todd County**

The meeting was called to order following the Big Swan Lake Improvement District meeting at the Hub Supper Club by Vice President Mark Redding, filling in for President Dave Nickolay who was unable to attend.

On a motion by Chuck Macy and a second by Larry Alsleben, members approved the secretary's minutes as presented. Treasurer Bonnie Alsleben reported a checking account balance of \$3,173.58 and a money market balance of \$35,335.18 as of Aug 27. Members approved the report on a motion by Betty Richter and a second by Nancy Hillman.

Hillman reported Big Swan's share of the net proceeds of the annual golf tournament, dinner and silent auction, organized with Long Lake, is \$2,594. She encouraged members to attend the first quarterly bingo event that would be held the next day at the Hub in conjunction with Swanville Dollars for Scholars. Because the plan is to hold bingo every three months instead of monthly, higher winning pots are expected by selling card packets in advance and drawing larger crowds.

Redding reported that new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) signs were installed at the public landings and three private sites on the lake, including north and south campgrounds and at the north entrance to Dogwood Loop on the west side.

Secretary Steve Richter reported the revival of the Fourth of July boat parade drew nearly a dozen participants. Winner of the "best decorated" entry was the pontoon represented by Bonnie and Larry Alsleben and their three grandchildren.

Redding and Richter said Nickolay is interested in possibly pursuing additional water quality testing at the lake's three creek inlets and lake bottom core sampling analysis to supplement the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study that the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) began on the lake this summer. As reported at the LID meeting, results of MPCA sampling, taken only on the Schwanke Creek inlet, won't be available until summer 2017. Members indicated they would consider funding further testing after the MPCA makes its preliminary report. Concerning further lake bottom core sampling, members requested additional information about procedures used and results expected.

The two-year terms of three board members were up for election this year. Al Leinen offered to fill the interim at-large position held by Hillman, despite being elected to the LID board in the prior meeting. Janet Lind volunteered to fill the treasurer's position held by Bonnie Alsleben for several years. Nobody volunteered to take over as secretary from Richter, so on a motion by Mark Brauch and a second by Hillman he was re-elected on an interim basis until a replacement can be found.

Following up on election results, members discussed ways to draw better meeting attendance to expand the pool of potential volunteers. One suggestion is to hold a picnic lunch with the two August meetings,

which the boards will consider. Also mentioned is considering holding an Association meeting only in May, leaving August for the LID meeting alone. One concern expressed is the length of time between Association meetings if events should require more timely membership action.

In open discussion, Mark Haus and Mark Brauch questioned the effect the new overflow culverts under Erie Drive downstream of the lake are having on water levels. They said the lake hasn't reached its ordinary high water mark of 1194 feet for many months, but the overflow culverts, which are seven inches higher than the main culverts, have continued to carry water all summer. Brauch also maintains that in August 2015, shortly after the overflow culverts were added, the water at his dock dropped six inches and he couldn't get his boat off his lift.

A report was handed out from Ken Zeik, DNR hydrologist, analyzing several years of lake level and precipitation data, as well as outlining DNR permit history regarding the downstream crossing at Erie Drive. The state agency maintains the installation of the two flood relief culverts would not affect average water level fluctuations on the lake because the crossings are downstream and lower than the lake runout at the concrete sill there with 1191.10 feet of elevation. Denny Harder recapped the steps leading up to the installation of the overflow culverts, which he said the DNR permit specified be set seven inches above the main culverts.

Brauch and Haus agreed to form a committee with Matt Zinniel to do a cost/benefit analysis of doing an engineering survey of overall lake levels and correct elevation of supplemental culverts for true flood control. Members approved the committee proceeding with determining the cost of such a study and reporting back at the spring meeting.

Members approved closing the meeting on a motion by Betty Richter and a second by Bonnie Alsleben.