

Big Swan Lake – Lake Association
Spring Meeting – June 10, 2023 – HUB Supper Club, Burtrum, MN

Board Members Present: Treasurer Jan Lind and Al Leinen

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am by Al Leinen, on behalf of President Dvorak, who submitted his resignation via email on March 23, 2023.

Al Leinen began the meeting by explaining that the association is in jeopardy of dissolution. He shared that without the association, our lake would not be eligible to be treated for aquatic invasive species, continue with fish stocking or make any other future improvements. He then shared that Joan Ganley, volunteer, has agreed to lead the meeting in the absence of the President.

Joan Ganley asked if anyone had any questions from the Fall meeting minutes. Attendees responded that they did not. A motion was made by Sue Krippner to approve the minutes – second by Betty Richter. Motion carried.

Review of the Financial Statements: Treasurer Jan Lind reported a balance of \$66,798. Expenses included tax filing, insurance, and a reimbursement to the president. Pull tab income of \$2,500 was reported and the LID reimbursed the Association for the 2022 aquatic spraying. Pull tab income will be donated to this organization once a year by the Hub Supper Club. No other questions or comments concerning the financials. A motion was made by Steve Richter to approve the financials – second by Jim B. Motion carried.

Board Officer Discussion: Joan Ganley shared that Marty Dvorak had resigned from the President position, Ryan Ganley did not renew his position as Secretary and Jason Schwamb's At Large position has expired. New board members were needed to fill the positions so the Association can stay within the required By Laws. Al Leinen helped explain the duties of each position and answered questions presented by members. Al Leinen nominated Joan Ganley as the President, Lee Daly seconded. Mike Legatt volunteered to be Vice President, Greg Hegeholz volunteered to step into an At Large position and Steve Richter volunteered for the Secretary position. A motion was made by Al Leinen to elect Joan Ganley, Steve Richter, Mike Legatt and Greg Hegeholz into the positions noted above – second by Sue Krippner. Motion carried.

Discussion of Annual Dues: Joan Ganley began a discussion concerning the possibility of a temporary hold on the required dues for membership in the Association. Several people have expressed a frustration that members already pay a required tax for the Big Swan Lake LID so why should they also have to pay dues for the Association. There have

also been requests to reduce the amount of the dues. An open discussion was encouraged. Mike Legatt expressed his belief that paying dues represents ownership in the lake and its future. Denny Harder concurred and stated that it should stay at the current amount because it is a nominal amount. Lee Daly shared that he spoke with Big Swan resident Jeff Howe, who was not able to attend the meeting. Jeff shared that he felt in order to get residents to pay their dues the Association should mail out a statement to each resident and ask them to mail it back with their payments. Along with that, Denny Harder suggested that the Association also include an explanation of the Association expenses and future expenses planned to help with lake quality improvement. It was decided that the President of the LID, Chuck Macy, and the President of the Lake Association, Joan Ganley, would meet and create a summary that can be distributed. Patty Herzberg offered to assist and mail out the letter once it has been prepared. A motion was made by Mike Legatt to continue with the annual dues and keep them at the same amount (\$30 for Single and \$35 for Couple) – Second by Greg Hegeholz. Motion carried.

Volunteer Possibilities: Joan Ganley shared that there are several volunteer opportunities available. She noted that a list of examples had been mailed out to residents along with the meeting notice.

1. Curly Leaf Spraying Coordinator: Steve Richter and Chuck Macy had stepped in to help this year, but they were looking for a full time volunteer. Steve Richter explained the duties required. Steve Baker volunteered to help. Steve Richter said he would help with training.
2. Weed Stick Installation: Chuck Macy, who was unable to attend, provided information concerning the possibility of installing a “Weed Stick” at the Big Swan Lake boat landing to help with removal of invasive lake weeds. Todd County agreed to cost share up to \$1,000. A volunteer was needed to contact the Weed Stick company and get it installed. Sue Krippner volunteered to help and information was provided to her.

Other volunteer opportunities are available but with lack of attendance at the meeting it was agreed to table the conversation until more volunteers become available.

By Law Amendment: Joan Ganley presented a possible change to the By Laws regarding the number of meetings we have each year and the dates those meetings would be held. At the Fall meeting it was discussed that we should consider changing the Lake Association meetings to Annual instead of Bi-Annual.

1. Lee Daly shared that he felt it should be reduced to once a year (Spring) because the Fall meeting immediately followed the LID meeting and it became long and repetitive causing many people to leave before the meeting was over. Denny Harder said that he felt that there should still be two

meetings each year. The Spring meeting would handle the main business and the Fall meeting would be brief and only held to handle any requests that arise from the LID meeting held that same day. It was decided that the Bi-Annual meetings would continue. Since no changes were made to the By Laws, no vote was required.

2. A discussion was held to discuss the date of the meetings. Currently the By Laws state that the meetings should take place the Saturday prior to Memorial Day and the Saturday prior to Labor Day. However, this has become a problem for many with their schedules. It would be nice to have it more flexible to get the most attendees and board members. It was agreed that the meeting time would be determined each year by the Big Swan Lake Board with notification to all members 30 days prior to the meeting. The meetings would need to be scheduled in the month of May before Memorial Day and in the month of August before Labor Day to ensure the best attendance by seasonal residents. A motion was made by Mike Legatt to update the meeting dates in the By Laws – second by Jim B. Motion carried.

Fish Stocking: Al Leinen shared that the DNR will be putting Fry in the lake this Fall so we are not allowed to stock any Fingerlings. We will be able to stock again in the Fall of 2024 so Al will ask the board for funding at the Spring 2024 meeting.

TMDL Update: Lee Daly and the TMDL committee continue to work with Steve Henry from RMDL Labs out of Alexandria to research ways to improve our lake quality. The committee met in April and devised a list of priorities that include Alum Treatment, Lakeshore homeowner education, Schwankee Creek improvements, runoff from agricultural land, erosion control and buffer zones. All of these items will require a great deal of money so we will need to apply for a State Clean Water Legacy Grant. Deja Anton, Todd County, will be recommending us for the grant and we hope to complete the application by Fall of 2023. Concerns about farm run off on Emerald Trail and the Feed Lot were presented by members in attendance. Lee let everyone know that Todd County is working with Sean Hollerman to perform an engineering study of his fields to help eliminate run off. Lee and Joan Ganley encouraged residents to call Todd County, Burnhamville Township or Sean Hollerman directly if they have questions or concerns.

Curly Leaf Treatment: Steve Richter spoke on behalf of Chuck Macy concerning the Curly Leaf treatment on Big Swan Lake. Unfortunately, the company we have used in the past declined to work with us this year because the owners are retiring and reducing the number of lakes that they are treating. Chuck Macy contacted the DNR and was given three names of vendors that spray for aquatic weeds. After much research, a vendor, Aquatic Solutions, was selected. Since it was their first year of treating our lake they

declined to provide treatments for individual properties. This year they treated 23 acres, 6 foot average depth at 1 ppm which is what we have done in the past. The treatment was performed on May 20th and Curly Leaf was spotted by the vendor. The DNR recommended that Big Swan complete a Curly Leaf survey. With this survey there is a good chance that we could be approved for an increased acreage next year. It was brought up that the survey would need to happen soon because the Curly Leaf dies off at the end of June. Lee Daly volunteered to contact Steve Henry, at RMDL labs, to get his opinion on how to get the study scheduled. Chuck Macy recommended that we vote to pay \$5,000 for the survey and potentially \$20,000 for the Curly Leaf treatment in 2024. A motion was made by Steve Richter to spend up to \$25,000 for Curly Leaf treatment and the survey – second by Betty Richter. Motion carried.

Boat Parade: No volunteer stepped forward to help with the annual boat parade during the 4th of July holiday. It was decided that because the holiday falls on a Tuesday and because there are several other community events scheduled, the parade would be cancelled this year and it will be revisited next year if volunteers are willing to help.

With no further discussions a motion to adjourn was made by Joan Ganley at 11:45 am. Motion carried.

Submitted by Joan Ganley, President