

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

### **Annual Meeting – August 26, 2023 – Hub Supper Club**

The meeting was called to order at 10:02AM by Board Chairman Chuck Macy. Board members in attendance were Chuck Macy, Mike Wolters, Al Leinen, Mark Brauch, and Lee Daly. There were a total of 28 property owners present. Chuck Macy reviewed the agenda and the meeting proceeded.

Chairman's Statement: Chuck Macy talked about the lake association's spring meeting success in reorganization & getting new board members and volunteers. He reported that the curly leaf (CLP) treatment was done in late May by our new vendor and went well. He also talked about the progress made on the clean water grant & that it will be discussed in more detail later in the meeting.

Secretary's Report: Lee Daly presented the annual meeting minutes from August 27, 2022 for review and recap including last year's presentation by Lake Consultant Steve Henry on Alum treatment. The minutes were accepted as written with a motion from Al Leinen, 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 8/25/2022 through 8/24/2023 detailing our starting balance of \$107,947.69, deposits, checks, and ending balance of \$117,203.84 and review of expenditures. A motion was made by Mark Brauch to approve the report, second by Jim Macy, motion passed.

#### Old Business:

- Chuck Macy reported on the curly leaf (CLP) treatment for 2023 and a plan for next year. This year when applying for our permit the DNR said that we're past due for a lake survey that's required every 5 years. However, they granted a permit for 23 acres in 2023 as long as our survey is completed before next year's treatment. We do have a quote from RMB Labs for approximately \$2,300 for a complete lake survey in early May of 2024. A motion was made by Mark Brauch to spend up to \$2,500 for a lake survey in 2024, second by Greg Hegeholz, motion passed. This year we requested 3 new bids because our previous vendor was no longer offering service. We chose Aquatic Solutions for a cost of \$9,944. In addition, the county grant program decreased from 50% to 25% in cost share. There were questions about if the property owners can have a treatment option for their shorelines & Chuck would request that for 2024. It was also stated that residents can get their own permit and treat it themselves. There was a question about wild rice and residents were informed that they cannot remove or treat it. Chuck reported that we'll have 30 days or less next year after the lake survey to get our permit approved so we may only get 23 acres again, but hopefully more acreage in 2025. A motion was made by Patty Herzberg to spend up to \$20,000 for CLP treatment in 2024, second by Joan Ganley, motion passed.
- Chuck Macy reported that Todd County has an AIS Committee that Steve Richter formerly was involved with and now Chuck has taken over. There are two meetings a year we must attend in January & March for our CLP grants and public access landing improvements such as the wand tool for cleaning off boats. Chuck asked for volunteers, there were none, & Chuck said that he'd continue going to the meetings.

- Chuck Macy provided an update on our bog committee and removal/relocation permit. Our current permit is good through October 2023 & we'll apply again in 2024. The lake association has a bog committee that will continue for next year, but they may need more stakes. Mike Wolters informed them that they can purchase additional & if they send him a receipt they'll be reimbursed.
- Al Leinen reported on the walleye stocking program. On odd numbered years the DNR provides 600,000 fry and on even numbered years we put in 400 pounds of fingerlings as well as the DNR. Al also reported that a DNR survey will be taken in 2024 to determine the population of all fish species and to determine our walleye stocking success. A discussion followed about the possible reduction of our sunfish population due to the increased number of walleye in the lake, the increase of largemouth bass, and a request to have the northern pike regulations ended. There was also a concern about increased fishing pressure on Big Swan due to our larger possession limits compared to other lakes. Al stated that the DNR informed him that our public access has not seen any large increases in traffic over the last few years. A discussion followed regarding the DNR survey methods and fish kill. Al reported that they will be using hoop nets which will be better for the fish and he'll ask if we can keep any of the fish during the survey. A motion was made by Al Leinen to spend up to \$6,000 in 2024 for approximately 400 pounds of fingerlings, second by Greg Hegeholz, motion passed.
- The TMDL Committee Update & Clean Water Grant progress report was provided by Lee Daly. Committee members also include Joan Ganley, Mark Brauch, Al Leinen, & Jim Bieniek. The committee was formed in 2020 after Big Swan was listed as an impaired lake by the MPCA for high phosphorus levels. In order to find the best methods to reduce nutrients we hired a lake consultant in 2021. In 2022 sediment samples were taken from the lake bottom and in Schwanke Creek as well as a survey of all other inlets and surrounding land. In August of 2022 a Lake Quality Report was issued by Steve Henry of RMB Labs that reported we have a large amount of imbedded phosphorus in the lake bottom which is causing an internal loading problem every year in August & September. In 2023 the committee created a priority list based on this report with Alum treatment being the number one way to reduce phosphorus, followed by an engineering study on Schwanke Creek for possible cleanup & restoration, and a landowners educational program in conjunction with Todd County Soil & Water to provide nutrient reduction in the lake by installing native plant buffers, rain gardens, & controlling roof runoff on their property. A handout was provided showing the information on the State Clean Water Grant we've applied for due to the high cost of Alum treatment. A motion was made by Mark Brauch to approve the grant application in the amount of \$890,050 with Big Swan's required 10% match amount of \$89,000 over 3 years, second by Mike Wolters, motion passed. Discussion followed about the Alum treatment process and a brochure on Alum was handed out. If we're not successful on the 2024 grant just recently submitted by Deja Anton of Todd County Soil & Water then we can re-apply next year for 2025. Questions were asked about how long the treatment is good for, concerns about fish kill, & improved water clarity. Mark Brauch said that the treatment is good for at least 10 years and possibly up to 20 years. If dosage amounts are kept to a minimum we will not experience fish kill. There was a possible report of zebra mussels in Big Swan & Chuck Macy asked for residents to immediately report it to the county so they can come up to test. If we fail to get the grant Lee Daly presented a 2024 backup plan for continued water sampling, possible hiring of another lake consultant, and an engineering study on Schwanke Creek. Motion was made by Al Leinen for a contingency amount of \$12,000 for 2024 for these items if we don't get the grant, second by Joan Ganley, motion passed.

New Business & Open Discussion:

- Joan Ganley provided an update of the lake association meeting from this spring. We had a great turnout, elected new officers, & had new volunteers. This year it was held in June but it was decided per the bylaws that the spring meeting will be held in future years in May prior to Memorial weekend. We'll also have short association meeting if needed in conjunction with the LID meeting in August. Reviewed the bog committee and that stakes are needed for next year. Discussion followed regarding the low lake levels creating additional weeds and limited boat access at docks. Question was asked about raising the dam level at the outlet but we were reminded that any changes require 100% approval of affected property owners which is unlikely to happen. Members were referred to the DNR website for methods on how to control weeds around your dock area.
- Chuck Macy opened discussion for any new business, but there was none.

Election of Officers: Chuck Macy reported that the term of board members Mark Brauch and himself were expiring and asked if anyone wanted to volunteer. There were no volunteers so they both agreed to be reelected for another three years if approved by the membership. A motion to approve Chuck Macy and Mark Brauch as board members was made by Greg Hegeholz, second by Patty Herzberg, motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Gene Fischer at 11:21AM, second by Al Leinen, motion passed.

Submitted by Lee Daly, secretary