

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

Annual Meeting – August 23, 2025 – Hub Supper Club

The meeting was called to order at 10:00AM by Board Chairman Chuck Macy. Board members in attendance were Chuck Macy, Mike Wolters, Al Leinen, and Lee Daly. There was a total of 35 property owners. Chuck Macy reviewed the agenda and the meeting proceeded.

Chairman's Statement: Chuck Macy stated that it's been a very busy year for the LID with the Alum Grant being approved, the Schwanke Creek Feasibility Study, and the DNR review of our Curly Leaf treatment. He also gave a special thank you to Joan Ganley for her efforts in getting the Lake Association revitalized, and the LID committee members, and stated that Deja Anton from Todd County is very pleased with all of our great work.

Secretary's Report: Lee Daly presented the annual meeting minutes from August 24, 2024 for review and recap including last year's grant applications, the Mississippi 1W1P plan, and our guest speakers Adam Ossefoort and Deja Anton from Todd County. The minutes were accepted as written with a motion from Jim Bieniek, second by Steve Richter, 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 8/23/2024 through 8/22/2025 detailing our starting balance of \$121,405.57, deposits, checks, and a final ending balance of \$104,243.93. He stated that there were a lot of checks written to ISG consultants for the Schwanke Creek project, but that we'll be receiving a cost share reimbursement for \$18,536.25 in September. A motion was made by Tom Zerull to approve the report, second by Steve Richter, motion passed.

Old Business:

- Chuck Macy reported on the Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) treatment for 2025, thanked Steve Baker for all his involvement, and discussed possible plans for next year. This year we requested a 20.7-acre treatment area based on a survey conducted last June by RMB Labs. However, when Steve Baker contacted Christine from the DNR she wanted to do her own survey to verify the actual amount of CLP in our lake. She then determined that we could only treat 17.5 acres and the permit was changed to that amount. Steve Baker stated that in his opinion our surveys are basically useless if the DNR wants to do their own. He also discussed various quotes we received last year for new surveys from Steve Henry. One was a basic rake type as we've always done in the past, and the other was a more high-tech sonar scan but the DNR didn't recommend that because it often shows additional weeds that are not CLP. A discussion was also held regarding the Alum and CLP treatments both being done in the same year, but it was determined that they will not interfere with each other. Chuck reported that he will start the permit process for next year in January by attending the AIS meeting to seek available grants and Steve will do more research on survey options, but no additional surveys are planned for now until we request the permits and discuss things with the DNR next spring.
- Chuck Macy discussed the bog removal permits that we get every year. He stated that we can remove any bog less than 8 foot by 8 foot in size and relocate any larger size bogs on the west shoreline by using stakes if not near any private property. A question was asked if we can push bogs away from our docks, but it was determined only if staked somewhere nearby or on the west shoreline.

- Al Leinen reported on the Walleye Stocking Program that we are currently doing every other year. The DNR stocks small fry on odd years (2025) and we provide 7 – 9 inch fingerlings on even years (2026). We've been stocking Big Swan for about nine years now and the DNR surveys have shown good results. Al would like a sign posted at the public landing for anglers to throw back any walleye under 15", but the DNR won't approve it. We can stock up to 800 pounds, but due to recent cost increases we only could stock 333 pounds in 2024 for a cost of \$6,000. Al requested that we increase our budget to \$8,000 so we can stock approximately 450 pounds in 2026. A motion was made by Larry Alsleben to approve funding, second by Ed Hennek, motion passed.
- Lee Daly reported on the Alum treatment plans for this year. The grant was approved by the Todd County Soil & Water board on August 14th in the amount of \$545,120 for a two-year treatment plan with 90% of these costs being paid through a state grant. The Big Swan LID will be responsible for 10% or approximately \$54,500 which is considerably lower than our originally approved funds of up to \$90,000. Our financials are in good shape and we can save even more money by receiving credits for our volunteer hourly contributions such as this meeting today. This year's application will probably be done the first week in October and will take about five plus days. The DNR has approved the public landing for our staging area for the chemical tanker trucks. There are no safety concerns during the application and the lake residents can use the lake as normal. The only exception is that Lake Restoration requested we stay clear of their boat while they are applying the Alum in the lake.
- Chuck Macy reported on the recently completed study on Schwanke Creek located on the southwest corner of the lake. This creek is the largest inlet traveling several miles upstream through farmland and historically has contributed a lot of phosphorus and E.coli into Big Swan. It's a natural wetland area but it has become degraded and is now a plugged and dirty sponge. Furthermore, based on arial photos the water path discharged into the lake has moved considerably over the past several years. The ISG feasibility study with approval from Todd County Soil & Water has recommended a Delta Plan where soils in the wetlands would be moved in late fall and small pools about a foot and a half deep would be created with rocks and other natural materials so that the water flow would be redirected to about 12 different new channels into the lake. The cost is estimated at \$706,000 with grants to be sought from the U.S Fish and Wildlife Department and other nature conservation groups. It will take about two years for this to develop and since the Big Swan LID and Association have already contributed so much in improvements to our lake, it's anticipated that there will be little or no costs involved on our part per Deja Anton of Todd County Soil & Water.

New Business & Open Discussion:

- Chuck Macy stated that we already covered the CLP permits. He then suggested that we may want to have a picnic this fall to discuss and answer questions regarding the alum treatment and get more hourly contributions added to the grant dollars. Bonnie Alsleben volunteered to help out and we discussed ways other than a mailing to let people know. Al Leinen suggested putting an announcement in the Hometown News. Lee Daly asked about having it on a Friday afternoon so people can actually view the treatment process. More to follow on this.
- Chuck Macy presented information on the E.A.R.T.H. assessment program now being offered by Todd County for home owners on Big Swan. He had his property done already and they came up with 28 points of suggested improvements including adding trees, lake buffers, and rain water runoff ideas. The county will not report anything they see that is negative, but any improvements could be eligible for up to a 50% cost share grant. In addition, these assessments are required to be done as part of our state grant with three more needed this year and five

needed in both 2026 and 2027. He told anyone interested to contact either Deja Anton or Josh Vortuba at Todd County. A sign-up sheet was also provided at the meeting.

- Chuck had recently received an email from some lake residents asking if the alum treatment would affect well water and about our increased goose population on Big Swan. He informed us that Deja Anton has provided him with a safety document on Alum that states it shouldn't cause problems with well water. In addition, Deja had provided him a document with lots of suggestions to deter geese including less grass and more native plants along the lake shore, reflective tape, and gun sounding machines. He also contacted the DNR but they don't have any programs available for relocating geese at this time and said it's a very complicated and expensive approach. The net result is that geese are not under the jurisdiction of the LID.
- Under open discussion Jason Zander spoke about a recent improvement he made on his property with help from Deja Anton from Todd County. He said that they are very happy with the results and it created a lake buffer area with riprap along the shoreline.

Election of Officers:

Chuck Macy reported that the term of board members of Lee Daly for secretary and Mike Wolters for treasurer was due to expire and asked if anyone wanted to volunteer. There were no volunteers so Lee and Mike both agreed to be reelected for another three years if approved by the membership. A motion to approve Lee Daly and Mike Wolters as board members was made by Al Leinen, second by Joan Ganley, motion passed.

Motion to Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn was made by Joan Ganley at 11.05AM, second by Steve Richter, motion passed.

Submitted by Lee Daly, Secretary