

**May 19, 2012 spring meeting minutes of the
Big Swan Lake Improvement Association of Todd County**

President Denny Harder called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. at the Hub Supper Club.

Minutes of the association's Aug. 27, 2011 fall meeting were approved on a motion by Mark Brauch and a second by Sue Krippner. Bonnie Alsleben presented the Treasurer's Report showing a combined balance of \$25,691.96 in the checking and money market accounts. The report was approved following motions by Nancy Hillman and Sue Krippner.

Sue Krippner reviewed the year-end dispersal of charitable gambling funds: 30% each to Long Lake, Grey Eagle and Big Swan Lake, which received an additional 10% for administration of the pull tab operation at the Hub Supper Club. Long Lake and Grey Eagle each received \$9,788 and Big Swan was allocated \$13,050. She reported that the Association has started offering bingo on Thursday nights at the Hub Supper Club. Nancy Hillman, who is running the bingo program, noted participation is building slowly and asked for volunteer help.

Harder gave an overview of Big Swan Lake improvement efforts and an update of the Curlyleaf Pondweed control program. Lake Management treated 37 acres of Curlyleaf infestation this year, the same as allowed by the DNR last year, well under the 60 acres it previously set as the limit in prior years. To expedite timely issuance of the permit, all parties agreed to limiting treatment to 37 acres again this year and re-evaluating needed treatment for next year.

George Brezinka updated Association members on water quality improvement efforts. They include: the Total Daily Maximum Load (TDML) watershed study, which is expected to begin assessing pollution loads coming into the lake from inlet streams beginning in 2014; Todd County Soil and Water's projects involving feedlots along inlet streams; and uncertainty about when the county will proceed with lake septic system inspections because of the open Planning and Zoning director position.

Lake resident Dave Nickolay proposed the association become involved with local watershed agencies in a drainage project on Dogwood Loop road. He says three large road culverts on the west side of the lake drain hundreds of acres of farmland directly into three lake lots north of his property, which cannot be built on due to substantial wetlands. Water from these lots flows into the lake. He proposes building a holding pond on the west side of Dogwood Loop and restoring the three lake lots to full wetland status, which combined would act as a water filtering system. Sue Krippner made a motion seconded by Nancy Hillman for Nickolay to create a committee to explore the options and report back. Members approved the motion. To contact Nickolay about becoming involved, contact him at acmadave@gmail.com or call 952-974-5285.

Nancy Hillman reported that this year's Save the Lakes Golf Tournament and Dinner will be Friday, Aug. 3. She suggested those who don't golf can still participate by attending the dinner and silent auction at the Hub Supper Club. She asked volunteers to call her at 320-285-2634.

Also discussed was walleye stocking. Harder reported he had contacted a private fish management company that claims it has better stocking success rates than the DNR. It charges \$3,000 to \$5,000 for stocking 200 pounds yearlings every year, but Harder says the DNR told him it would take that amount out of what it typically stocks each year. Currently the DNR stocks 800 pounds of fry and fingerlings in alternating years, which it says is the lake's walleye reproduction limit. Mark Brauch suggested the lake may need a slot limit for walleyes like it has for northern pike. A motion by George Brezinka and Mark Brauch not to pay a private company to stock the lake passed. Members decided the association should informally approach the DNR about the possibility of imposing a walleye slot limit.

Kathy Brezinka reported Todd County Soil and Water will hold its second annual River and Lake Days on Friday, Aug. 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Hub Supper Club. An RSVP is required for lunch. The agenda and other information are available at our web site: bigswanlake.com.

Robin Robotcek reported on new DNR regulations for invasive species, which will be effective July 1. She suggested visiting its web site at: dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquatic. Sue Krippner proposed creating a sign for placement at the public landing to further highlight the need for care in avoiding the spread of invasives. A motion by Mark Brauch to spend up to \$200 to create a sign, if approved by the DNR, was seconded by Krippner and passed.

In new business, members heard proposals for a lake severe weather warning siren and for dredging the narrows between the larger and smaller portions of the lake. After discussion, both ideas were dropped.

The meeting was adjourned on motions by Sue Krippner and Nancy Hillman.