

**Minutes of the Saturday, May 21, 2016 membership meeting  
of the Big Swan Lake Improvement Association of Todd County**

President Dave Nickolay called the association meeting to order at 9 a.m. with 37 members present at the Hub Supper Club. They approved minutes of the August 2015 meeting, with a correction pointed out by Mark Brauch, on a motion by Betty Richter and seconded by Brauch. They also approved on a motion by Jeanne Harder and a second by Nancy Hillman the treasurer's report, showing a checking account balance of \$5,239.34 and a money market account balance of \$30,314.92.

Denny Harder told members Lake Management, Inc. sprayed 51.4 acres of curlyleaf pondweed earlier in the month at a cost of \$16,191. The DNR approved treating those affected acres at specific sites around the lake. He said a county cost-share grant of \$8,095 and a DNR grant of up to \$5,000 will cover much of the cost.

Steve Richter reported the 2016 Todd County Aquatic Invasives Species (AIS) Plan continues emphasis on outreach and education, boat inspections, zebra mussel monitoring and cost-sharing for AIS lake control projects. Inspectors again will cover the Big Swan public landing on a rotating basis with six other lakes in its zone. Also, a contractor will take composite lake samples to monitor for zebra mussel larvae. The AIS plan also provides the 50% county cost-share grant the lake receives for curlyleaf control.

Nickolay presented 2016 joint goals for the Big Swan Lake Improvement District (LID) and Big Swan Lake Improvement Association that he coordinated with LID President Chuck Macy. The goals are: protect and improve water quality; protect and improve public and non-public waterways flowing into the lake; communicate, educate and involve all lakeshore owners in protecting their property values; protect and improve the lake fishery and overall recreational value; and protect and improve the lakeshore.

George Brezinka discussed a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) meeting about its Total Maximum Daily Load study of the Upper Mississippi Watershed, including Big Swan Lake and its watershed. The lake was declared "impaired" in 2011 for failing to meet MPCA water quality standards. The follow-up two-year nutrient study will involve twice-a-month monitoring and sampling at two sites on upstream Schwanke Creek and at one site on downstream Swan River. The MPCA still considers valid the numerous samples Brezinka took a few years ago at Big Swan's other inlets from Long and Lady lakes, so he was told they don't need to be monitored again. Also, MPCA is considering taking core samples of the lake bottom. On a motion by Brezinka seconded by Brauch, members agreed to have the LID look into supporting core sampling and additional inlet monitoring financially and with volunteers.

Nickolay reported on working with the DNR to update AIS signs and add related information boxes at the lake's public landings. He added Vice President Mark Redding is working to erect signs at private landings with substantial boat traffic.

Nancy Hillman introduced representatives of Swanville's Dollars for Scholars program, who discussed changes in charitable gambling activities at the Hub. Big Swan shares in proceeds from gambling profits, so it helps run activities that supplement the pull-tab operation. They explained bingo would be limited to the last Sunday of each month instead of every Thursday and meat raffles will be introduced on the first and third Fridays of the month starting at 6:30 p.m. They asked for Big Swan support for both activities. Hillman and Nickolay also asked for help with those events, as well as for volunteers to plan and run the annual Big Swan Lake and Long Lake golf tournament that will be held Friday, Aug. 5.

Nickolay discussed the revived property-owner newsletter sent out this spring as well as the lake's web site, and asked for input. Members supported a motion by Brauch and seconded by Jim Macy to publish the newsletter twice a year.

Brauch questioned lake water levels. He said the lake hasn't hit its high water mark in 18 months, yet nine inches of water are still running through the two new culverts at the north end that are supposed to handle only high water overflow. Nickolay asked to table the discussion until the matter could be studied further. Members supported a motion by Ed Hennek seconded by Jim Macy to table the matter until August.

In other business, Nickolay said: a 4th of July boat parade will start at 10:30 a.m. from the south campground and a \$50 prize will be given for best decorated boat; Todd County Soil & Water District will hold its annual River & Lakes Day Friday, May 27 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. at the Hub; the free well water testing program offered by Minnesota Department of Agriculture and TCS&W is underway; and three directors, including secretary and treasurer, will be elected at the August meeting.