

Big Swan Lake Association of Todd County

May 22 meeting held at the Hub Supper Club

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Brauch at 9:05 a.m. with 29 members present

Members approved the agenda on a motion by Pat Masloski and seconded by Denny Harder. Members approved the minutes of the fall meeting on a motion by Char Solem, seconded by Nancy Hillman.

Brauch gave the treasurer's report for Bonnie Alsleben, who was unable to attend. Members approved the treasurer's report on a motion by George Brezinka and a second by Don Larson.

Pat Masloski, who gave the constitution and bylaws committee report, said the group met 6 or 7 times, plus kept contact by e-mail as it worked on updating and combining the documents into the proposed set of bylaws. He outlined the major changes: sets a term limit of two consecutive two-year terms for the positions of president and vice president; specifies dollar amounts that officers are authorized to spend without member approval; moves board meetings to 3 weeks prior to the semi-annual association meetings; includes charitable gambling as a separate section of the document; and sets a single or dual membership option. For a slightly higher dual membership fee, both members of a couple or other sets of property owners will have voting rights in association matters.

Don Larson suggested the term limits for president and vice president are not long enough. Mark Brauch said the committee felt two two-year terms are sufficient because of the time commitment required and because it could encourage more people to consider the position.

Denny Harder reported on this year's curlyleaf pondweed treatment. He said Lake Management sprayed 46 acres on May 13. Although the association has a permit that allows up to 60 acres of treatment, the DNR approved only 46 acres for spraying this year, based on its observation of the exotic weed's presence in the lake. Harder showed a map of where spraying was done in several locations in the lake. In addition, about 13 property owners signed up for treatment along their shoreline. In response to a question, Harder said he believes curlyleaf spraying over the last few years has reduced the exotic weed by 60 percent or more. When spraying began, the DNR said 238 acres of the lake were affected. Harder said there has been tremendous improvement, especially in narrows, and suggested property owners consider spraying along their shore lines to limit further spread.

In reporting on water quality activity, George Brezinka reviewed the information that had been sent to property owners on potential 75-25 cost-share funding available to create buffer strips, rain gardens, berms, etc., along lake shore property. Todd County Soil and Water is looking for 15 property owners who would be interested in attending an informational meeting in July or August. MPCA is encouraging involvement in this program. George and Kathy Brezinka are taking the names of interested people to pass on to the county before Oct. 1. Pat Masloski reported Minnesota Waters also has grant money available for similar projects for up to \$5000. Refer to the web site for additional information.

Brezinka also reported that the Big Swan Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) control program timetable has been moved up to 2015 from 2016.

He also reported MPCA has completed a review of the two-year inlet monitoring program. Van Heel Creek as it flows into the lake has phosphorus levels six times higher than the average of 20 lake samples taken in 2008. Schwanke Creek showed phosphorus levels three times higher. The creek from Lady Lake was high in phosphorus, but lowest of the four monitored locations. Long Lake creek had low levels of dissolved oxygen. Brezinka said Long Lake itself has good levels as does Big Swan Lake, so something is happening to lower oxygen levels in the creek between them. The reason for high phosphorus levels is unknown

Brezinka is serving on a Todd County water quality committee that found in a survey that surface water is of highest concern to residents. The county is determining major concerns and problems to target in a five-year water quality action plan. Brezinka displayed a watershed map showing 24 feedlots to the west of the lake. Fourteen are on parcels that contain shore land. Brezinka will encourage the committee to include a review of all shore land feedlots and ISTS in the first two years of the five-year plan.

Sheila Milnor reported on the policies and procedures the gambling committee follows to meeting state charitable gambling requirements. She said the committee's records are being audited by state gambling control board this year. It is also audited by the certified public accountant, which does its bookwork and taxes.

Kathy Brezinka reported that \$xx,xxx has been given out since inception in 2006 and divided equally among the three entities served by the pull-tab operation at the Hub Supper Club. Don Larson questioned the fairness of dividing gambling profits equally, considering Big Swan Lake is several times larger than Long Lake. Harder and Larson suggested building up a reserve in the Big Swan Lake Improvement District (LID) with gambling funds to fund future runoff mitigation projects on the west side of the lake. An association member can submit a request for funds to the gambling committee; whatever money it receives can be put into reserve in the LID account for future projects without being taxed because of its governmental structure. Gambling money held in reserve in the lake association's bank account would be taxed at the end of the year. Members approved a motion by Harder and seconded by Hillman to request \$xx,xxx of gambling profits to seed a fund for future lake improvement projects on the west side of the lake. The money would be put into the LID for a reserve fund. Members approved the gambling report on a motion by Betty Richter and seconded by Larson.

Members approved a motion by Milnor, second by Masloski to approve all the committee reports.

Under new business, Jeanne Harder made a motion and Hillman seconded to approve proposed changes to the constitution and bylaws to create an updated set of bylaws. Motion carried. Pat Brauch made motion and Jean Harder seconded a motion to set dues for single membership at \$30 and \$35 for dual membership for next year's dues, due at the spring 2011 meeting. Motion carried.

The new bylaws provide for four officer positions, plus an extra member. Brauch asked for volunteers for the open position; Denny Harder volunteered. Board elections will be held at the fall meeting.

Masloski demonstrated and explained the new association web site at Bigswanlake.com. Denny Harder made a motion and Jim Macy seconded paying for five years for web hosting and 10 years for the domain name. Motion carried.

There was discussion about not putting association financials on web site. It was also decided that a content committee will be formed at the next meeting to help Masloski maintain the web site.

Nancy Hillman asked for volunteers Save the Lakes golf tournament scheduled Friday, Aug. 6.

George Brezinka made a motion to adjourn and Hillman seconded. Motion carried.