

SPRING

2010

THE TRUMPETER

NEWSLETTER DEVOTED TO
BIG SWAN LAKE IMPROVEMENT

NEW BYLAW CHANGES PROPOSED

The Governing Document Committee, formed at the late summer 2009 Big Swan Lake Improvement Association meeting, has made recommendations for membership to consider at the spring meeting. The proposed new bylaws would replace the association's current Constitution and Bylaws.

Current association members received the five-page document with this mailing. It also has been posted on the new association website at www.BigSwanLake.com.

Committee members will explain the proposed changes at the meeting, which will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 22 in the Hub Supper Club. Members are asked to review the proposed new governing document beforehand so they are prepared to discuss and vote on it at the spring meeting.

Any questions prior to the meeting can be directed to committee members, who met several times to develop the proposals. They include Mark Brauch, George and Kathy Brezinka, Denny Harder and Pat Masloski. Contact Pat at 651-636-6581 if you want a copy.

Highlights of the proposed bylaw changes include:

- A term limit of two consecutive two-year terms for the positions of president and vice president.
- Update of expenditure authority.
- Board meetings move to three weeks prior to the bi-annual member meetings.
- Charitable gambling provisions have been condensed into a separate section to ensure meeting Minnesota Gambling Control Board requirements.

MONITORING DONE

The MPCA has completed the flow area analysis for each date and site monitored the last two years.

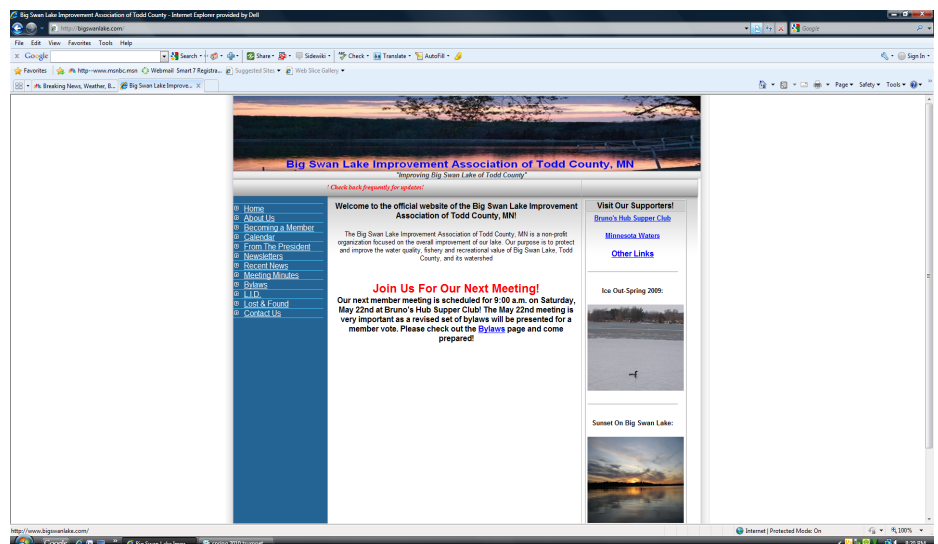
The analysis computed flow rate for each site on the specified dates. The seasonal quantity and chemical load study will be done by Todd County Soil and Water and Sauk River Watershed staff. Results will provide direction on where to focus future water quality work.

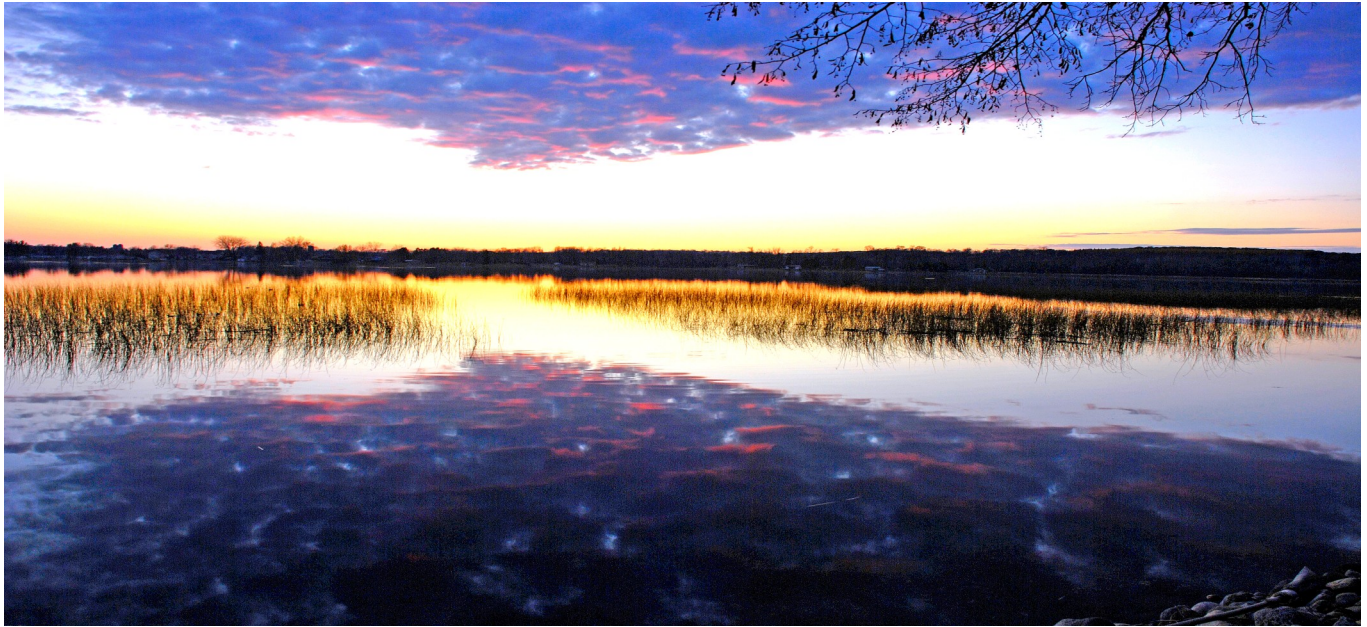
Dues for 2010 are Due

The \$30 association dues for 2010 can be paid at the May 22 meeting. Otherwise they should be mailed to Treasurer Bonnie Alsleben, 17778 Dogwood Loop, Grey Eagle, MN 56336.

CHECK OUT NEW LAKE WEB SITE AT BIGSWANLAKE.COM

The new Big Swan Lake web site is up and running at www.bigswanlake.com. Here association members and property owners can find the latest news and information about meetings and other activities devoted to improving water quality and other aspects of the lake's quality of life.





LAKE POLLUTION REDUCTION PLAN STALLS

Optimism has faded for Big Swan Lake Improvement District (LID) directors, along with officials from the Todd County Soil and Water Conservation District (TDSWCD) and the Brainerd office of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), concerning a 2011 start of a pollution-reduction plan to address the lake's "impaired waters" status.

In 2009, as a result of a legislative mandate to complete an assessment of all state waters within 10 years, the MPCA changed its approach. It will now assess entire watersheds, including their interconnected lakes, rivers and streams, at the same time. Big Swan Lake is in

the Upper Mississippi River Watershed, which is not scheduled for assessment until 2016. Additional information about this new approach can be found on the MPCA web site.

While this is a major setback, the LID is still working with the MPCA, TDSWCD and indirectly with the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources on obtaining funding. LID board members have contacted State Sen. Bill Ingebrigtsen's office regarding Clean Water Legacy dollars. They are also working to include our Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) pollution-reduction plan as a priority in the 2011 Todd County Comprehensive Water Plan.

NEW FLOATING BOG PERMIT OBTAINED FOR 2010

The Big Swan Lake Improvement District has received a 2010 permit (#10F-3B093) for the removal and/or staking of migrating bogs with the following conditions for removal:

- no bogs larger than 2,500 square feet
 - no use of heavy equipment
 - no disposal in wetlands
 - no disturbing loon nests.
- Conditions for staking are:
- Stake in original locations if known or in an undeveloped area where other cattails exist;
 - Do not block access to water for any property owner;
 - Use 2" x 2" wood stakes of sufficient numbers and length to keep bogs in place;
 - Allow for water-level fluctuations.