

## Meeting Minutes for 2022 TLID Annual Meeting - August 20, 2022

Meeting was called to order by Scott Ruiter at 10:00 AM at the Palmer Township Hall with The Pledge of Allegiance. Thirty-four members were present including the board members. We also had one guest speaker, James Johnson.

**Directors in Attendance:** Scott Ruiter, Walt Munsterman, John Schnell, Diane Stangler, Nancy Hahne, Mike Flanery and Advisor Kenzie Phelps. Todd Lorsung was absent.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Walt Munsterman pointed out meeting rules which include when members speak they are to address the board and give their name for the minutes. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Rosalie Musachio and seconded by Steve Demeules. Motion passed.

**Introduction of Board Members:** Scott Ruiter introduced the board members and thanked Walt Munsterman, outgoing board member, for his years of service as the Vice Chairperson of the TLID. Walt Munsterman thanked Scott Ruiter, outgoing board member, for his years of service as the Chairperson of the TLID.

**Adopt minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting:** Nancy Hahne, Secretary, mentioned that the minutes have been on the BLCA website and also that copies were available at this meeting. A motion was made by Harry Ernzer to approve the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes, the motion was seconded by Brad Thom. Motion passed.

**Treasurers Report:** Diane Stangler reviewed money coming in and expenses going out. The biggest expense is for weed spraying. The current balance stands at \$69,963.14 (which includes \$20,000 in the contingency fund). Beginning balance in January of 2022 was \$87,134.02, total income to date is \$10,136.28 and total expenses to date is \$32,317.16. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Roger Johnson and seconded by Harry Ernzer. Motion passed.

**Officers Reports:**

**Chairperson:** Scott Ruitter thanked everyone for attending and outlined the purpose of the annual meeting: Discuss projects, elect directors and approve the 2023 budget. He also encouraged everyone to become familiar with the BLCA website, there is a lot of information under the TLID tab. Scott mentioned we applied for and received a DNR grant in the amount of \$3,150 and a SWCD grant of \$1,500 .

**Vice President:** Walt Munsterman reminded members to state their name and to address the board with questions and/or comments.

**Secretary:** Nancy Hahne mentioned to the group that all monthly meetings are posted on the TLID website and that members are also welcome to attend meetings throughout the year.

**Treasurer:** Diane Stangler stated that we are using Sherburne State Bank in Becker for our accounts.

**Advisor:** Kenzie Phelps commented that TLID has maintained a good working relationship with the BLCA and Healthy Lakes. He stated that some Big Elk Lake residents are still interested in joining our TLID or forming their own. This process seems to be moving slowly.

#### **Old Business:**

**James Johnson presentation** - James Johnson, of Freshwater Scientific Services, spoke on surveys and why they are so important. A survey is required by the DNR for any spraying of weeds in Minnesota lakes. James talked about invasive non-native plants and what can be done to control them. He also mentioned that sometimes native plants can become dense too. The first step to curlyleaf pondweed spraying is identifying where the plants are and how dense they are in each location. The smaller/skinnier the plot, the harder it is to treat. The concentration and exposure time is important. Wind can also be a factor in dilution and drifting of the chemicals sprayed. Surveys in the spring help mark the boundaries of where treatment will be the most effective. He suggested to the board last winter that we meet with PLM out of Brainerd to look at their ideas on how to treat our lakes. Our previous experience with spraying showed that the

low dose wasn't working well. PLM presented to the board a plan that should show remarkable results in about three years. We decided to sign with them for spraying this spring but with the high water event happening during the optimal time to spray we were limited on where we could spray.

James also touched on Point Intercept Surveys. These surveys check certain points for ALL weeds every 3-5 years. Charlene Lewandowski asked why the north end of Rush wasn't sprayed this year. James said that the spring survey showed only a small patch on that end, too small for the DNR to include in the permit. He pointed out that a native weed, Coontail, is very dense on the north end of Rush. Charlene asked what can be done next year on the north end of Rush. James said he would know more after he surveys next spring but will be certain to check that area. Brad Kipp mentioned that we didn't have much blue green algae this year wondering if it was weather related. Steve Demeules questioned whether boat traffic had any effect on dilution and drift. James replied that wind is the biggest factor, boat traffic is minimal. Brad Kipp asked James, with his 20 year history of surveying our lakes what are his thoughts on the health of our lakes? James said that Briggs has healthy native plants but water clarity needs improvement. Trent Johnson wondered if we could use water screens to contain and treat certain areas. James said that screens have been used to contain Starry Stonewort for treatment. The use of thrusters were discussed. If they are used incorrectly they can disturb the lake bottom and negatively impact neighbors. We thanked James for his presentation.

**Report on AIS activities in 2022** - Mike Flanery reported on the spraying of Curly Pondweed for 2022. Treatment areas were reduced due to fast moving water. If a patch of Curly Leaf Pondweed was less than 3 acres the DNR recommended not treating it. This was the first year we used PLM out of Brainerd. They used a higher dose in hopes of less cost in later years. Mike also reported that Eurasian Water Milfoil was not found again for the third year in a row in a recent survey. Therefore, no spraying was necessary.

**Water Stabilization is Incremental** - Mike Flanery reported on our Water Logger data collection. Water level data is collected in Briggs and Elk lake which

improves water model accuracy. Mike spoke about a Weir in the bayou which would allow for shorter high-water events. The cost of this would be extremely high. Mike Timm said that he lives in the bayou and that it is filling up with sediment from the rushing waters during our high water events. Nathan Bauerly also lives in the bayou and said that sediment has a swirling effect creating an island near the bridge. A sandbar is forming as the bayou enters Briggs. It was suggested we look into the possibility of dredging.

**Phosphorus Reduction with Alum** - Mike Flanery explained what we would need to do BEFORE we could treat our lakes with Alum. One of the first steps is to determine how much phosphorus is currently in our lakes by taking core samples and analyzing them. An Alum feasibility study will cost over \$40,000. We are applying for grants which should cover most of this. We have budgeted \$6,000 in the 2023 TLID budget. Naomi Kimball asked how boat traffic would affect Alum in our lakes. Alum would settle into the deepest parts of our lakes. Anything 12 feet or deeper would not be affected.

**Lake Surveys** - Walt Munsterman talked about before and after point intercept studies (every five years). These surveys find all plants and locates them on a map by using GPS. Then in five years another survey is done to see any changes. This is very important if we want to receive grant money and DNR permits for spraying. Walt mentioned that 30 years ago it was solid Curly Leaf Pondweed in Rush so that has been a change to the better. These survey results can be found on the TLID tab of the BLCA website.

**Boat Landing Surveillance** - Walt Munsterman reported that the Soil & Water Conservation District pays some of the landing inspections based on landing use. We purchase another 200 hours in partnership with the BLCA. At the end of the season the SWCD will summarize the activity of all the landings (number of launches, where boats came from and what was found on boats and trailers).

#### **New Business:**

**Purple Loosestrife** - Scott Ruitter reported that the invasive plant, purple loosestrife was found in the bayou last year. TLID hired a company to come in to

dig up the plants. This year more plants were found in the bayou. Mike Flanery is in the process of identifying these locations and coordinating hand pulling of these plants. He needs volunteers, please contact Mike if you'd like to help. Nate Bauerly asked if they needed to obtain signed waivers from property owners. Mike has been doing that.

**Proposed Projects for 2023** - John Schnell went through the 2023 projects that the TLID board will be working on. They are: Curly Leaf Pondweed, Eurasian Water Milfoil, Water Level Stabilization, Water Logger Monitoring, Algae Reduction, Boat Access Monitoring and Purple Loosestrife.

**Propose Budget for 2023** - Diane Stanger explained the "Two Times" expenses policy. In response to a previous year's discussion regarding the balance in our account, we have adopted a two times budget policy - we will multiple our proposed budget by two and then subtract our estimated yearend balance to determine the amount of money we'll propose to collect on property taxes. By doing so this allows our bills to be paid on time. Our bills do not always coincide with our distributions from the county.

**Proposed Budget** - Diane Stangler, Treasurer, presented the proposed budget along with a slide that showed the two times figures that were used to determine the 2023 tax assessment. The 2023 assessment will be \$149.31. Charlene Langowski questioned if the property owners who have docks on the parcel of land own by Palmer Township on Rush each pay the assessment. No, but Palmer is assessed as they are listed as the owner of that parcel. A motion was made by Brad Kipp to approve the assessment of \$149.31 for 2023. The motion was seconded by Harry Ernzer. The motion passed.

**Election of Board Members** - Kenzie Phelps explained the three vacancies and terms, Scott Ruitter, Walt Munstermann and Nancy Hahne - Scott and Harry cannot rerun but Nancy can. There are four candidates running for the three open positions: Nancy Hahne (Julia), Barb Aaberg (Rush), Naomi Kimball (Briggs) and Stacy Strang (Briggs). Kenzie opened up the nominations from the floor, there were none. Nancy Hahne spoke regarding her interest in continuing on the

Board. Barb, Naomi and Stacy stood and spoke regarding their qualifications and interest in becoming a board member.

All present members were given a ballot - Steve Demeules volunteered to count the ballots. The results were: Nancy Hahne 28 votes, Barb Aaberg 23 votes, Naomi Kimball 17 and Stacy Strang 23 votes. **Nancy Hahne will continue on the board, Stacy Strang and Barb Aaberg will join the board.**

**Other** - Walt Munsterman stated that this is the time set aside for member comments, suggestions, complaints or thanks.

Harry Ernzer commented on the One Watershed, One Plan. Presently our watershed is 154,000 acres - this new plan will be considerably bigger (almost up to Little Falls).

Juice Langowski commented that he's noticed the people hired to check boats at the landing on Rush don't seem to be checking for weeds on trailers and boats. He was wondering how they are trained or certified. The DNR hires and trains these employees. Scott said to contact him if you notice this with dates, times and location and he'll follow-up on it.

Nate Bauerly wondered if the board has ever thought about introducing native plants to our lakes. This has been done in the past (bullrushes) and it didn't work well, but this could be a possibility in the future.

#### **Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

**Annual Meeting August 19, 2023.**

**Monthly Board Meetings are on the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Palmer Township Hall**

The meeting was adjourned by Scott Ruiter at 11:30 AM