

## **Meeting Minutes for 2023 TLID Annual Meeting - August 19, 2023**

Meeting was called to order by Barb Aaberg at 10:00 AM at the Palmer Township Hall with The Pledge of Allegiance. Thirty-five members were present including the board members.

**Directors in Attendance:** Barb Aaberg, Stacy Strang, John Schnell, Diane Stangler, Nancy Hahne, Todd Lorsung, Mike Flanery and Advisor Scott Ruitter.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Stacy Strang pointed out meeting rules which include when members speak they are to address the board not the members. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Stacy Strang and seconded by Todd Lorsung. Motion passed.

**Introduction of Board Members:** Barb Aaberg introduced the board members and thanked Mike Flanery and John Schnell, outgoing board members, for their years of service on the TLID board.

**Adopt minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting:** Nancy Hahne, Secretary, mentioned that the minutes have been on the BLCA website and that copies are available at this meeting. Char Langowski noted that her last name was spelled incorrectly, Nancy will correct that. A motion was made by Harry Ernzer to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes, the motion was seconded by Shelly Alger-Peyton. 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 \$72,672.19 (which includes \$25,000 in the contingency fund). Beginning balance in January of 2023 was \$75,618.44, total income to date is \$38,212.18 and total expenses to date is \$41,158.43. Char Langowski questioned spending money on boat landing inspections for someone to sleep in a chair at the boat landing. Her husband and her have seen this numerous times. Barb Aaberg mentioned that boat inspectors are trained by the county. John Reber questioned collecting data by people (boat inspectors) who can't do anything if they find an infraction. Mike Flanery said the U of M has studied when the best

times to monitor boat landings is, the county makes the schedule. Shelly Alger-Peyton stated that the BLCA paid for an extra 100 hours and that the monitors are there to make people aware of cleaning boats and trailers if you move between lakes. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Walt Munsterman and seconded by Shelly Alger-Peyton. Motion passed.

### **Officers Reports:**

**Chairperson:** Barb Aaberg thanked everyone for attending and outlined the purpose of the annual meeting: Discuss projects, elect directors and approve the 2024 budget. She also encouraged everyone to become familiar with the BLCA website, there is a lot of information under the TLID tab.

**Vice President:** Stacy Strang talked about grants that we've received which include grants for education, AIS, and a point intercept survey.

**Secretary:** Nancy Hahne mentioned that the TLID monthly meeting minutes are on the BLCA website under TLID. All members are welcome to attend our monthly meeting (first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM at the Town Hall). She asked that during this meeting if you have questions or comments to please address the board and to also state your name for the minutes.

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

**Advisor:** Scott Ruiter is on a citizens advisory board for the One Watershed One Plan which includes Sherburne, Wright and Stearns counties. He is very excited that we are listed as a priority body of water along with the Elk River.

### **Old Business:**

**Report on AIS activities in 2023** - Mike Flanery reported on the spraying of Curly Leaf Pondweed for 2023. This was the first year the DNR allowed treated acreage greater than what the survey found. Treatment must take place before turions (seeds) are produced. The three lakes were surveyed in the spring by James Johnson. If a patch of Curly Leaf Pondweed was less than 3 acres the DNR recommends not treating it. This was the second year we used PLM out of

Brainerd. They used a higher dose in hopes of less cost in later years. This also is the first year the bayou was treated. We need to repeat each treatment area 3-4 years in a row to effectively manage turions (seeds). Bayou turions spread to lakes during spring flood events. Treatment allows native plant growth which blocks harmful plants from becoming established. More native plants means clearer water, less algae and stable sediment. Applied areas observed over following 3 weeks found no harmful effects on other species of plants or fish harmed.

Mike also reported that Eurasian Water Milfoil was not found again for the fifth year in a row in a recent survey. Therefore, no spraying or hand pulling was necessary. We are waiting for the DNR to declare us clear of Milfoil. More education is needed to prevent new EWM infestation. Waterguard funding has been valuable but trained volunteers would be better, saving us money! As a side note, EWM was also not found in Elk Lake this year.

Mike reported that Purple Loosestrife was found again this year in the bayou. The best way to get rid of this invasive weed is hand pulling. One stalk can produce a million seeds. Purple Loosestrife chokes out natural habitat. We need volunteers to help hand pull and we could also encourage and train residents with this on their shoreline to hand pull this invasive weed. The DNR has classes available to train volunteers.

**Water Stabilization** - Stacy Strang stated that our lakes are part of a 160,000 acre watershed. Land owners are being encouraged to donate land upstream from us for water retention. A large wetland area near the prison is being looked at. Smaller projects can also collectively make a difference. John Reber commented that looking at the surrounding watershed seems like the way to go and encouraged us to continue in this direction. Barb Aaberg reported that Gary Grey had a round table discussion with multiple interested parties regarding this very issue. The watershed is ever changing and Barb feels it's a step in the right direction. John Reber stated that this an issue that's hard to fix, specifically because of our location within the watershed.

**Alum Feasibility Study** - Scott Ruitter explained how Alum works in clearing up lakes. Aluminum Phosphate is applied to the lakes to reduce the phosphorus which in turn reduces the algae growth. Phosphorus is released from nutrient rich sediment which settles on the lake bottom. It can rise to the top resulting in algae blooms. When Aluminum Phosphate is applied it forms floc which encapsulates phosphorus. This reduces food supply for algae and prevents phosphorus from floating up. The BLCA was awarded a grant for an Alum Feasibility Study to be done on our three lakes. This study is needed to see if our lakes are a good candidate, and if so, establish dosing rate. Every Tuesday we collect dissolved oxygen, water temperature and phosphorus at every foot at the deepest part of the lake. Every other Tuesday we collect water samples from the top and bottom of the lake, testing for phosphorus, nitrates, chlorophyll A and Orthophosphates. Starting soon, Stantec will be conducting bore samples, carp survey and other water tests. Stantec will pull all the data together and create a report around the first of the year. Doug Solem asked what the cost of the an alum treatment might run. Scott said that on Eagle Lake it was around \$800,000. We would be looking at about a million dollars. John Reber mentioned the fact that our lakes are pretty shallow and was wondering how that could affect the Alum. The data that Stantec compiles will take into account the depths of our lakes. Tim Reber questioned following the carp survey would we be reinstalling the carp damn. The answer was probably no. Shelly Alger-Peyton mentioned that there are volunteers who kill and remove the carp now (bow and arrow).

**Lake Surveys** - Todd Lorsung talked about AIS surveys and point intercept studies (every five years). Delineation surveys locate and measures invasive weeds (curly leaf pondweed) and gives us an idea if our spraying methods are working. They are also required by the DNR to receive permits to spray. Point Intercept Surveys (done every 5 years) 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. The vendor we use is Freshwater Scientific Services. These survey results can be found on the TLID tab of the BLCA website.

**Boat Landing Surveillance** - John Schnell 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. The DNR trains the landing inspectors. 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:**

**Proposed Projects for 2024** - Stacy Strang went through the 2024 projects that the TLID board will be working on. They are: Curly Leaf Pondweed, Water Level Stabilization, Water Logger Monitoring, Algae Reduction (Alum Treatment), Boat Access Monitoring, Purple Loosestrife and investigate algae removal (skimmer boats). Charlene Langowski asked about adding flooding cleanup along the lakeshores, it was decided this wasn't a TLID project and each individual land owner is responsible to clean up their property after flooding. Mike Flanery suggested reminding people, maybe in the fall, to put things away so if we flood in the spring your things don't float away. Barb Aaberg said we should educate new lake owners on this matter. People who go away for the winter should have someone that checks on their property in the spring and lets them know if there might be issues with flooding. Harry Ernser thought putting reminders in the BLCA newsletter would be a good way to educate people. Shelly Alger-Peyton will address this on the BLCA facebook page. Steve Demeules says it's important to do a lot of this notifications and reminders in the fall as many residents leave for the winter.

**Propose Budget for 2024** - 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 2024 tax assessment. The 2024 assessment will be \$80.02. John Reber questioned why 10% was added to most budget items rather than basing the proposed budget on what was actually spent. Diane stated that it was added to cover any increases that may occur. A motion was made by Harry Ernser to approve the proposed budget, Shelly Alger-Payton seconded the motion. The motion was passed. Bob Sass made a motion to approve an assessment of \$80.02 for 2024. The motion was seconded by Harry Ernser. The motion passed.

**Election of Board Members** - Barb Aaberg explained the two vacancies and terms, Mike Flanery and John Schnell. There are three candidates running for the two open positions: Bob Sass (Julia), Doug Solem (Briggs), and Barb Keenan (Julia). Barb opened up the nominations from the floor, there were none. Bob, Doug and Barb 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: Bob Sass 24 votes, Doug Solem 23 votes, Barb 15, Scott Ruitter 4 and Walt Munsterman 1. **Bob Sass and Doug Solem will join the board.**

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

Phil Podbevsek mentioned that he has seen a big increase in shoreline weeds and algae. He hopes that the TLID will continue working on improving the water quality.

Shelly Alger-Peyton commented that Big Lake uses a whole crew of trained lake volunteers to monitor the boat landing.

**Upcoming Meeting Dates:**

**Annual Meeting August 17, 2024.**

**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 Barb Aaberg at 11:25 AM

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