

# **Three Lake Improvements District [TLID]**

## **2022 Annual Report**

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### **A. Status of All Projects in the District**

The TLID was formed with three overall goals:

Prevent, control and manage Aquatic Invasive Species [AIS]

Address water quality issues

Stabilize water levels

One of the initial issues to be addressed by the TLID was management and control of Curly Leaf Pondweed [CLP], present in the three lakes for over 15 years. In 2022 the TLID contracted with PLM Lake & Land Management Corp. to treat 27.4 acres of affected areas on Briggs and Julia Lakes. Due to high water levels treatment areas were extremely limited and Rush Lake was not included for treatment this year. The first year contracting with PLM of Brainerd, MN produced favorable results based on feedback from the landowners of the TLID.

In 2014, shortly before the TLID was formed by the county in 2016, Eurasian Water Milfoil was discovered in Rush Lake at the south end of the lake close to the public landing. In 2022 the TLID again contracted with James Johnson of Freshwater Scientific to survey the three lakes for EWM. The survey showed favorable results in that no EWM was found in Rush Lake or the other two adjoining lakes this year. This was good news again for the lakes as this is now the fourth year no EWM has been found in Rush Lake.

This year the TLID did not complete any new point intercept surveys as all the lakes have been completed. 2023 will be the start of next five-year cycle for completing new surveys on all of the lakes. We look forward to these new point intercept surveys to continue to track our progress and to guide the TLID in caring for our lakes in the near and long-term future.

The TLID board continues to work closely with SWCD on desired projects in the years to come. Some of these projects are continued effort in water storage locations to help on reducing high water events on the lake chain. To aid in this project the TLID borrowed a water logger from the MPCA and purchased a second unit to monitor and gather as much data to improve our water model accuracy and provide information to assist in solving this long-term issue. An additional potential project is soil boring to investigate the use of Alum to combat algae in the lake system. This may provide a leap forward in order to

have our lakes removed from the impaired waters list for algae. We are investigating a Core of Engineer Grant for an Alum Feasibility Study. And finally, as we get ever closer to our section of the One Watershed One Plan we anticipate great things to come and be an active member in this project.

In 2021 a resident identified Purple Loosestrife in an area of the lake chain. After notification and confirmation from local agencies a plan was put in place to remove this invasive plant. In 2022 TLID again hired Waterfront Restorations to come in and hand pull all loosestrife plants in the area it was identified. We deemed this a success as it had all been hand pulled. This year we included education of landowners for future identification and eradication. More monitoring will occur in the years to come as it will likely be a hard plant to completely eradicate.

## **B. Financial Condition of the District**

At the annual TLID meeting in August 2022 the membership unanimously passed the 2023 budget of \$70,800. The 2023 budget includes \$2,100 for administrative expenses and \$57,700 for AIS projects, \$6,000 for an Alum Study project and \$5,000 for contingency fund as required per by laws. The 2023 assessment will be \$433. In 2022 the TLID adopted a 2X budget policy to limit our cash on hand as our members requested.

The TLID financial report for 2022, as of August 2022, showed expenses of \$32,317.16, deposits of \$10,136.28 and a balance of \$49,963.14. Grants in the amount of \$1,500 were received from the SWCD.

## **C. Business Transactions**

The 2022 TLID assessment was \$31.13 for 433 parcels.

Insurance coverage for TLID Directors was \$815.80.

Payments to PLM for CLP treatment was \$18,471.

Payment to Freshwater Scientific for CLP, EWM surveys were \$2,800.

## **D. Discussion of Directors' Intentions for Succeeding Years**

The TLID will continue in its AIS detection and management activities: surveys, herbicide treatments for CLP and EWM. Hand pulling for purple loosestrife if found again in 2023. No evidence of EWM was detected this year, but prudent planning dictates surveys for the coming year.

The TLID continues to explore, in collaboration with Sherburne SWCD, BLCA and DNR options on water stabilization of the lake chain. In addition, the TLID will monitor progress of phosphorus reduction projects in the county and state. Lastly the TLID will work with other agencies to monitor and prevent the spread of additional AIS in the lake system.

## **E. Other Matters Affecting Interests of the District**

Surveys for EWM include all four lakes in the Briggs Lake chain, but only Briggs, Rush and Julia surveys are paid by the TLID. Survey expenses for Big Elk are paid by the BLCA, which includes Big Elk Lake. Unfortunately, EWM was discovered in Big Elk Lake in September 2020. Through an aggressive treatment method in the spring of 2021 a follow up fall survey yielded favorable results with no EWM found.

The TLID will closely coordinate with the Healthy Lakes Committee of the BLCA in other AIS activities such as AIS rapid response. A written Rapid Response Plan is now in place to execute if additional AIS are found.

### **Appendices**

- A) Property owners mail notice of annual meeting / Newspaper announcement
- B) 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes (Draft)
- C) Resolution to certify 2023 assessment
- D) TLID 2022 Financial Report / 2023 Approved Budget
- E) Eurasian Watermilfoil Delineation Reports
- F) CLP Survey pre-treatment
- G) MN DNR Permits 2022 / PLM Invoice for herbicide treatment
- H) DNR AIS grants
- I) Purple Loosestrife hand pulling invoice