

Summary of Jan. 4, 2023 Healthy Lakes Meeting

There were seven members in attendance.

BLCA update

- Steve McComis is scheduled to speak at the April 13th meeting—he will focus on spring thaw/weed spraying/algae blooms
- Ice Day status is pending. Land options were suggested.

TLID Update

- Doug S. is researching options for cleaning up dead weeds/filamentous algae
- A recommendation was made that the TLID budget for dead weed cleanup when they budget for weed spraying
- PLM will be testing/comparing a different chemical this year in our lakes that works quicker on Curly Leaf Pondweed

Alum grant update

- We are awaiting the preliminary report from Stantec.

Walt presented the 2023 water quality report

- Total Phosphorus(TP) remained about the same as last year (somewhat higher in Big Elk, and slightly less in Rush and Briggs.)
- Secchi depth readings were improved on all lakes. Rush and Briggs made the standard for Shallow Lakes. Julia was just below standard.
- Chlorophyll-a(Chl-a) readings were improved on all lakes, but still well above the shallow lake standard.
- Overall water quality was the best in Julia (lowest TP and Chl-a) and next best in Rush. Water quality in all lakes was better in May and June, and started to improve again in Sept. Most lakes saw a spike in TP and Chl-a after the 4th of July weekend.
- It was noted that our 5-6 year trend of improving water quality began going the other direction in 2020. Speculation for reasons include: more traffic during/since the pandemic, extreme flooding the last two years, much higher temperatures last summer, more people living year round on the lakes, and larger boat motors/increase in jet skis that churn up the bottom

Lake Steward program

- We are waiting for the online training to be available.

Other updates, new business:

- Discussion on ice house campers—could the DNR charge a fee for camping on the ice to help pay for cleanup?
- Shelly is still working with the DNR regarding signs with the new ice garbage law
- Bob Sass is applying for a grant to pay for the online U of M AIS class that starts in Feb. Anyone interested should let Bob know. Bob and Ruth intend to take the class.

Action Items

- Lefty will look for data regarding interactions of lawn chemicals and lake weed chemicals
- Ruth and Shelly will have signs made for Ice Day that playfully promote clean ice

2024 Healthy Lakes Committee Goals

Goals which do not have specific owners are owned by the committee as a whole.

1. Extend water quality monitoring data throughout 2024 as per Lake Management Plan, with cost sharing for testing from Palmer Township. *Walt Munstermann*
2. Collaborate with the Three Lake Improvement District throughout 2024 on water quality and water stabilization issues. *Bob*
3. Participate in BLCA related Board of Adjustment hearings throughout 2024. *Steve Demueles*
4. Coordinate and fund AIS surveys for Big Elk Lake by August 15, 2024. *Gary Anderson*
5. Publish a Healthy Lakes committee summary of each meeting in the 2024 Lake Report issues and post on BLCA website. *Ruth Thom, Bre Bauerly*
6. Actively participate in Sherburne Coalition of Lake Associations [COLA] throughout 2024. *Scott Ruiter, Shelly Alger-Peyton*
7. Actively participate in the planning and development of the One Watershed One Plan throughout 2024. *Scott Ruiter*
8. Continue the Shoreland Restoration program and administer Gentle Footprint grant Program. *Shelly Alger-Peyton, Chuck Heinemann*
- 9. Seek ways to increase education and awareness among members, new lake residents, and visitors regarding best practices for maintaining and improving the quality of our lakes.** *All*
10. Implement and coordinate the Lake Steward Program. *Bre, Ruth, Naomi*
12. Host an educational event for youth to introduce non-motorized watercraft and to provide instruction on water safety and ecology, and the Leave No Trace principle. *Ruth Thom, Naomi Kimball*