

Meeting Summary, Healthy Lakes, May 2, 2024

There were 7 members in attendance.

Board update:

- Currently we have about 200 members, down from previous years at this time. Discussion on recruiting more paid members. Brad K is routinely updating member list.
- Targeted AIS spraying based on point intercept surveys was completed in April. Spraying for individual properties is scheduled for May 22.
- Fish stocking will happen in the next couple of weeks when the water temp heats up. 60,000 walleye fryers for Big Elk, plus 500 Blue Gill for Big Elk and Rush.
- The DNR responded quickly to notification that the docks at the Rush and Julia landings were compromised.
- Next membership meeting/picnic is Friday, June 7th at the park. HL suggested getting our local sheriff and a DNR rep to speak.
- Brat sale needs two more volunteers.
- Shelly is looking into ordering a large BLCA display flag to use at events, such as the plant sale, the brat sale, Palmer Day, etc..

TLID update:

- Mike is getting all the Water Level hardware running again. It should be sending information within a couple of weeks. The TLID is committed to maintaining water level readings again this year.
- We have a Web name TLID.org. It takes you to the TLID section of the BLCA website. The committee members have tlid.org email addresses to help protect personal information on public notices.
- The purple loosestrife cleanup day with Lakeshore Restoration is August 5th. We will need to get access signatures from property owners again this year before then.
- April 24th Wednesday was the treatment Day with the PLM

Alum grant update:

- Stantec continues to work on the report and modeling.
- No timeline yet on when the Carp Study will be done, but it will likely be late summer.

Lake Steward update:

- As of the meeting, MLR had not responded to emails or phone calls regarding the updated training video and evaluator tool that we've been waiting for, but Friday morning, they sent it! Ruth, Naomi, and Bre will be prepared to discuss at next month's meeting.
- Lake Steward signs will be ordered in the next week.

Plant bank update:

- 239.00 was used to purchase trees, shrubs, and shipping for the plant giveaway this Saturday.
- 1004.77 remains in the fund. Bre is contacting those who are next in line on the list from last year and will promote later if funds still remain. We will consider another fall plant giveaway if funds remain after homeowners have had their requests fulfilled.

Training for lawn care providers:

- Looking into whether Dan from SWCD or Jeff from MLR could assist with this training.
- There is a push to expand our efforts beyond just shoreline projects to upland projects such as rain barrels (the COLA is working on this), rain gardens, run-off projects, and lawn care best practices. Stearns county has a well-developed mandatory training program for contractors working near water.
- Walt mentioned that we offered a training for Septic providers several years ago.

Youth Paddle Event update:

- Looking for a date in mid-July. Considering a weekday evening. Ruth will poll Facebook members for their input.

Big Elk update:

- Gary wrote and received a 7500 grant from SWCD which will pay for an AIS survey later this summer. Big Elk Eurasian Milfoil has been well-controlled and has not spread.
- Their No Wake Ordinance is official now.

Week Skimmer update:

- Doug Solem is getting estimates for piloting a weed skimmer for removing filamentous algae.

Water testing:

- Will begin next week, as long as water levels are not too high.
- Oxygen will not be a problem this year because aquatic plants have been able to grow over the winter because of so little snow cover. More native plants this year.

Other:

- Sonic waves are being tested in other locations to control carp. Could they work for us?
- Could we host a carp fest to encourage carp removal if our study shows that we are not candidates for an alum treatment?
- We will try to find out what the carp fisher people are seeing this year. How many? How big? Any differences?
- We are recommending that the board purchase floating keychains to hand out at the June picnic with BLCA on one side, and a catchy phrase such as Love Our Lakes and/or Keep It Clean on the other side—to remind people to take care of their trash
- We learned from Walt that the BLCA was established in 1951 and that Healthy Lakes is 20 years old! Happy Anniversary!