

Three Lake Improvement District (TLID.org)

2024 Annual Report

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A. Status of All Projects in the District

The Three Lake Improvement District (TLID) was established with three overarching goals that are close to our hearts:

1. Preventing, controlling, and managing Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)
2. Addressing water quality issues
3. Stabilizing water levels

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management:

Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP): For over 17 years, the persistent challenge of Curly Leaf Pondweed has required our unwavering attention. In 2024, we once again joined forces with PLM Lake & Land Management Corp. to treat 42 acres of affected areas across our beautiful lakes. This marks our second year of collaboration, and we are delighted with the progress we've made in curbing the spread of CLP and the cost savings.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM): EWM was discovered in 2014 at the south end of Rush Lake. Our diligent efforts in 2024 involved contracting Freshwater Scientific Services to survey our lakes. The good news? No EWM was found! This is the sixth consecutive year without EWM on Rush Lake. According to the DNR's criteria, five years of no detection means eradication. We plan to survey again in 2025 and will rely on Point Intercept Surveys for future monitoring.

Purple Loosestrife Control: In 2021, a vigilant resident discovered Purple Loosestrife on our lakes. After confirmation by local agencies, a control plan was implemented. In 2024, we continued our successful partnership with Waterfront Restorations to hand-pull the invasive plants. This method has proven

effective in managing the spread of Purple Loosestrife, and we will continue monitoring to ensure its control in the future.

Point Intercept Surveys:

We are currently in the midst of our second five-year cycle of Point Intercept Surveys. Rush Lake's survey was completed in 2023, Lake Julia's in 2024, and Briggs Lake will be surveyed in 2025. These surveys provide us with detailed insights into the entire plant community of each lake, helping us track our progress and guide our stewardship efforts for the future.

Heritage Projects and Collaborations:

Our commitment to heritage projects like water stabilization and quality improvements remains steadfast. We've partnered closely with the SCWD, the Mississippi Water Shed, and the local Briggs Lake Chain Association (BLCA). The BLCA secured a grant to conduct an Alum Feasibility Study aimed at reducing algae blooms in our lakes. Water samples and profiles, collected last year, are currently being analyzed by the Minnesota Department of Health, Stantec, and the SWCD. Additionally, a carp survey was conducted to understand their impact on water quality, and we eagerly await the results to determine the potential for an Alum treatment.

B. Financial Condition of the District

2025 Budget: At the annual TLID meeting in August 2024, the membership passed the 2025 budget of \$36,200. This budget includes \$2,500 for administrative expenses and \$25,700 for AIS projects. Since we'll end the year with approximately \$113,311 in cash and adhere to a "twice the budget" cash limit, the 2025 assessment will be zero per parcel. This policy was adopted by members in 2022. Following an audit, the total number of parcels in 2024 is 430.

Contingency Fund: Our contingency fund also reached its \$25,000 cap in 2024, as specified in the TLID bylaws. No additional funds will be added to the contingency fund in 2025.

2024 Financial Report (as of August 2023):

Expenses: \$23,003

Deposits: \$34,756 (including a DNR grant of \$3,600 for AIS surveys and treatments for Rush Lake, with \$1,430 carried over for spring 2025 Curly Leaf treatments)

Balance: \$104,480

Grants:

DNR Grant: \$3,600 for AIS surveys and treatments (with \$1,430 for 2025 Curly Leaf treatments)

Sherburne County Grant: \$1,725 for the Point Intercept Survey on Lake Julia

Sherburne County Grant: \$2,000 for the Purple Loosestrife eradication project

Sherburne County Grant: \$450 for Volunteer AIS education

C. Business Transactions

In 2024, the TLID assessment was \$80.02 for 430 parcels.

Insurance: Liability and Directors' coverage amounted to \$1,005.40.

AIS Treatments and Surveys: Payments to PLM for CLP treatments totaled \$9,208, while payments to Freshwater Scientific for CLP and EWM surveys were \$4,270 as of August.

Boat Landing Inspections: \$5,500.

Domain Acquisition: The TLID acquired TLID.org for directing traffic to our website and providing secure email addresses for Directors, at an annual cost of \$17.

D. Discussion of Directors' Intentions for Succeeding Years

The TLID will continue its proactive approach to AIS detection and management activities, including surveys and herbicide treatments for CLP and EWM. Although no EWM was detected this year, prudent planning necessitates continued surveys in the coming year. Hand-pulling of Purple Loosestrife will be scheduled if found again in 2024.

We remain committed to exploring water stabilization options for the lake chain in collaboration with Sherburne SWCD, BLCA, and the DNR. Monitoring progress on phosphorus reduction projects within the county and state remains a priority. Additionally, we will continue working with other agencies to monitor and prevent the spread of additional AIS in the lake system.

E. Other Matters Affecting the Interests of the District

As the results from the Alum treatment study become available, we will address qualifying factors for this treatment. These may include reducing carp and implementing measures to keep them out of our lakes, as well as regulating wake boats to prevent disturbance of the Alum. The TLID will continue to coordinate with the Healthy Lakes Committee of the BLCA on other AIS activities. Should additional AIS be found in the lake chain, a written Rapid Response Plan is in place to respond effectively to these situations.

Appendices

- A. Property owners mail notice of annual meeting / Newspaper announcement**
- B. 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes (Draft)**
- C. Resolution to certify 2025 assessment**

- D. TLID 2024 Financial Report/ 2025 Approved Budget**
- E. Eurasian Watermilfoil Delineation Reports/ Lake Julia Point Intercept Survey**
- F. CLP Survey (pre-treatment)/ Rush (late) CLP Survey**
- G. MN DNR Permits 2024 / PLM Invoices for herbicide treatment**
- H. Grants**
- I. Purple Loosestrife hand pulling invoice/Site Report**