

Meeting Minutes for 2025 TLID Annual Meeting - August 16, 2025

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

Directors in Attendance: Bob Sass, Barb Aaberg, Nancy Hahne, Barb Keenan, Scott Ruiter and Dewey Anderson. Doug Solem is absent.

Adoption of the Agenda: Bob Sass made a motion to adopt the agenda, it was seconded by Shelly Alger-Peyton. Motion passed. Bob also reminded members that they should have signed in at the front door and received a ballot if they are listed as an owner of a TLID property according to Sherburne county records. Please direct your questions and comments to the board instead of discussing with others in the audience.

Introduction of Board Members: Bob Sass introduced the board members and thanked Nancy Hahne, outgoing board member, for her six years of service on the TLID board. Doug Solem was not able to be here today.

Adopt minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting: Nancy Hahne, Secretary, mentioned that the minutes have been on the BLCA website and that copies are available at this meeting. There are no changes or corrections. A motion was made by Scott Ruiter to approve the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes, the motion was seconded by Shelly Alger-Peyton. Motion passed.

Treasurers Report: Barb Aaberg reviewed money coming in and expenses going out. The biggest expense is for weed spraying. The current balance stands at \$97,883.29 (which includes \$25,000 in the contingency fund). Beginning balance in January of 2025 was \$113,451.00, total income to date is \$9,342.34 and total expenses to date is \$24,910.05.

Charlene Langowski questioned that on the BLCA membership form there is a line item that asks for a donation for the spraying of aquatic invasive species. She stated that a check was never cut to the TLID for \$3,650 which was the amount that was donated specifically for AIS management. Shelly Alger-Peyton stated

that the money that's donated to the BLCA for AIS stays in the BLCA. Elk Lake is part of the BLCA as is the other three lakes. The BLCA board will allocate those funds and spend them where it's needed for AIS. For example, the BLCA put aside \$15,000 for carp management which is an invasive species.

Char Langowski also questioned the large amount of money in the BLCA accounts that have been collected throughout the years for weed spraying. The amount is up to \$121,798 and she feels this large amount of money should be spent down first before assessing TLID members each year. She's requesting that the TLID should approach the BLCA to help with the current AIS management. Shelly Alger-Peyton, BLCA president, would encourage community members to come to a BLCA meeting so you know exactly what's going on and don't get misinformation on how funds are being spent.

Barb Aaberg continued with her report which showed a slide of a copy of the bank statement to show that all the numbers match.

Officers Reports:

Chairperson: Bob Sass thanked everyone for attending and outlined the purpose of the annual meeting: Discuss current and future projects, elect directors and approve the 2026 budget.

Vice President: Because of Doug Solem's absence Bob Sass talked about grants that we've received which include the following:

- A DNR grant for AIS surveys and treatment for Briggs Lake in the amount of \$6,900,
- \$1,430 also carried over from 2024 used for the spring curly leaf pondweed treatment in Rush.
- Sherburne County SWCD grant of \$1,000 used for the point intercept survey on Briggs Lake.
- \$1,240 for managing purple loosestrife (from SWCD).

- Sherburne County SWCD through the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources granted \$50,470 for planning and data assessment for our carp management program for 2025 and spring 2026.

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: Barb Aaberg stated that we are using Sherburne State Bank in Becker for our accounts.

Old Business:

Stantec Report - Scott Ruiter covered the Stantec Report findings which was finalized last year but after our Annual Meeting. We received a \$50,000 grant by partnering with the BLCA for the grant writing to pay for the Stantec Report. Cores samples were taken from all three lakes last fall, four on Briggs and three each on Julia and Rush. The samples were then analyzed to find out how much Phosphorus was in the core samples. Briggs lake's samples showed a substantial amount of phosphorus on the bottom of the lake. Julia and Rush didn't have as much as Briggs. Briggs would be a good candidate for an Alum treatment but Rush and Julia would not be.

Next they concentrated on carp as a big portion of the report. They did electro shocking and carp counting. Briggs has 554 pounds of carp per acre, Rush had 524 and Julia had 503. It's recommended that lakes are no higher than 89 pounds of carp per acre. They calculated that we have around 35,000 carp on the three lakes combined. The Stantec report recommends carp removal/management on Julia and Rush, Alum on Briggs along with continued watershed reduction actions on all three lakes.

Lake Surveys - Bob Sass talked about AIS surveys and point intercept studies (every five years).

- Delineation surveys locate and measures invasive weeds (curly leaf pondweed and Milfoil) and gives us an idea if our spraying methods are working. We've actually changing to surveying a year ahead because they couldn't get the survey results and issue permits to do the treatments, the window was too small. These surveys are required by the DNR to receive permits to spray.
 - Point Intercept Surveys (done every 5 years) uses a grid system to find all plants (good and bad) and locates them on a map by using GPS. Then in five years another survey is done to see any changes. Point Intercept Surveys were done on Rush in 2023, Julia 2024 and Briggs in 2025.
 - The Heritage Survey will include all three lakes and will be looking for Eurasian Water Milfoil and other invasive plants.
- The vendor we use for all surveys is Freshwater Scientific Services (James Johnson). These survey results can be found on the TLID tab of the BLCA website.

Report on AIS activities in 2025 - Bob Sass's reported on the spraying of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) for 2025. All three lakes were sprayed this year. Briggs, Rush and a small section of Julia were treated for curly pondweed this spring. The DNR said they would allow us to use the May 23, 2024 Rush Lake survey for this year's treatment on Rush. Spraying must take place before turions (seeds) are produced and before native plants have started growing. Bob shared a slide that showed the areas that were sprayed this year and what areas will be sprayed in the spring of 2026. This was the fourth year we used PLM out of Brainerd. More native plants means clearer water, less algae and stable sediment.

Bob also reported that Eurasian Water Milfoil was not found again for the seventh year in a row in a recent survey. Therefore, no spraying or hand pulling was necessary.

Bob reported that Purple Loosestrife was found again this year in the bayou and also along the south shore of Briggs near the boat landing. The best way to get rid of this invasive weed is hand pulling. Last Wednesday a crew of people went out and carefully hand pulled this invasive plant. One stalk can produce a million

seeds. Purple Loosestrife chokes out natural habitat. This is the first year that it's crept around the corner of the bayou and out into Briggs. We may need more volunteers and other plans if it continues to spread.

Carp Management - Bob reported on the New Carp Management Project. To get ongoing grant funding to manage invasive carp we need to get a study completed to determine the following:

- Density of carp
- Spawning location
- Migration patterns
- Age of carp
- Effectiveness of traps

Carp Solutions is the recognized leader in providing the tools to manage carp populations. This is a timeline of what we expect to happen this year and next.

With funding from BWSR and BLCA

Fall 2025

- Permitting
- Net installation and assistance with 1 net and removal
- Electro fishing
- PIT tag implanting
- Age analysis
- Net take-down
- Data analysis/report

Spring 2026

- Migration tracking
- Data analysis/report

Trevor Halvorson questioned that this was supposed to happen right after the fourth of July. Bob stated that because this is new funding it's been delayed a

couple of times but things still look good that we will have at least one net in this year to tag and do an age analysis. Next spring they can track their migration and spawning locations. If you'd like more information you can go to the Carp Solutions website to see videos on how this process works.

Water Stabilization - Dewey Anderson stated that we have water loggers at the bridge over the bayou and also at the entrance to Elk Lake. The loggers record water levels and temperature continuously which is data that may become important as we look at water stability and water quality. The cost to run these loggers is very minimal (Approx. \$11.00 per month). Data is available on the BLCA website under the TLID tab/water stabilization.

Boat Landing Surveillance - Dewey Anderson reported that the Soil & Water Conservation District pays some of the landing inspections based on landing use. In 2025 we purchased another 200 hours in partnership with the BLCA. The DNR trains the landing inspectors. The goal of the watercraft inspections is to prevent or limit the introduction, establishment and spread of invasive species into our lakes and other waters. At the end of the season (Labor Day) the SWCD will summarize the activity of all the landings which includes number of launches, where boats came from and what was found on boats and trailers. A link will be on the BLCA/TLID web page as soon as available. Char Langowski asked "shouldn't they be able to stop someone without current licensing on their boat from launching on our lakes?" Scott mentioned that the water guards are there to educate people as they come in and out of our lake. Water guards can call the sheriff so they do have a bit of authority. There was discussion regarding high water events and the Watercraft Inspectors. This would be a good discussion to have with the DNR asking if their training could include notifying boat owners that we have a no-wake order in effect because of high water.

New Business:

Alum Treatment - Bob spoke about an opportunity we have regarding a huge grant to have an Alum treatment on Briggs. Phosphorus enters a lake from

external sources initially through many sources. However, there are internal (within the lake) sources of phosphorous as well. Internal sources may include phosphorous recycling from the bottom sediments and common carp. Alum binds with phosphorus in the sediment within the deeper areas of a lake, making it unavailable for algae. The Stantec study recommends Briggs Lake for an alum treatment due to the amount of phosphorus coming from the bottom. The Stantec report recommends an alum treatment on Briggs Lake that would be applied to 122 acres. The estimated cost is \$953,862. Currently, this project is eligible for grant funds. It's a 90% grant with a 10% local match. If awarded a grant, a million dollar project would require a \$100,000 match, with 430 members it's \$233 per property owner. Craig Hart asked how important is the depth for an Alum treatment? You were saying it has to be 20-25 feet deep - there is depth of over 21 feet in Briggs but actually more like 19 feet at its deepest. It would be hard to find anything close to 25 feet. Bob said that the Stantec report shows 122 acres that are within range for an Alum treatment.

Proposed Projects for 2026 - Bob Sass went through the 2026 projects that the TLID board will be working on:

- *Lake Julia, Rush and Briggs Lakes surveyed in the early spring for Curly Leaf Pondweed by Freshwater Scientific Services. Schedule a late summer heritage survey
- *Work with PLM to treat curly pond weed in all three lakes.
- *Work with Carp Solutions to complete a carp management evaluation and removal plan.
- *Maintain the water level monitoring equipment to record the water level and temperature on Elk Lake and Briggs Lake
- *Promote education and information about Purple Loosestrife and provide funding for eradication in the Bayou area.

*Work with the Sherburne Soil and Water Conservations District to apply for BWSR funding for an Alum treatment on Briggs Lake.

*Work with the BLCA to fund inspectors at the public assesses.

*Promote education and information about lake management. Obtain grants to facilitate interested board members and active community members to attend the U of M Extension programs in 2026.

*Partner with the BLCA to improve water quality and the health of three lakes by using available grants and cost-effective practices to provide the most value to the property owners.

Trevor Harrison asked to revisit the water guard report. If we have a high water event it absolutely should be their "job" to advise anyone launching a watercraft. Also, if the boat is not up to date on licensing they should be told not to launch their watercraft. After some discussion, Bob stated that he will contact Dan to relay our desire to add these two issues to the Water Guards.

Steve Demeules encouraged the board to make more effort on water stabilization. He stated that monitoring is important. This is one of the mission statements of the TLID and it was one of the main reasons that the TLID was formed. Bob will make a greater emphasis on options regarding water stabilization and add it to the TLID goals moving forward. Steve Demeules reminded members that he does not monitor the water level on Elk Lake and would prefer not receiving calls regarding the high water on Elk.

Budget, Two Times - Barb Aaberg explained the "Two Times" expenses policy. We 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 for 2026 - Barb Aaberg, Treasurer, presented the proposed budget along with a slide that showed the two times figures that were used to determine the 2026 tax assessment.

The proposed budget for 2026 is \$40,000 (\$80,000 after applying the two times formula). The yearend cash on hand is estimated at \$62,955. An additional expense for carp management of \$15,000 was added after applying the two times formula. Which looks like this: $80,000 + 15,000 = 95,000$

$$95,000 - 62,955 = 32,045$$

$$32,045 \text{ divided by } 430 \text{ residents} = \$74.52$$

Roger Johnson asked what kind of account(s) is this money in? Barb Aaberg replied it's all in a checking account.

Bob Sass made an motion to approve the proposed budget for 2026 and the assessment of \$74.52 for the 2026 TLID tax assessment. Shelly Alger-Peyton seconded the motion.

Bob opened it up for questions: A few members questioned the money that has been collected through the BLCA past years and why we don't use some of it to lower the assessment. Also brought up was if the money we budgeted for the water guards really a good use of our funds. Minda Anderson wondered if we could be using the money held by the BLCA to set up a scholarship of sorts to help people with their TLID assessment. Bob Sass stated that seems like a good idea but also stated that the BLCA membership needs to increase. Char Langowski questioned the total number of properties assessed - the number has changed a little throughout the years. The TLID secretary checks each year to make sure the list is accurate.

Bob Sass ask for a vote on the motion - the motion passed.

Therefore, the 2026 assessment to our 430 properties will be \$74.52.

Election of Board Members - Bob Sass explained the three vacancies and terms, Barb Aaberg, Barb Keenan and Nancy Hahne. There are two candidates running for the three open positions: Barb Aaberg and Barb Keenan. Bob Sass opened up the nominations from the floor, Brad Kipp volunteered to be added to the ballot.

All present members were given a ballot - Steve Demeules and Tom Hahne volunteered to count the ballots. The results were: Barb Aaberg 18, Barb Keenan 15, Brad Kipp 13, Shelly Alger-Peyton 1 and Char Langowski 1. **Bark Aaberg, Barb Keenan and Brad Kipp will join the board.**

Other - Bob Sass stated that this is the time set aside for member comments, suggestions, complaints or thanks.

Roger Johnson questioned how the assessment is distributed once it's collected. The TLID assessment money is given to us the same year as it's collected.

Nancy Hahne stated that audience members should consider coming to some of the monthly TLID meetings, they meet the first Monday of the month at 6:00 PM right here (Palmer Town Hall). Lots of information is discussed each month. Moving forward they will be looking at the Alum Treatment (funding and execution), it's always important to get lots of member feedback on this issue.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Annual Meeting Saturday, August 15, 2026.

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 Bob Sass at 11:25 AM