

## Big Eagle Lake Improvement Association (BELIA) 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

### Orrock Town Hall – May 4, 2024

Meeting called to order by Gordy Westerlind, President, at 10:05 AM.

Approximately 45 people were in attendance.

#### 1) Welcome and Introductions

- a) Board of Directors are introduced; President, Gordy Westerlind; Vice President, Mike Donnelly; Treasurer, Jeff Johnson; Secretary, Lori Andreen; Directors: Craig (CJ) Johnson, Paul Ellinger, JR McGuire, Dan Boyle, Troy Olsen, Sarah Phillips, and John Smullen.

#### 2) Motion to approve 2023 Annual Meeting minutes made by Debbie Gilyard, seconded by Harry Miller. Motion carried

#### 3) Treasurer's Report – see addendum

#### 4) Introduction of Volunteers:

- a) Commendation and thanks go to members of the Events Team who work to put on our fun and fundraisings: Lori Neisess, Amanda Swan, Kristen Vigoren, Amy Bergquist-Savage, Stephanie Olsen, Marcie Swanson, Renee Christiansen, Sam and Dwight Buehler, Marie Johnson, and Lori Andreen and many others. We can always use more volunteers!
- b) Special recognition is given to George Wallin who graciously solicits donations from area businesses *and to* George and Raquel for donating the Vikings tickets for our Silent Auction in August.
- c) Recognition to Gordy Westerlind who is stepping down from the Board after many years of volunteer service. His leadership will be missed!

#### 5) Old Business

- a) Homeowner Shoreline Treatment Contracts with Aquatic Solutions – it is still not too late to apply for the Shoreline treatments through Aquatic Solutions. Everyone will benefit as BELIA is only allowed to treat 150+ feet from shore.
- b) Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) Treatment was applied April 21<sup>st</sup>, and we are hoping for a good response. We treated slightly less this year and reserved 5-6 acres to treat Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) as we saw this in the northeast quadrant of the lake in 2023. The lake will be surveyed shortly to see if the EWM will be a problem in 2024.
- c) Eagle Lake Improvement District (ELID) approval vote summary – Jeff Johnson, treasurer, gave a brief history of decision to form a LID, Lake Improvement District.
  - i) A committee was formed made up of Jeff Johnson, Gordy Westerlind, Mike Donnelly, Bryan Adams, Troy Olson, and Dan Boyle.
  - ii) A letter was sent to the BELIA membership asking for the priority should be for Big Eagle Lake. The main priority was noted to be water clarity, i.e., algae removal. The cost of this is quite high, around \$800,000 for our lake, and although we should be able to get a grant for 75% of this, the question would be how to raise the 5% or \$200,000.
  - iii) Much effort was made to visit and discuss with other LIDS and the decision was made to move forward. Boundaries were established; only parcels with direct access to the lake would be assessed. BELIA directors went door to door to talk with lakeshore owners and get petitions signed that homeowners would agree to forming a LID.

(1) 74% said yes

(2) 10% said no

(3) 16% we were not able to reach.

iv) The LID Committee presented their findings to the Sherburne County Commissioners and the County authorized the formation of the Eagle Lake Improvement District, or ELID, on January 4, 2024.

## 6) New Business

a) ELID Status Report: Ken Andreen, ELID Chairman:

i) Highlights of the presentation:

(1) ELID Board Members: Ken Andreen, Chairman, Mike Donnelly, Vice Chairman, Sandy McClurg, Secretary, Brian Moriarity, Treasurer, Joe Ryan, Director

(2) 152 lakeshore parcels of land around Big Eagle Lake; all parcel owners are automatically ELID owners

(3) Estimated cost of Alum Treatment: \$800,000. The MN Board of Soil and Water Resources (BSWR or Bowser) could supply us with a grant of 75%. ELID members would be responsible for the other 25%.

(a) How to raise 25% or \$200,000?

(i) Option #1 – Collect assessments of \$38,000 per year for 6 years and the treatment would be done in 2030 or 2031. 😞

(ii) Option #2 – Obtain a loan through Sherburne County – available when the ELID receives the BSWR grant. This would grant us a chance for the first alum treatment to be done in the fall of 2025. 😊

(4) A Dosage Study will need to be done prior to applying for the BWSR Grant. This study would determine exactly how much alum is needed, where it would be placed, and details that would be needed for the application.

(i) Cost: \$20,000. No funds are available at this time. Parcel assessments will not be received until July of 2025.

(ii) Need: To produce an additional \$20,000 ASAP so that we can apply for the BWSR Grant in the spring of 2025 when the Grant application process opens.

(iii) There are other LIDS in competition for the BWSR Grant.

(iv) Could we ask each ELID member for \$100 to fund this dosage study? NOW? Collection of assessments will not be done until April of 2025.

(v) The ELID Committee is committed to an ambitious schedule!

- Dosage Study – Fall of 2024
- Apply for BSWR Grant – June/July – 2025
- Prepare Bids Package – April/May – 2025
- Receive the BSWR Grant – July/August – 2025
- Receive bids from ALUM Contractors – August /Sept – 2025
- First ALUM treatment – October – 2025
- Receive County funding – October 2025

### (5) **The ELID Annual Meeting is crucial! August 3, 2024 – 10AM - Orrock Township Hall**

- Approve fiscal budget for the following year
- Approve expenditures over \$5000

- Approve the ELID By-Laws
- Other important issues

(6) Help us communicate with YOU and save on postage: Reach out to us at [elidboard2024@gmail.com](mailto:elidboard2024@gmail.com) with your email address and keep in the loop.

(7) Visit [www.BELIA.org](http://www.BELIA.org) and check out the ELID drop down menu.

#### Events Committee Report

- Join us for Culver's Fundraisers coming up on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 4-8 PM! We raise approximately \$600 each time so an excellent fundraiser for BELIA!
- Poker Run: Saturday July 20<sup>th</sup> 2-8PM. Come out, meet your neighbors as we cruise around the lake and enjoy (we hope) the sunshine! Five hosts provide delightful appetizers and one playing card. The best and worst 'hands' at the end of the evening win the 'pot'!
- Smokin' Pulled Pork Cook-Off! Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at Lupulin Brewing. Join ten (10) Pitmasters as they cook their delicious pulled pork and compete for prizes. We'll have Silent Auction, a live band, Wine Wall, Viking's Ticket and other Raffles. It is great fun and last year we raised \$15,000. We need your help with donations of gift cards, items, wine and liquors. Watch for more info to follow.

#### 7) Open Forum:

Membership expressed support of moving the ELID forward quickly to get the algae treated as soon as possible.

- a) Does the development on the north side of Eagle Lake pay for the ELID?
  - i) They are considered one unit: only the Homeowners Association will be funding the ELID
- b) How are we going to communicate with ELID members that we need to produce an additional \$20,000?
  - i) At this time, we are not certain, and this will be discussed.

BELIA meeting adjourned at 11:26 AM

Respectfully submitted

Lori Andreen

BELIA Secretary