

Mark your calendar...

- 03.05.15 Healthy Lakes— 6:30 PM
Palmer Town Hall
- 03.14.15 BLCA Board Mtg—8:30 AM
- 03.09.15 Palmer Twp Board—7 PM
- 03.07.15 Clear Lake Twp Board-7 PM

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No Separate Green Sheet!!	

Lake Improvement District in Briggs Lake Chain

By: *Felix Schmeising, Sherburne County Commissioner*

As Commissioner for District 4 of the County, I thought I'd take the opportunity to discuss my views on the proposal to form a Lake Improvement District on the Briggs Lake Chain. First perhaps some background is in order. The Minnesota legislature first authorized the establishment of lake improvement districts (LIDs) in 1973. Since then, there have been only minor amendments to the statute.

The goal of establishing a LID per statute is to preserve and protect the lakes of the state and to increase and enhance the use and enjoyment of the lakes. There are two primary ways to create a LID – either through a county resolution or via a public petition. Representatives from the Briggs Lake community visited with the County Board early last year to present information of the proposed LID concept and the consensus was to go through the public petition process.

I have attended various meetings and spoken with many people who live on or near the Briggs Lake chain and who have opinions on both sides of the issue. At the same time, it is clear that we need to do something to improve our water quality now and in the future. My preference is that we make these decisions locally with a local board similar to that of a Township.

While a number of details need to be worked out including the scope of services the proposed LID would engage in (for example, dealing with aquatic invasive species, water quality monitoring, other programs related to water quality improvement, etc.), my interest is to be a facilitator, even though I suspect no one will get everything they want from this process.

If the effort moves forward a public hearing will be critical to how the LID looks like when it's formed. The budget would be developed with the majority of the lid members involved. You will have a chance to elect a board that will hopefully be represented by many points of view. If the effort does not move forward, I strongly suspect a future initiative of this nature won't be contemplated for some time – it just takes too long to walk through all the steps.

In closing, I support this effort, but regardless of the outcome I will support your decision. I will be listening very closely and will do everything I can to help achieve the goals of all members involved. No matter where this goes I am proud to represent you and I am proud in the manner in which this effort has been conducted.

Presidents Letter

Dear Lake Enthusiasts,

This is a short update on lake issues and a request that you sponsor the BLCA, your donations provide support for surveying the entire chain for spreading AIS & to contain/control AIS, supports fish stocking in Big Elk and helps make the July 3rd fireworks on Briggs brilliant.

Beside the above, BLCA volunteers will be busy repairing the carp barrier on the Rush Dam, shopping for grants, producing the Lake Report, providing mailings, supplying helpers for shoreline plantings and runoff prevention projects, placing signage for AIS and high water events, planning, setting up and tearing down BLCA events. This listing doesn't include everything BLCA volunteers do to help fix our lakes and make this a great place to live. On behalf of everybody who benefits from their efforts — Thank You BLCA Volunteers! If you want to help out, fill in the volunteer portion of the Sponsor/Membership Form and you will get the chance to fix the lakes and have fun doing it.

Dan Merchant, BLCA President

DNR NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: DNR Postpones AIS Training and Trailer Decal Program

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will postpone the new aquatic invasive species training and trailer decal program that was due to launch at the end of the month while legislators consider changes to the program.

Under a law passed by the state Legislature in 2012, anyone trailering a boat or water-related equipment such as docks and lifts in Minnesota is required to take aquatic invasive species training and display a decal on their trailer. The effective date is July 1, 2015. "With the legislative interest in this educational program and ongoing discussions about possible changes, we are postponing the launch until we see if the Legislature acts this session to modify the program," said Bob Meier, DNR assistant commissioner.

The DNR supports the education that would be provided under this law, but recognizes there are some concerns with the way the law is currently written. For example, people transporting boats on trailers through Minnesota to another destination are required to take the course and display a decal even if they don't put their boat in Minnesota waters. Since the training and decal are currently not required until July 1, the DNR wants to remind people that there will be time to see what happens legislatively and still take the course and receive decals. The agency will post any updates on trailers at www.trailers.mndnr.gov and alert the media if there are any program changes.

Palmer Township

The Palmer Township Board meets the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Township Hall. Let **Kathy Miller** know of agenda items by email at: palmertwp@gmail.com by noon on Tuesday before the meeting or call her at 743-2100. Our website is: www.palmertownshipmn.org

Clear Lake Township

The Clear Lake Township Board meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Township Hall. Let **the Township clerk** know of agenda items by Thursday morning before the meeting. To contact Clear Lake Township, please call 320-743-2472 or email the Township Clerk at: clearlaketwp@hotmail.com Our website is www.clearlaketownship.org

Please attend your respective Township meeting and voice your concerns about matters relating to our lakes.

Effectiveness of Long-Term Citizen Lake Monitoring Program

Have you ever noticed any changes in lake water health and wondered whether it was a sign of pollution? Are you concerned about how healthy your lake is and wonder if the quality is improving or declining over time? Do you wonder if the changes in land use or climate are affecting the health of the lakes?

Proactive members of the Briggs Lake Chain Association (BLCA) Healthy Lakes Committee (HLC) said yes to all of these questions and, in response to their inquisitiveness, began monitoring the water quality of all four lakes nearly a decade ago. The data that the BLCA has collected, and continues to collect, has proved to be valuable for a gamut of reasons.

First, there are no programs that monitor the quality of lakes in Sherburne County on a regular basis. At present, monitoring is only done in response to a water quality study or during the 10 year cycled monitoring (minimal monitoring completed once every 10 years) completed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (2019 is the next scheduled cycle). Without the hard work of the BLCA, none to minimal water quality data would exist for the four Briggs Chain Lakes.

Next, continuous water quality data collected over time, a minimum of 10 years, is needed to determine trends in water quality. Because monitoring data has been and continues to be collected on a regular basis, we will be able to track lake health in response to changes in land use and climate. Over time, this data will become more and more valuable.

Finally, from a long-rang perspective, the advantage of citizen monitoring is that it promotes development of a citizenry that is not only educated about water quality issues but also personally involved and committed. The HLC volunteer monitors have become strong advocates for water quality protection programs. In fact, the HLC has completed several water quality improvement programs over the years, these programs have focused on reducing stormwater and nutrients from making their way into the lakes.

Over time, with continued monitoring, we should be able to visually see whether or not the lakes are responding to the reduction in stormwater and nutrients. If the water quality is not responding as expected, the data can be used to change the focus of lake management (i.e. move from reducing stormwater inputs to capturing nutrient recycling within the lakes).

Thanks to the citizen volunteers for continuing to monitor the health of the lakes! This information has made the SWCD's efforts of focusing time and money on projects around the lakes a no-brainer! Lake health, over the last 10 years, has remained practically stable. However, when including data collected via previous programs in the mid-1980s, it appears there is evidence of reductions in phosphorus over time. However, water clarity has not yet shown an improvement. Check your Lake Report for a detailed discussion and analysis of **water quality**. The data will be presented at one of the summer BLCA meetings. I will be joining the HLC for this important presentation.

Tiffany Determan, Sherburne Soil and Water Conservation District

[Editors note: go to briggslakechainassociation.com and click Healthy Lakes, then Water Quality for 2014 water quality results]

From the LID Committee:

The committee is looking for property owners who have an interest in being considered for appointment to the first LID Board of Directors. The board will be made up of directors from each lake, and include both seasonal and full time residents. The Sherburne County Commissioners will appoint the first board. Following that, all board members will be elected by the membership at the annual meeting.

If interested, submit your name to Scott Ruiter at: sruiter@grede.com



The Lake Report

Briggs Lake Chain Association

See us on the Web at

<https://www.briggslakechainassociation.com>

Email us at blca@briggslakechainassociation.com

Webmaster: Mike Flanery

Karen Nielsen *The Lake Report* Editor

And Green Sheet contact

320-293-0394 or Email: kmn@midco.net

Virginia Demeules, Palmer Directory and Membership Data Updates: vdemeules@aol.com
Phone: 320-743-4749

The Lake Report is published for the benefit of BLCA members and lake residents. Please submit articles and feedback by the 20th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. Email or snail mail copy to the Editor.

This 'n That

Please send news about BLCA members to **Marilyn Humble** so that a card may be sent for such things as illness or a death in the family. Call her at 743-2741 or email her at: imhumble@midco.net

Hi, my name is Brad Kipp. Donna, my wife, and I live in Burnsville. We bought our property on Briggs Lake in 2000. Our place is seasonal. We are "weekenders" at the lake, May through October. I have always been a lake / boat / fishing guy and love the water. I grew up on the lake. My parents owned a small resort in Northwest Wisconsin...Yes I am a "cheese head".

We are long time participants in the 4th of July boat parade. We are the ones with a boatload of people in the Maxum deck boat. We like the music, matching our theme, to be loud enough, so all on shore are rocking to the sound. Our neighbors call us the village people because our place is a small compound. From the Palmer House, go to the lake and take a right. Our place is at the top of the hill. We have two places with rustic porches, several gardens, a little log cabin (we call the bunk house) and mini buildings. Often the 69 Caddy convertible is parked in the yard.

Please stop by anytime and say 'Hi'. If you have any concerns, questions or anything else you would like me to present to the board let me know. I am pleased to be a new board member for 2015. I look forward to doing what I can do to promote the BLCA mission statement, Remembering the past ... Improving the future ..promoting the care, improvement, and general welfare of the Briggs Lake Chain.

Thanks, Brad

Do you want to learn how your property can be more colorful, attract birds & butterflies and help our lakes?

The Healthy Lakes Committee of the BLCA

BLCA members have been trained in Best Management Practices (BMPs) for lake properties. Two BLCA volunteers would like to spend about one hour with you. You will be provided copies of the Flyover report of your property. We will discuss concepts, share technical resources, and share what we have implemented at our properties. You will be provided information on how to obtain funding for any improvements you decide to implement.

For this free onsite visit send me your name. If, your summer is totally booked we have done these visits with snow on the ground.

Call (320-743-5698) or email so we can schedule time with you.

Email, John Schnell at the BLCA website —

john.schnell@briggslakechainassociation.com

