



2025 Spring Meeting Minutes

April 30, 2025

A CD3 hands-on demonstration took place in the parking lot before the meeting.

Board Members Present: President Ron Guggisberg, Vice President Nathan Pedersen, Treasurer Dave Nelson, Communications Secretary Leigh Stepan, and Director Nik Fetzik, AIS Subcommittee Leader Rick Nosan.

Member/Non-Member attendance: 29 total: 25 members in-person, 4 members online.

Board Members Not Present: Director Kevin Rustad

The meeting was called to order at 7:14 p.m. by President Ron Guggisberg.

Agenda Discussion

No corrections

Approval of Minutes

Nik Fetzik moved to approve the 2024 October meeting minutes, seconded by Paula Wilson. The motion carried without opposition.

Financials

Dave Nelson presented the financial report:

Financial Report as of April 29, 2025

Checking account balance – \$15,735.62

Savings account balance – \$11,391.18

Total **\$27,126.80**

Income as of April 29, 2025

Dues: \$280.00

Contributions: \$ 10.00

Total **\$290.00**

Expenses as of April 29, 2025

RMB Labs \$ 1,500.00

Itasca SWCD \$ 1061.00

Minnesota Lakes and Rivers \$ 185.00

Total **\$ 2,746.00**

8-19-24 – Deposited to SLA **checking** account from a 5.25% 7-month CD – \$5,150.92
 8-19-24 – Transfer to SLA **savings** account from a 5.25% 7-month CD – \$5,150.92

Leigh Stepan moved to approve the Financial Report. Seconded by Tom Miller. The motion carried without opposition.

Nutrient Committee

Kevin Rustad was unable to attend. Leigh and Ron presented the full-year 2024 nutrient report.

Secchi Depth							
Sample Location	Average (feet)						Impaired* if
North	15	18.2	17.5	17.2	11.3	15.8	< 6.5 feet
Central	15.5	15	17.7	15.8	13.1	15.4	
Bridge	15.7	13.2	15.9	14.8	14.1	14.7	
West Bay	14.8	13.2	12	12.2	7.5	11.9	
Roberts Bay	13.7	11.6	18	14.5	11.5	13.9	
Stones Bay	12.2	7.7	11.2	11	8.5	10.1	
Total Phosphorus							
Sample Location	Average (feet)						Impaired* if
North	20.8	34.3	16.4	20.7	24.3	23.3	> 30 µg/L
Central	21.3	14.8	12.9	15.5	20.8	17.1	
Roberts Bay	21.8	21.6	14.3	20.4	18.3	19.3	
West Bay	24.5	15.6	20	25.7	31.1	23.4	
Chlorophyll							
Sample Location	Average (feet)						Impaired* if
North	4.9	2.9	3.8	6.4	17.4	7.1	> 9 µg/L
Central	5.9	4.3	3.6	7.1	9.8	6.1	
Roberts Bay	5.3	5.9	2.4	9	8	6.1	
West Bay	4.2	4.7	4	5.8	10.7	5.9	

It was noted that the West Bay Total Phosphorus number for September falls within the impaired range. We will want to keep an eye on this.

AIS Report

Rick Nosan gave the AIS report. Rick and Bill Grantges of Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) mentioned that the State of Minnesota was considering cutting AIS dollars in half. As a result, we will likely see a decrease in the number of inspector hours in 2026 if that occurs.

This spring, we will attempt an experiment using granular weed killer on some of the Curly Leaf plants before the May deadline, when treatment is no longer allowed. We have approval to treat a small patch, approximately 6 feet wide and 330 feet long, located in the channel of the back bay off West Bay, using our volunteer team under the supervision of the DNR and Itasca Soil and Water Conservation District. If we are successful, we may have another option for treating other areas in the West Bay. The cost of the herbicide only is \$500 for this project. The DNR and Itasca SWCD recently assessed the growth and determined it was too soon to treat, but they could see the Curly Leaf emerging, and it was only about 6 inches tall. Any patch could require several applications. We did not need homeowner approval because we were well outside of the footage specified by law to need it.

ICOLA Meeting Report

Starry Stonewort has been found on Pokegama Lake around Sherry's Arm Landing. If you are going to launch on Pokegama, find another landing.

The **AIS Detector Class** is free to anyone who wants to take it and become an inspector.

The SWDC still has **grant money** available for items such as culverts, pollinator plants, and native plants for the lake shore. You can call them to come out and do a free consult—call Matt Gutzman at SWCD. There is also a sale for native trees and plants.

Sewer Project

There is nothing new since last fall. They are waiting for the legislative bonding to determine if they get the money to move forward.

Website, Facebook, and Membership

The web page <https://swanlakeassoc-mn.wixsite.com/55775> is a free website, so the address is a bit unusual. Pages include

- Membership
- Leadership
- Walleye Riffle Information

- Sewer Project Update
- Mining
- Lake Levels
- Boating on Swan Lake
- Associations We Value
- Shoreland Management
- Drinking Water Testing
- Swimmers Itch
- Fishing on Swan Lake
- Spartan Angling
- Beavers
- Governing Documents

Facebook's following is well over 1000, and it provides a great way to communicate with people who love and use Swan Lake, and not just Lake Owners.

The membership drive for the summer is on. Some folks have already renewed here tonight, and we will send an email with the form attached, as well as do a few pop-ups.

Walleye Riffle

It was reported that they are seeing fish in the stream and the area of the riffle, so we hope they are using it.

Next Meeting

July 25, 2025, or August 1, 2025, at 7:00 pm, if Lone Pine Hall is available for the next meeting.

Other Topics

Legislature and Budget Cuts- The possible impact of a budget cut to the SWCD and the AIS inspector program was discussed, and we encouraged members to write to the governor and their legislators, requesting that they not cut these funds. A sample letter will be posted on the Swan Lake Association website for use when writing to the governor and your representatives and senators. 2014 was the first year they designated money for AIS, and as a result, the number of new species being identified has been in steady decline for 10 years.

We need to speak up now.

Guest Speaker – Bill Grantges

Bill Grantges introduced himself as the AIS Program Manager for Itasca County.

Bill discussed the impact of the SWCD programs by sharing that in year one, they conducted approximately 1,200 inspections, with a failure rate of about 30%. Last year, they performed 30,000 inspections and had a failure rate of less than 1%.

CD3 stations are a part of the AIS prevention program. The Minnesota Lakes and Rivers got a grant that funded several stations at lakes with Starry Stonewort. Bill indicated this is the way to go. The use of hot water stations is ideal, but they have significant costs and require substantial infrastructure. That is a significant barrier to installing a hot water station.

The CD3 Unit on the trailer is already spoken for and has been the most effective way to draw attention, train people on its use, and familiarize them with the reasons to use it. The cost is \$40,000 for a new one. We could possibly get a significant cost reduction and possibly even get one for free. We will keep working on it. Swan has the largest number of inspections per hour because we are a very busy lake. We had 2,800 inspections last year. We have Spiny Water Flea in nearby lakes. It warrants us getting a program.

If the budget is cut, the fixed costs are relatively high, and as a result, the inspector program may be cut, most likely by more than half.

Bill was extremely complimentary of the work that the Swan Lake Association is doing and the depth and breadth of the program we are working on.

There was some conversation about divers who remove weeds. There was a question about divers who died, and Bill was somewhat aware of the deaths. Bill indicated that it can be a practical, yet expensive, and potentially dangerous approach.

There is a lake that has our Curly Leaf and has been able to eradicate it. Bill remains dedicated to working with us to explore new approaches. We review options every year, and there are things that can be done; we just need to keep chipping away. We are trying the one patch this year, and if it is successful, we may be able to continue to chip away at it. Barriers are an option for slowing the flow, but they are expensive.

There was a question about how the Curly Leaf is this year. Rick indicated that the northwest shore is the worst. The Itasca SWCD will be mapping it by the end of June. The Curly Leaf has spread to the big lake under the bridge and in Stones Bay.

Bill indicated that the early detection program is the most effective treatment for AIS. Catch it early.

Adjournment

Nathan Pedersen moved to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Leigh. The motion carried without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leigh Stepan
Communications Secretary