A $22,000 Mini-Runoff Grant secured by the Sibley Lake Association through the Crow Wing Soil and Water District funded the removal of a section of the steps at Sibley Lake Park. The steps had deteriorated and contributed to sediment and increased phosphorus levels due to excessive run-off during heavy rain events. Phosphorus reduces water quality and promotes the growth of weeds in lakes and rivers. Schrupp Excavating provided the contract services for the project.

The area previously occupied by the steps has been covered with top soil and seeded with the objective of restoring the area back to a natural setting. Thanks to our Pequot Local Boy Scout Troop 102, small trees and shrubs were planted this spring. The grass and plantings will aid in filtering the runoff from the street and upper portion of the hill. Two additional eroded sections of the park were restored on the north end of the park and an additional area on the south end will be restored this summer.

The fishing pier, located at the bottom of the hill, has been moved to the location of the old city dock. Currently, the plan is to repair the pier and upgrade the set of steps currently there to allow public access. The path which cuts through the side of the park hill has been rocked which provides a route to the relocated pier from either the north or south end.

Runoff Mini-Grant was awarded by the Crow Wing Soil and Water District to our Association to begin restoration. Additional monies have been pledged along with $1,000 from the Mayo Lake Association, $5,000 from the Nature Conservancy, $5,000 from the Sibley Lake Association, and $5,000 from the Sibley Lake Improvement District. Additional funds will be secured from other sources.

The engineering and permitting process are underway and should be completed by the end of the summer, 2017, with actual repair work to begin late fall of 2017 or early spring of 2018 when water levels are lower. Restoration will include rip-rap, poles, and ground cover along with re-grading of the existing creek bank. The resulting reduction in erosion should reduce sediment loading of phosphorus into the creek and subsequently Sibley Lake.
Annual Meeting Notice: Sibley Lake Association & Lake Improvement District

Saturday, July 22, 2017 @ 10:00 am
Sibley Lake Park Pavilion

We cordially welcome you to attend this year’s Sibley Lake Association’s Annual Meeting. The meeting’s agenda includes:

1. Introduction of the Board
2. Review of 2016-2017 Association activities
3. Treasurer’s Report
4. Secretary’s Report
5. Voting on Updated Bylaws
6. Open Forum

Please Note: Updated bylaws are available on the website and hard copies will be provided at the meeting.

Immediately following the Association meeting, our annual Sibley Lake Improvement District meeting will be held. Included in this year’s agenda:

1. Introduction of Board
2. Review of financial activity for 2016-2017
3. Election of Officers
4. Set the Levy for our next fiscal and levy year

The meetings will be followed by our traditional raffle and annual picnic. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings!

Treasurer’s Report (by Jeff Benson)

Hello Sibley Lake enthusiasts. Thank you all for your generosity! We received a generous grant from Crow Wing County soil and water 1st installment for $19,800.00 on Aug 2016. Last year’s operating cost was $24,632.79. This included the following: $17,441.68 Sibley Lake Park, $2,722.60 lake improvement, $1,405 fireworks/charity, $1,146.00 liability insurance, $658.28 newsletter & mailing, $500.00 beaver extraction, $207.32 Sibley Lake attire, $200.00 subscription, $114.50 annual picnic, $85.68 database management, $78.48 management supplies, $52.00 P.O. box, $21.25 advertisement.

Annual membership drive kicked off in May. Dues are $25.00, which covers operating costs. In 2016, we had 113 members. Currently, in 2017, we have 89 members and we are on track to meet or exceed last year’s numbers. Please encourage your neighbors to support the Sibley Lake Association. Sibley Lake is the “Best Kept Secret” in the Brainerd Lakes Area and we all strive to keep it that way! Have a great summer and we hope to see you at the Annual Picnic!

Lake Improvement District (LID) Update

The Sibley Lake LID has had a very exciting spring. Professional Lakes Management (PLM), who has been surveying our lake for several years now, once again tested Sibley Lake to determine the prevalence of aquatic invasive species. Information developed from these studies is used to determine the best course of action for lake treatments. Once PLM has the data compiled, they provide recommendations to the Sibley Lake Association Board, who then votes on a course of action. If the recommendation is approved, PLM goes to the DNR to secure the appropriate treatment permit(s).

As most of us know, Curly Leaf Pondweed has been a significant problem for our lake. However, PLMs testing earlier this year produced a very surprising outcome. With samples from over 90 different sites on the lake, PLM found that there were no areas of substantial concentrations of Curly Leaf Pondweed. Based on this finding, there was no request for treatment.

PLM plans to return to Sibley mid-summer to take additional samples. The return visit and continued testing is important to determine if the Curly Leaf was simply delayed in its growth this spring, or if it is truly less prevalent than what it has been in the past.

The LID is also working with the Sibley Lake Association on two related issues, including the erosion issue and the project at the park.

Join the LID!

The Sibley Lake LID is operated by a board of directors. Board member terms are set at six years. There are currently several board members who have hit this maturation point, so we are looking for a few people that would be interested in joining. Please contact Dave Lind if you’re interested at bigbobber3@charter.net.

SLA Account Balances as of June 16, 2017.

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<tr>
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*Savings includes $1,884.09 designated for Bob Johnson Memorial Pier.
As many of you may be aware, Sibley Lake and Mayo Creek, along with Mayo Lake were placed on the impaired status in 2014. Phosphorus readings in our lakes exceeded the minimum status of .030 MG/L-C. Mayo Creek also exceeded the standards and tested positive for Ecoli. The Sibley Lake Association formed a Water Quality/Watershed Committee to address the issue. Mark Jurchen, Dave Lind, Maury Graham, Jeff Walden, and John Murphy, President of Mayo Lake Association, serve on the committee.

Testing of the water quality began in 2015 with samples at various locations in the watershed. In 2016, a comprehensive water quality testing program was conducted on both Sibley Lake and the watershed to help determine the source of the phosphorus and lay the ground work for remediation. A full analysis of the data was made with the assistance of Cass and Crow Wing Soil and Water, along with the MPCA. A&W Research of Brainerd conducted the lab analysis and also participated in providing input on the results.

In addition to phosphorus, ecoli, and chlorophyll readings, we also did a secchi reading along with monitoring water temperature and lake level. This information, again, has been beneficial in the overall analysis of how the lake and watershed interact and how the watershed affects our lake water quality.

An initial observation with data from the testing prior to the substantial rainfall event in July, indicated that the water quality in Sibley improved through the summer. The phosphorus counts dropped as the summer progressed even though the water temperature increased. Secchi readings reflected clarity of up to 12 feet in June and about 8 feet in July. Phosphorus readings in the Mayo Creek watershed increased during the summer along with the ecoli count. We drew a sample for ecoli at the inlet into Sibley Lake and the lab result indicated just a very small trace to none present.

With the approximate 11 inches of rain that fell in July, the lake level rose 38 inches. Subsequent testing after the event indicated dramatic increases in phosphorus levels, both on the lake and in Mayo Creek. Ecoli levels also spiked in Mayo Creek, but remained almost non-existent at the inlet into Sibley. Secchi readings dropped to 3 to 4 feet as a result.

Our analysis indicated that we do indeed have some phosphorus from shoreline erosion on Sibley Lake, but the majority of the reduction in water quality comes from the watershed of Mayo Creek. Testing indicated sources of phosphorus from both erosion and runoff from pastureland and surrounding land along Mayo.

Limited water quality testing will be done in 2017 to monitor levels. Efforts are currently underway to address restoration of eroded areas on Mayo Creek and to begin dialogue with landowners along the creek on best practices for watershed conservation.

**SLA – Board of Directors**

**Officers:**
President: Mike Ridgley, 2017
218-568-8562. mikelaurieridgley@charter.net
Vice President: Sean Kaneski, 2017
218-330-9205. kaneski9205@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jeff Benson, 2019
218-251-6321. jefeben1@gmail.com
Secretary: Tim Paulus, 2018
651-482-9357. t paulus63@aol.com

**Honorary Member:**
Mark Jurchen
218-568-4167. lowhat@tds.net

**Board Members:**
Kirby Koster, 2019
651-484-6820. kirby@clubkoster.com
Pete Clement, 2019
218-820-8201. plclement@tds.net
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218-3412853. bigbobber3@charter.net
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Maury Graham, 2019
612-730-0899, Email: maury.graham@yahoo.com
Message from our Lake Association President

Dear Members,

This has been an amazing year as you will see in the articles presented in the newsletter. It has been a privilege to work with the watershed taskforce and the LID on so many projects that I believe will make Sibley Lake better in many ways.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge the support we have received from the Mayo Lake Association. This has been a greatly appreciated surprise.

We continue to strive to be good stewards of the lake and to do those things which will be beneficial in both the short- and long-term.

Enjoy the Summer!

Mike Ridgley

Mark Your Calendars for a Sibley Lake Tradition

The July 3rd Boat Parade!

The Annual Sibley Lake Boat Parade starts at 7:00PM on Monday, July 3rd.

We’ll meet by the island on the south end of the lake and follow the parade route illustrated on the right. Everyone is invited!

Start planning your boat decorations today and don’t forget to join us on the lake for fireworks after the parade!