

**Big Kandiyo Lake Association**  
**Annual Information Meeting**  
**Saturday, May 24, 2025, 9:00 am**  
**Kandi Park 2 (East) Shelter**

Introductions and Welcome

- Dave Peterson introduced John Neubauer, Paul Wallert, Jerry Brustuen, Jerry Neubauer, Greg Erickson, Janet Wallert, John Baumgartner, and Pat Schmoll.
- Dave P. thanked everyone for attending.

Financial Report (Jerry Neubauer)

- Generous Donations:
  - A \$50,000 donation was received last year and put into CDs.
  - The CDs were divided to manage maturity rates for potential access.
- Dues Increase:
  - Dues were raised to \$100.
  - One person expressed concern about the large increase but still supported the organization.
- Current Membership and Donations:
  - Approximately 168 people have paid dues so far, with a historical average of around 210 contributors.
  - A second notice will be sent to encourage more people to pay.
  - Some people gave extra, such as \$200 or \$75.
- Checking Account Balance:
  - The checking account has \$34,430.
- Tax Preparation Costs:
  - Tax preparation cost, \$630 due to the large donation and associated filing requirements.
  - A shorter, cheaper form can be used if there aren't large donations.
- Dues Comparison:
  - With \$50 dues, around \$10,000 was brought in.
  - Hoping to be close to \$20,000 this year with the \$100 dues.
- Main Problem:
  - The biggest problem is the lake weeds.
- Dues History:
  - Dues were \$25 three years ago, then \$50, and now \$100.

501C3 and Dues (Jerry Neubauer)

- 501C3 Filing:
  - A short form can be filed if donations are under \$50,000, avoiding the higher tax preparation cost.
- Encouraging Dues Payment:
  - Neighbors should be encouraged to pay their dues.

#### Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) - Jerry Brustuen

- Current AIS Situation:
- Curly leaf pondweed is present in Big Kandi, covering about 400 acres.
- Zebra mussels, Eurasian Milfoil, and Stary Stonewort have been avoided so far.
- Inlet Monitoring:
- Inlet monitoring with video and audio recordings has helped keep other AIS out of the lake.
- Switching to audio-only has eliminated the \$3,000 annual cost.
- Video recapture data, which helped with inspector deployment, is no longer available.
- Inspectors:
- Inspectors spent 220 hours on Big Kandi last year.
- Efforts are being made to hire more inspectors for evening and Saturday hours.
- AIS Committee and Grant:
- Dave P. and Jerry B. are on the county-wide AIS committee.
- A \$7,500 grant will be received for curly leaf pondweed management.
- The grant money will be used for mechanical harvesting.

#### Curly Leaf Pondweed Harvesting (John Baumgartner)

- Harvesting Start Date:
- Curly leaf pondweed harvesting has been underway since May 3rd.
- Harvesting Location:
- Harvesting is focused along the shore from Wagemaker's cabin up toward where the harvester is parked.
- This area is targeted due to the high density of weeds.

#### Harvester

- The harvester has a head that's five feet wide.
- The machine was broken free and rotated by a storm but stayed on the shore.
- It now leaks a little bit.
- Pumps were installed inside of it.
- There appears to be a lot of curly leaf pond weeds this year.
- They have to be done harvesting by the end of June.

#### Chemical Application (John Baumgartner)

- The board decided to use the \$50,000 donation toward chemical application over a five-year period, doing \$10,000 a year, plus at least \$10,000 out of the general fund.
- 84 acres were treated with chemicals this year.
- The DNR did a delineation study and found about 600 acres that could be treated or harvested.

- \$21,251 was spent on chemical application this year.
- Areas treated:
  - 25 acres on the Northern Lights beach area.
  - 25 acres on the north/northwest side.
  - 34 acres on the west side, close to Park East.
- Eric Katzmayer, Thomas with PLM is the chemical applicator.
- Paul W. and John N. decided on the most crucial areas to apply the chemicals.
- A lot of the weeds on the shore are coming from mother nature, boats, and the wind.

#### DNR Involvement

- The DNR tells them where they can treat.
- "It's kind of dictated to us."
- The goal isn't to kill the weeds but to get rid of their seed pods.
- It takes about a five to seven year effort to really have a huge difference.
- They will do one application per year for five years in the same area.
- "We have to go after the same area."
- The weeds that were sprayed did not float to the top.

#### Private Treatments

- PLM sent out notices and did some private treatments.
- 22 owners have had their properties treated.
- This is a different treatment, and they are likely going more than once.
- Private owners are staying at least 150ft out from shore when doing commercial chemical treatment.
- If they get in over 10ft of water, the treatment loses its effectiveness.

#### East Side of the Lake

- There are no current plans for the east side of the lake where motors are getting tangled.
- They can only treat areas that the DNR allows them to.
- Northern Lights beach has a lot of sago grass, which is why it looks so bad.

#### Sago Grass

- The harvester cannot effectively cut sago grass.
- Last year, it wrapped around the machine and bound it up.
- The grass moves so much it's hard to get it cut, and it grows back quickly.

#### Curly Pond Weed Treatment

- Treating 600 acres would cost \$180,000 per year.
- The DNR only allows treatment of 10-15% of total lake acres, which is roughly 300 acres.

- The chemical treatment is non-selective.
- The DNR only allows certain chemicals for curly pond weed and prohibits treatment for native, beneficial growth like sago grass.
- Individuals can get permits from the DNR to treat their own area.

#### Inlet/Outlet (John Neubauer)

- The outlet at Lunds has a new structure with gates maintained by Jerry and Bill Neubauer.
- The inlet needs a new structure, and the DNR is securing easements for access.
- Margaret Johnson with Kandiyohi County Soil and Water Conservation is working on securing easements from landowners to restrict water flow into the lake.
- Ag pumps are causing large slugs of water to enter the lake.
- The goal is to create temporary storage ponds to even out the flow.

#### Fish Stocking Update (Paul Wallert)

- Dave Cohran (DNR) reported a great overall egg take and fry stocking this year.
- Two fry stockings occurred this spring: 500,000 on April 30 and 163,000 on May 3.
- Last year's walleye stocking of 400,000 survived well.
- Dale T. renewed his permit for the cormorants.
- The next gillnet assessment is scheduled for 2026.
- Stock pre-spawning northern into the Blomkest is going okay.
- There's a chance to get northern pike from West Central bait to put in the lake.

#### Cormorant Update (Dave Peterson)

- Cormorant numbers were not heavy last year, and not many have been seen this year.
- Dale T. has a federal permit to eradicate a few cormorants.
- People can harass Cormorants with boating or other means.
- The Cormorants are eating and loafing, but not nesting on the lake.
- Nesting would lead to stricter regulations on harassment.

#### Website Update (Janet Wallert)

- A new website ([bigkandi.com](http://bigkandi.com)) is being developed with the help of Tim Pierson.
- The new site will be more mobile-friendly and easier to navigate.
- The new site is expected to go live early this summer.
- Tim's youngest daughter, a marketing graduate, will assist in updating the website.
- Updates will be posted on the website, Facebook Community group, and the Big Kandiyohi Lake Association page.
- Considering enabling dues payments through the website.
- A request was made to add the GIS link to the website.

### Community Septic Assessment (Jerry Brustuen)

- The completed community assessment report from last fall was received this spring.
- It was emailed to property owners on the North Northeast side (phase two).
- It was put on the website for everyone else.
- The report is 154 pages long.
- The Bonnie Beach chemical assessment was completed in 2022 and is on the website.
- Stantec is applying for an EPA grant to assess Northern Lights Beach.
- If approved, the assessment should start next fall.
- Residents will receive a survey and a request for property access.
- Participation is voluntary.
- The assessment for the North Northeast side covered 149 properties and was funded by a \$60,000 grant.
- There was no cost to the Kandiyohii Lake Association.
- No imminent threats to health and safety were found.
- Options for addressing systems that aren't up to par:
- Individual updates.
- Community cluster with a shared system (estimated \$20,000 per parcel, with grant money covering about 80% of the \$14 million cost).
- Regionalization by connecting to Lake Lillian (estimated \$14,000 per property, plus ongoing costs, contingent on Lake Lillian's agreement and county approval).
- The board does not plan to take further action unless there is significant community interest.

### Member Questions and Suggestions

- Concern about "circus lights" shining into properties at night, possibly from carp hunters.
  - One person said, "They were shooting into people's bedrooms."
  - Question about aerial spraying for mosquitoes and mayflies.
  - It's not a one-time solution and would be very expensive.
  - Todd Steffel said that one application really doesn't do it.
  - Question about renting a fogging machine.
  - It is expensive and needs to be done multiple times.
  - It is something that can be looked into.
- Volunteers: More volunteers are always needed for different projects. Contact a board member if interested in volunteering. Numbers and names are listed on the website.

### New Boating Permit Law

- Starting July 1st of this year, anyone under 21 has to have a permit to drive a boat.
- Each year on July 1, that age increases. By 2028, anyone under 42 or 44 will need one.
- Boating permit guides are available with a chart of dates.
- MinnesotaDNR.com has information about the boating license. The course costs \$34.95.

#### Life Jackets

- Even on a kayak, you have to have a life jacket with you, no matter what age you are.
- Life jackets must be present on paddle boards.

#### Road Conditions

- Northern Lights Beach road: It would be very difficult to get it tarred because it's a dead-end road.
- The county and township trade roads back and forth.
- The township is working to improve Northern Lights road this summer by digging out soft spots and filling them with granite fines.
- Tarring roads can lead to increased speed.

#### Walking Trails

- A question was raised about putting walking trails alongside county roads.
- This question will be passed along to the county commissioners.

#### Next Meeting

- The next meeting will be Saturday, Labor Day weekend and will be held at the same location.

Submitted by

Janet Wallert

Big Kandiyohi Lake Association

Secretary