1/2/3 Call to Order and Roll Call– Hearing Called to Order by Chair John Fredrickson (BLASD) at 6:30 pm

BLASD Board members present:
John Fredrickson, Chair, John Peterson, Vice Chair, Rocky Rennquist and Wayne Dupuis
Other: Debbie Gellatly, Administrative Assistant
Absent:
David Nelson, Treasurer

Guests: See roster below of BLASD and Big Lake Road residents, Nancy Schuldt, FDL, John Stewart, MSA, Jon Herdegen, MSA and Jim Prusak, City of Cloquet.

Big Lake Road Roster: Property Address
Ashcroft, Kyle 716 Salmi Road
Big Lake Evangelical Church 702 Salmi Road (Barb DeLovely)
Hansen, Ginny 3323 Ditchbank Road
Homstad, Tyler 2760 Big Lake Road
Jurek, Carol 2612 Big Lake Road
Larsen, Vern 875 Cary Road
Lynnes, Bruce 705 Salmi Road
Pauna, Ken 2546 Big Lake Road
Price, Kent 2715 Big Lake Road
Werner, Bill 801 Mission Road
Wills 801 Mission Road
Zacker, Vernon 1781 Big Lake Road

BLASD Roster: Property Address:
Ahlgren, Ron & Kathy 849 Lyndhurst Bay Drive
Bennefeld, Laurie 880 Lakeview Drive
Berquist, Barry 318 Avenue D, Cloquet
Bryant, Annette  888 Lakeview Drive
Cornelison, Janet  964 Lakeview Drive
Foss, Denny  3190 Maple Drive
Foye, John  1085 Cary Road
Fredrickson, John  3105 Pine Grove Drive
Golen, Steve  791 Salmi Road
Hagen, Bruce  6210 Pizarro St, Duluth
Hagen, Roy  875 Lyndhurst Bay Drive
Hansen, Ginny  3323 Ditchbank Road
Hanson, Gordon  3149 Pine Grove Drive
Harms, Gary  3149 Pine Grove Drive
Kelly, Joe & Arlene  3148 Magney Drive
Larson, Lucille  Enger Road
Luke, Tom  3153 Pine Grove Road
Lukkarila, Clyde  914 Lakeview Drive
Lynch, Robyn  944 Lakeview Drive
McKubbin, Bob  3232 Bob’s Drive
Minogue, Bob & Louise  841 Lyndhurst Bay Drive
Modec, Dennis  1004 15th St, Cloquet
Nelson, Dale & Tim  3356 Mobrate Drive, Iron, MN
Pavlatos, Bob  1034 Lakeview Drive
Prevost, Del  952 Lakeview Drive
Randall, Crystal  3210 Bob’s Drive
Rosen, Janet & Steve  3319 Ditch Bank Road
Rousseau, Chris  826 Wolner Drive
Soukkala, Deb  3152 Maple Drive
Spoor, Donald  881 Lyndhurst Bay Drive
Tomhave, Jim  625 Chestnut St, Cloquet
Towns, Dennis  3177 Maple Drive
Turonie, Pat  3214 Watkins Spur
Wagner, Chris & Catherine  1036 Lakeview Drive
Werner, Bill  3172 Magney Drive
Wertenen, Robert  844 Wolner Drive
Worgren, Ray  3130 Magney Drive

5.BLASD: Open Public Hearing – Big Lake Area Sewer Extension

   a. Welcome and Introduction by Chair John Fredrickson
b. Sign in – (see roster)

6. Presentation:

a. Presentation by MSA Professional Services – John Stewart, District Engineer

Exhibit Slide 1 - District Functionality:
BLASD is working with the following professionals to achieve its goals:
- MSA Professional Services (Engineer) – John Stewart/Jon Herdegen
- Rudy, Gassert, Yetka, Pritchett & Helwig, P.A. – Frank Yetka
- Fryberger, Buchanan, Smith & Frederick, P.A. (Bonding Attorney) – Mary Frances Skala, Mia Thibodeau

John provided a power point presentation outlining the formation of the BLASD beginning in 2007 with a joint powers agreement with BLASD and Fond du Lac Reservation. Currently BLASD is working on a JPA for residents on living along the proposed pipeline on Big Lake Road (Perch Lake Township). The next phase is joint powers agreements for residents on living along the proposed pipeline on Big Lake Road in Cloquet and FDL. If you live within the district you will have to connect. Big Lake Road residents will be able to elect to connect if the governmental unit in which the property is located enters into a JPA with BLASD.

Exhibit Slide 2 - Project Financing:
John stated the total project cost is estimated to be $12.9 million. Prior to the state bonding monies of $4.5 million the unit cost per household was approximately $31,000. With the state bonding monies applied the cost is approximately $21,000/unit. Based on the recent Income Survey, BLASD is eligible for a USDA grant up to 45% of the remaining project cost (#12.9M) reducing the per unit cost to approximately $11,000. There will be a monthly user fee of approximately $25 plus $4.35 per 1,000 gallons. The board has not determined how the repayment and monthly fees will be collected at this time. Each governmental unit will make their decision regarding payments when/if they enter into a JPA with BLASD.

Exhibit Slide 3 - Capacity Buy-In/O & M:
The WLSSD board will be voting sometime in December to add the BLASD to the WLSSD Service Area. The $11,000 per unit cost includes the per unit buy-in with WLSSD. A chart was provided showing the buy-in and operations and maintenance fees. See power point presentation.

Exhibit Slide 4 - Connection Options:
The proposed system is a low pressure collection system with a grinder pump station to be constructed on each property. The rules governing the system will be established by a sewer use ordinance developed by the BLASD board. The homeowner will incur the cost of connecting the home to pump station and BLASD will incur costs of facilities from
the grinder station to WLSSD. BLASD will work with the engineers on finding certified electricians that can assist homeowners arrange to make the home to grinder station connection.

Exhibit Slide 5 - Why Can’t I Keep My Septic System after the Sanitary Sewer System is Available?
Septic tanks will not be permitted based on the documented incidences of groundwater infiltration and sewage leaks (see power point).

Exhibit Slide 6 – Connection Process Big Lake Road properties:
Township Chair Dave DeLovely stated that Big Lake Road properties will be eligible to participate and take advantage of the per unit cost of approximately $11,000 by signing up if the Perch Lake Board decides to proceed. If property owner elects to participate later residents would pay the full cost which is estimated at approximately $31,000 at this time. If a decision is made by Perch Lake Township to proceed, residents along BLR will receive a connection request form sometime in the next 6 months regarding the voluntary sign up.

Exhibit Slide 7 – Public Information Process:
The public information process began with a neighborhood meeting in the fall of 2013 at which almost all of the audience in attendance was in favor of the project. It is anticipated that digging could start in the fall of 2016 and be done in sometime in 2017-18. The preliminary application has been submitted to USDA for the approval process. Joint powers agreements with Perch Lake Township and the City of Cloquet will need to be completely in the next few months. There are also some changes that need to be made with the FDL joint powers agreement. It is important to continue the application process with the USDA Rural Development Brainerd office.

Exhibit Slide 8 – Project Milestones:
The slide shows a timeline of the BLASD project starting with the agreement of mutual understanding in 2006 (see slide).

Exhibit Slide 9 – Action Requested:
The next step for Perch Lake Township and BLASD will be for their respective boards to order the improvement in pursuit of MN Statute 429.031 or MS444 at their next board meeting.

Summary of important points:
1. Those residing within the BLASD have to connect. Those property owners within the service area located along Big Lake Road will have the option to connect if the respective governmental unit enters into a JPA with BLASD.
2. Project Financing
   a. The total project cost is estimated at $12.9 million
(b) Per unit with:
   (i) Pre-2014 bonding - $31,000
   (ii) State bonding bill monies - $21,000
   (iii) USDA Rural Development grant (45%) - $11,000

(3) The ongoing costs will be estimated at $25 per month plus $4.35 per 1,000 gallons.
(4) Fredrickson added that no final decisions have been made on how property owners will repay through the $11,000. However, the BLASD board is committed to offer repayment to District residents through the monthly user fee. Stewart cautioned that each governmental unit must make this decision.

*Note: Questions, comments, and responses recorded here are not intended as exact quotes.*

7. **Questions and Comments from Big Lake Road Property Owners (Perch Lake Township)**
   Chair DeLovely asked to hear from Big Lake Road property owners first.

   (a-1) KEN PAUNA, 2546 Big Lake Road
   **Pauna:** What if the funding does not come through? Will the decision be based on partial funding? At what point does lack of funding stop the project?
   **Fredrickson:** The USDA funds are accessible. Therefore, the District must stay on track with the application process. The District qualifies for grants up to 45%, but that depends on the USDA grant hearings. The District must fight for its share. Its charge is to continue to pursue the funding, engineering and construction of a sewer project. We will not know if the project is economically impossible until we get to this point.
   **Pauna:** What if one source of funding drops out? Do you continue?
   **Fredrickson:** Yes, we would continue to find a way.
   **Pauna:** What is your decision based on?
   **Fredrickson:** The USDA has guidelines for determining affordability in providing sewage collection and transportation. This guides us regarding income level. They will review our application and determine what grants we are entitled to. We will learn more in the spring.
   **Stewart:** Since this is a competitive process, we want to be there early in the year (with our hand “out” and our paperwork done.

   (a-2) DEL PREVOST, 952 Lakeview Drive
   **Prevost:** Has the application been submitted to USDA yet?
   **Stewart:** The district has submitted the preliminary application. The District has received preliminary comments back from the USDA office and is preparing our responses. Some additional documents must be submitted. The JPA’s must be completed. The District hopes to have everything submitted by February or the first part of March.
Prevost: Will our political folks be involved?
Stewart: Yes, the local politicians will be involved – the Town Board, the BLASD board, the City of Cloquet and FDL. FDL has been a great supporter. The federal folks will become involved after the final application has been submitted. The state folks were involved the first time when the legislature passed the state bonding bill.
Fredrickson: When one considers the 40 documents needed for the application, we have just a few to go. Also, we have a good relationship with the USDA Brainerd/Baxter office.

(a-3) ANNETTE BRYANT, 888 Lakeview Drive, seasonal
Bryant: What will change if the Big Lake Road Residents do not connect? The cost per unit?
Stewart: The total project cost without Big Lake Road residents would drop by $1 million. However, since there are fewer users, the total cost per unit increased by about $700. So, if Cloquet and Perch Lake Township decide not to participate, then the cost per unit increases by about $700, from $11,000 to $11,700 per unit.

(a-4) JAMES PRUSAK, Director Public Works, City of Cloquet
Prusak: I am here representing the City of Cloquet. Is total grant – the State bonding grant for $4.5 million plus the potential USDA grant – based on a percentage of the actual construction costs or are they fixed numbers?
Stewart: The budget of $12.9 million anticipates construction in 2016 or 2017. USDA will divide the total of $12.9 million between grant and loan. We should know the breakdown in late spring or summer. If project costs increase beyond $12.9 million, then we would have to request a supplemental allocation from the USDA.

Prusak: What if the amount is less? Do you get less money then?
Stewart: If the amount turns out to be less, then we would have to go back with a supplemental application for another grant and loan.

Prusak: Is the state bonding money a fixed amount?
Stewart: The $4.5 million is fixed and locked in. The District is required to spend that money within 5 years of last August 2014.
Fredrickson: The grant funds are the last monies spent. If we don’t need it, then we have to return it. We must spend the loan first, the USDA grant second, and the Minnesota bonding bill grant third.
(a-5) KENT PRICE, 2715 Big Lake Road
Price: I support this project for my residence.

(a-6) CAROL JUREK, 2612 Big Lake Road
Jurek: Question for FDL representatives. If I am leasing the property, who is responsible for the payment?

Dupuis/Rennquist: The details have not been worked out. However, it is believed that FDL will incur the cost for its residents. The Band signed a joint powers agreement in support of the project. The existing JPA will be modified; then the details will follow.

Stewart: The District deals only with the property owner. How the property owner passes his/her cost on to the lease is unknown.

Jurek: I need to know if I have to pay this pay. There is a lot of money at stake.

Rennquist: You as a band member?

Jurek: Yes.

Rennquist: You will be paying that back.

Jurek: I will have to pay this back even though I don’t own the land?

Rennquist: Yes, you will. I also don’t own where I live.

Stewart: The situation is much like leasing a car. You are using the car, but you still have to pay the debt costs associated with it.

Jurek: People move around. No one wants to be stuck paying someone else’s delinquent bill. How will the District handle this?

Fredrickson: The current JPA with FDL requires FDL cover the payment for their percentage of residents within the District and guarantee the payment of those folks if a property owner does not pay their bill. When the Big Lake Road decision is made, a similar path must be followed. The District will need some guarantee from the tribe.

Jurek: Will the FDL make a Big Lake Road resident on tribal land connect?

Rennquist/Dupuis: We have heard nothing different from FDL. Big Lake Road residents will have the choice to connect. It is likely the Band will use Indian Health Services (HIS) money for the assessment cost on the original infrastructure. The ongoing monthly fees would be yours.

(a-7) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON WHO LIVES AT BIG LAKE (male)
Person: I have two properties – one on the lake, and the other off the lake. Will the District install a station on each location?

Stewart: If there is a structure that has plumbing, the District will provide a pump station. If there is no structure or mobile home, the District will not provide a lift station.

(a-8) TIM MICHON, 2737 Big Lake Road
Michon: I have a large setback for hookup. Can the District do it?
Stewart: If you can get gravity flow to the lift station, we can probably locate it within 100 feet of the right of way line. After that, you would be on your own. We will have to take a look at your property. If you are interested, fill out the form and we will come out and talk to you about what it would take. If we cannot sewer you, we will allow you to drop out or make alternate arrangements.
Michon: When will the form come out?
Stewart: The Perch Lake Town Board would first approve the resolution for its Big Lake Road Residents. Then, the form would be mailed within 10 days or so of the township approving the project.
Michon: Is the $11,000 a fixed cost? For how long?
Stewart/Fredrickson: $11,000 is the District’s best guess. If things change and the project becomes unaffordable, then the Board will take the next step. However, the District must move ahead now on this great opportunity.

(a-9) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON
Person: I appreciate all the work everyone has done. Thanks for all the hard work.

(a-10) Kyle Ashcroft, 716 Salmi Road
Ashcroft: This is a super good deal and I cannot wait to sign up.

Chair DeLovely hearing no other comments from Big Lake Road residents, turned the meeting over to the District Residents.

8. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS FROM BIG LAKE AREA SANITARY DISTRICT PROPERTY OWNERS.

(a-11) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (female)
Person: We live outside the District on Mission Road – how will this affect us? Also, how many gallons per family?
Stewart: Typically, a resident of northern Minnesota will use about 60 gallons of water per person per day with 50 going down the toilet. Jim Prusak, Director of Public Works (Cloquet) offered the number of 75 gallons per day.

(a-12) BILL WERNER, 3172 Magney Drive & 801 Mission Road
Werner: How many years will it take to pay back $11,000?
Fredrickson: The District will not have this information until it gets the loan/grant percentages. However, the BLASD would like to give residents options other than a long-term payback, such as having it come out of the monthly bill or paid up front.

(a-13) LUCILLE LARSON, 648 Enger Road (for someone else)
Larson: The income survey was based on income guidelines. Will residents be charged according to income guidelines?
Stewart: The income survey was intended to be confidential. The survey’s only purpose was to determine if the District was eligible for a USDA grant. It turns out that the District is eligible for up to 45% grant. The grant calculator determines this percentage. This has nothing to do with what the user is charged. Based on federal policy, everyone must be treated the same; if one is charged $11,000, everyone else is charged the same.

(a-14) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (female)
Person: Is there a detailed map of who is included in the District boundaries? I am not sure if I am. Also, what other property owner costs, beyond the $11,000 are involved?
Stewart: The map was provided by WLSSD. They are in the process of confirming the District boundaries. The WLSSD website may have a clearer map which can be enlarged. The hookup cost is running the pipe from house to lift station. This cost is highly variable depending on number of trees, steepness of grade, topography, etc. Typically the cost can run from $40 to $100 per foot. You would hire a plumber who would give you an estimate.
Fredrickson/Dupuis: Regarding the boundary, BLASD provided input to WLSSD regarding the BLASD boundary as it was established when the District was formed. The BLASD boundary would be all the way to the west side of Mission Road. It is not at the road, but on the other side of the road. The District boundary is clear and we can give you that information upon request. WLSSD has taken input from BLASD as to where it makes sense to folks that are outside the District to be afforded the opportunity to connect.

(a-15) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (female)
Person: Does the district boundary include the Ditchbank Road and the residents along the road?
Fredrickson: No.

(a-16) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (female)
Person: How will the District determine the number of hookups – is it by tax base or fire number?
Stewart: The District will likely provide a hookup for any structure such as a trailer home or cabin.

Person: What if a person has one property with two dwellings?
Stewart: The District will have to survey the situation first to provide an answer.
Person: My property is seasonal. What then?
Stewart: The debt would be based on the entire year even though the property is seasonal. If the property is seasonal and not in use, then the user charge per gallon would not be there when you are not using the system.

(a-17) GORDON HANSON, 835 Lyndhurst Bay Drive
Hanson: The cost to the homeowner is $11,000 for the current septic system. What if the average life of the system?
Stewart: About 20 years.
Hanson: We are talking about a 40 years’ payback; so in theory, we would be paying twice as much if we had our own septic system.
Stewart: Yes.
Hanson: Will the contractor who does the horizontal drilling be allowed to make a deal with the owner who has a long run to connect (by charging them so much per foot)? After all, the equipment is there already and it would be far less for that fellow.
Stewart: That situation is a function of the contractor. Some will deal with property owners and some will not. It then becomes a contract between the property owner and contractor.
Hanson: You keep saying structure. Does that include storage buildings?
Stewart: No, a building structure with plumbing.

(1-18) CRYSTAL RANDALL, 3210 Bob’s Drive
Randall: What will it cost to disconnect the old system? Will I have to remove it, or will I be able to leave the system there and run a new pipe?
Stewart: Carlton County will be involved in that decision. Most of the time, all that is involved is filling the septic tank with sand for safety purposes. The cost of doing that is up to the property owner. I have never seen a county require that the draining field be dug up.
Randall: What about seasonal homes with no hookups? What are these persons doing with the water that comes out of their building? This is for the environment and the lake.
Stewart: The District will require that the structure have a hookup lift station, regardless if it is seasonal or year round.
Randall: Even if there is no septic system on the property at present?
Stewart/Fredrickson: Yes, since the property owner could upgrade in the future. Everyone is sharing in the benefit of a cleaner lake and increase in property values around the lake. Every property owner within the District will have to pay some portion of the capital cost through taxes, even if they have no hookup.

(a-19) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (female)
Person: Will the Tribe provide assistance to an enrollee who owns their own property on the reservation?
Dupuis: I am in the same situation and do not know.
Person: You say the District was formed in 2007. I bought my home two years ago and never received a disclosure that I could be incurring this big expense.
Fredrickson: I bought my home four and one half years ago. When I bought mine, it was clear that a sewer project was in the works. I went to a meeting and got involved. I don’t recall it being on my disclosure form, either.
Stewart: If the BLASD board approves its resolution next week in support of the project, then District residents who try to sell their homes will have a pending assessment notice attached. This should prevent a buyer from being blindsided.

(a-20) PAT TURONIE, 3241 Watkins Spur
Turonie: We had taxes added for the District study. I have two questions:
1. Will the taxing end once this project is implemented?
2. At what point will it stop? When the project is too expensive? Will the tax be cancelled then?

Fredrickson: The BLASD board has no authority to call it quits. They must continue to look for a way to protect the lake according to the JPA with FDL. FDL has made it clear that their intent is to find a way to protect these waters as well. Our joint powers agreement calls for us to keep pursuing a solution until there is a legal change to the agreement. I am very optimistic right now because we have a viable study and project. Luke: She is referring to the operating levy in her taxes now. Yes, once the project is implemented with a user fee in place, the operating levy should go away.
Fredrickson: Yes, once we receive funding, we will roll those operating costs into your bill. However, we do not yet know what the District’s operation costs will be. We will roll as much as possible into the user fees, and include the rest in the annual levy.

(a-21) DEL PREVOST, 952 Lakeview Drive
Prevost: I would like to thank the Boards for their hard work in getting the project to this point. Would the grinder pumps be owned by the District or the property owner?
Fredrickson: The grinder pumps, each 50 gallon tank, will be owned by the District who will contact someone for maintenance. You would call with issues and they would dispatch someone.

Prevost: Will the District have pre-approved contractors for property owners who must pay to have repairs made on the line from their homes to the pump?

Fredrickson: Yes, the District would provide such a list.

Prevost: Does the District still estimate the user fee to be about $75 per month? Anything over $100 would be an excessive burden on residents.

Stewart/Herdegen: $75 per month is still a “ballpark” estimate for the debt and maintenance cost. The usage fee would be an additional cost.

(a-22) DENNY FOSS, 3190 Maple Drive

Foss: What happens if the grant monies disappear and construction costs rise? Is there a prohibitive cost, then, for each situation? Are we doing this at any cost?

Fredrickson: There is a risk involved, but we have built “contingency” into the project estimate. The District has already accounted for potential funding changes and escalating construction costs. If we lose the state grant due to time expiration (due to delays) that would be a problem.

Foss: Is there a time with the cost when it falls apart?

Fredrickson: At that point we would have to consult the JPA.

Foss: Is the grant based on the BLASD residents?

Stewart: The BLASD plus 50% of Big Lake Road residents.

(a-23) JOHN FRYC, 1085 Cary Road, seasonal

Frick: I believe the board has done a good job getting the best value for the dollar and I want to thank everyone involved. I support the project.

(a-24) GINNY HANSON, 3223 Ditchbank Road

Hanson: If we are within the boundary, we have to connect. We are several hundred feet in and have no gravity flow. I would have to pump up because I am at the bottom of the highest point of elevation in Carlton County. How do you pump up and what additional costs would that be to us?

Fredrickson: You are not within the District, do you do not have to connect. Ditchbank Road may have been one of the original boundaries, but it is not now. We will check again with WLSSD this week.

(a-25) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (male)

Person: Has the Golf Course been added?
Fredrickson: Yes, the Golf Course has been added.

(a-26) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (male)
Person: Will the District have to obtain easements on private property? I own a quarter mile along Cary Road.
Stewart: The District is not that far along, but if the pipeline does not go along the highway, BLASD will have to obtain an easement.

(a-27) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (male), 910 Lakeview Drive, seasonal
Person: I have 2 questions. The first one is: Are you pursuing any other funding sources such as the BIA or other organizations? Perhaps you could get additional funds for the $11,000.
Stewart/Fredrickson: The District reviews any new available funding sources as they become known. Folks come into the monthly meetings with ideas. Funding is not as abundant as it used to be and is increasingly competitive. As for the BIA, IHS, that usually applies only to tribal residents. The BLASD has a list of potential funding sources. They are focused on the USDA for now, but will continue to review the list.
Person (other) Was Bureau of Land Management investigated?
Fredrickson: I do not recall but we can check and get it added if it is not.
Person: Second question: If a person sells his property is the debt balance of $11,000 transferred with the deed to the new owner?
Fredrickson: The debt will stay with the property.
Stewart: However, we don’t know for sure with the Township or the City of Cloquet. They could determine that an assessment is appropriate and a bank could require that it be paid off when the property is transferred.

(a-28) ROY HAGEN, 875 Lyndhurst Bay, seasonal
Hagen: Please provide a brief summary of the water quality problems in Big Lake, the reason for this project. Have we done an analysis?
Fredrickson: There was an extensive water quality study done. I will ask Nancy Schuldt to provide a short synopsis.
Schuldt: Yes, I am the Water Projects Coordinator for the FDL. I started working on this in 2001 with the first grant proposal for a feasibility study. Big Lake is vulnerable and on the brink with this density of development, where everyone manages their own shorefront, land and septic systems. The lake has a preponderance of noncompliant septic systems. We also did a septic system survey for all the tribal properties with the first grant. The original feasibility study, the original investigation was predicated on the water quality data, beach testing, and septic system surveys which showed this resource
was very vulnerable and on the brink of turning into a lake no one want to live around. This is the most impost step the community can take to protect the lake for now and for future generations. She congratulated everyone on their hard work.

(a-29) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (male)
**Person:** Will the project, once implemented, clean the lake up?
**Fredrickson/Schuldt:** Potentially, yes.

(a-30) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (male)
**Person:** It took a long time for the lake to get to where it is now and it will take just as long to clean itself up, but it will happen. It is a shallow lake. What about privies? None are compliant with Carlton County Zoning. It will be difficult for seasonal residents to get rid of them. I have one that I use at this time of the year when I have the water system shut off. What will be the ongoing requirements for privies?
**Fredrickson:** That decision will be a BLASD board action. The Board will have to at least mimic what the County requirements are, or even add to that, if it determines a certain risk. The Board will have to enact ordinances.
**Stewart:** I would plan on the privies going away.

(a-31) BILL JASKARI, 979 Cary Road
**Jaskari:** What if someone wants to build a home in the future after the project is done? What will the fees be at that point?
**Fredrickson:** If you have a buildable lot, the District can, at your request, provide a stub on the lot. Then you would pay from the point of the stub to your home. You would pay for the capital cost for being in the District.

(a-32) KELLY TOWNS, 3177 Maple Drive
**Towns:** I thought this project was not going to happen unless it had a lot more funding. $11,000 is a hefty bill. The $11,000 may seem like a small amount, but if you have to go 300 or 400 feet to the grinder pump, you could easily incur an additional $36,000. I appreciate how far it has come, but at the same time, it is expensive for those who cannot afford it.
**Fredrickson:** I have researched other sanitary districts across the state. It is common for the user amount to be upwards of $20,000 for small lakes like ours. We will do what we can to defray the cost. We have to keep pursuing and have a review of the JPA if it ever comes to that. If it becomes too expensive, then we will have to review the JPA. Right now, we think $11,000 is actually quite reasonable.
Towns: It is actually more than $11,000, right, since we are responsible for getting it on our property.
Fredrickson: It can be, depending on each individual property as we do the engineering. This lake is unique in its topography and access. We will try to get it as close to your connection as possible. Until we do the engineering individually, we cannot provide actual details. The BLASD Board may have to offer an alternative for those properties where it is not economically feasible to provide a connection.
Towns: Are grinder pumps 100% full when the power goes off?
Stewart: The power to the grinder station runs off the house power. If the house power goes out, then the well power goes out too. Now if you have a mound system, power goes down, the well goes down, and the mound system goes down. An issue brought out by another is that you pay the cost for the electrical and wire to the pump.
Fredrickson: The BLASD has not made decisions regarding set up and guidelines in case of power loss. Our Board can look at other Districts for ideas.
Towns: They say a septic system has a lot of failures, but a grinder pump also has failures.
Stewart: The actual tanks with grinder pumps are much less susceptible to infiltration. The pump is a positive pressure – it can pump out. It is not gravity alone.
Fredrickson: You can pump down and have room for a couple of 5-gallon buckets to wash waste down until your power comes back on.
Towns: I am assuming that the pipe will run close to the road. How far is a grinder pump from the house?
Stewart: On the lake, these sewer pipes are not going to run down roads. For the most part, the District will get easements from people to run across their properties. The line will go from your neighbor’s pump station, to yours, and on to the next. They will try and place it by gravity. We would never place a pump station higher than the house. The engineering survey has to happen and they have to do the engineering.

(a-33) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (female)
Person: What if the house is extremely close to the lake?
Stewart: When they design the system, they will at individual situations. They will use tools such as aerial photography, a survey, etc.

BLASD Chair John Fredrickson notes that these were all great questions. He encouraged residents to come to the monthly meetings to learn more. He encouraged those present to wrap up with comments on moving ahead with the project.
(a-34) BARRY BERQUIST, Cloquet
Berquist: I want to thank the Boards involved. I believe it is worth the investment to protect it for many generations and protect our property values down the road. I am in favor of this project and support this project.
Berquist: How many people support this project?
Response: The vast majority of hands went up.

(a-36) JIM PRUSAK, Director of Public Works, Cloquet
Prusak: All the residents around Big Lake will be required to connect. For those along Big Lake Road in Perch Lake and Cloquet, it will be optional. Now, earlier you asked what it would cost now at $11,000 and in the future the cost would be $31,000. Once the project is done, you are on your own. I am asking BLASD to think about this: Is that future $31,000 reasonable for new development? Future connection costs should be reasonable. Example: I have a home on Big Lake. I have 600 feet of frontage. Five years from now, I want to subdivide my property and build a new home. What will it cost me to connect then? Whether you are a resident on Big Lake or a resident along Big Lake Road, there should be some consistent numbers and reasoning for everyone.
Fredrickson: We will capture that.

(a-37) UNIDENTIFIED PERSON (male)
Person: I am frustrated with the long delay in posting information on the website this year. The website is our only source of information. (We live in the Twin Cities and do not subscribe to the Pine [Journal]).
Fredrickson: Your comments are appropriate. We are working on this and apologize for the inconvenience.

9. Closing Remarks, Perch Lake Township and BLASD
Chair DeLovel and Chair John Fredrickson asked if anyone had additional comments and thanked everyone for their participation. Fredrickson announced potential vacancies on the BLASD Board, and invited interested persons to stop by. BLASD Board members must be a full-time resident in BLASD and a legal resident of Perch Lake. Town Supervisor Tom Luke declared that this project is good, not only for the environment, but also for the water table and the preservation of our drinking water.

10. Perch Lake Township Board Discussion/Action
None at this time.

11. BLASD Board Discussion/Action
None at this time.

12. Adjournment
The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:25 pm. Motion carried.
Respectfully submitted,

________________________________________
Debbie Gellatly, Assistant *
*With courtesy of Lora Eames, Perch Lake Clerk.

Approved by BLASD board

________________________________________
Chair John Fredrickson