

**APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, September 11, 2023**

The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Board of Directors met for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 11th, 2023, via both an in-person and virtual meeting held at the Chisago County Government Center, Room 150B, in Center City, MN with the following Directors present: Jill Behnke, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher. **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte

Notice of Participation via Teams

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Lake Improvement District (LID) Board Director Todd McBride remotely attended the meeting on Monday, September 11th, 2023, at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Teams. McBride was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from Home2 Suites by Hilton, 5100 Endicott Ave, Fort Worth, TX 76137, a location open and accessible to the public.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Subd. 3, persons interested in monitoring the meeting electronically from a remote location viewed the meeting through the Microsoft Teams meeting link.

Others present attended the in-person or virtual meeting at a location of their choice through a personal device (e.g., laptop, tablet, cell phone, or personal computer). Each LID Board Director and others present were allowed to view documents presented during the in-person and virtual meeting via their devices and to participate in discussion through microphones located in their devices.

Also present: Chisago Lakes LID Administrator Ben Elfelt, LID Water Resource Specialist Monica Kinny, Chisago County Water Resource Manager Susanna Wilson Witkowski, Chisago County Commissioner Marlys Dunne, and EOR Engineer Greg Graske.

Chair Mike Mergens called the business meeting to order at 6:32 pm and lead the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director LeVasseur offered a motion to approve the amended agenda for the LID meeting. Motion seconded by Director Paquay and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte

Director Behnke offered a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda for the LID meeting, including a) Approval of Minutes from the Board Meeting on August 7th, 2023, the b) Financial Report, and c) Approval of Invoice Payments. Motion seconded by Director McBride and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte

September 2023 LID Invoices Received		
Invoice Detail	LID Budget Category	Amount
Alliance Labs	Sample Analysis	1,722.00
EOR	Meeting Attendance (July)	250.00
EOR	Water Levels (July)	1,480.04
Monthly Expense Total		3,452.04

The Chair opened the Citizen's Forum at 6:35 p.m. No citizens offered comments. The Chair closed the Citizen's Forum at 6:36 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Elfelt relayed to the Board that the LID lakes have been completely surveyed for phragmites with the assistance of University of Minnesota staff, Wild Rivers Conservancy, and LID Directors Mergens and Schumacher. The survey took 10 days to complete and revealed many new populations that are suspected to be invasive phragmites on Chisago Lake, the Lindstrom Lakes, and the Center Lakes. No new invasive populations were discovered on Green Lake.

Director McBride offered a motion to approve spending up to \$10,000 to hire Minnesota Native Landscapes to treat terrestrial phragmites populations via backpack sprayer. Motion seconded by Director Schumacher and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte

Elfelt shared with the Board that he was notified of a LID resident who transplanted a variety of wetland plants to their shoreline, including several invasive phragmites plants. The resident received a letter from Code Enforcement Officer Steve Putman with information on how to properly remove the noxious weed and prevent it from getting established.

Elfelt informed the Board that he had been contacted by Jason Lind, Public Works Director for Chisago City regarding vegetation overgrowth along the channels connecting LID lakes within the city limits. Discussion will continue regarding how best to remedy the overgrowth, which entity will be financially responsible, and how to prevent future issues along the channels. Staff will continue to research easement locations within these areas.

Director Behnke offered a motion to approve a \$8,758.00 reimbursement for Eurasian Watermilfoil treatment completed by the Chisago-Lindstrom Lakes Association as part of the LID/Lake Associations Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment Partnership Program. Motion seconded by Director Paquay and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride,

Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher. **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte

OLD BUSINESS

Elfelt informed the Board that the Lofton and Lake Ellen weirs were scheduled to be inspected on Wednesday, September 13, 2023. The LID Board will be consulted before any modifications are made to the weirs to accommodate the inspection.

Elfelt shared with the Board that new DNR Fisheries Area Supervisor, Matt Ward, will be a guest at the October LID meeting, and that would be a great opportunity to further discuss PFAS contamination in area lakes. LID staff will continue pursuing lake specific PFAS and Fish Consumption Advisory data.

Elfelt mentioned that the 2024 LID Budget had been reviewed by the County Board and that they were supportive of both the numbers and the requested levy increase.

Elfelt discussed the first of three scheduled carp surveys which took place on August 30th. WSB conducted three transects on each of the East Basin lakes to collect data on carp size and abundance. Preliminary numbers indicate that North Lindstrom and North & South Center Lakes are well over the 89 lbs./acre recommended action threshold for managing carp. LID staff will let the public know that if tagged carp are caught, they would appreciate the opportunity to retrieve the tags to be reused in future fish surveys.

Katie Malchow, the newly hired County Outreach and Initiative Coordinator, discussed ways to promote the Chisago Lakes Water Trail and offered support for various LID programs.

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

LID Updates

Kinny shared with the Board that over 100 people visited the KiChiSaga Days booth on August 19th and 20th. Discussions centered around lakeshore restorations and water levels.

Kinny reviewed current lake level measurements and discussed the possibility of installing two gauges at lake sites so that water levels could be read when levels are extremely high and unusually low. Elfelt will check with Chisago County Water Patrol on the possibility of marking known underwater hazards to alert boaters when water levels are low.

Recent excessive weed and aquatic plant growth in North and South Lindstrom lakes has been brought to the attention of LID staff. The recommendation is to survey next year and treat them at that time, as it is likely too late in the season to administer effective weed treatments this year.

The North Center – North Lindstrom Channel Workgroup will meet before the October LID meeting and decide how to proceed with reconvening the Channel Task Force or a similar group to explore the possibility of increasing channel accessibility for boaters.

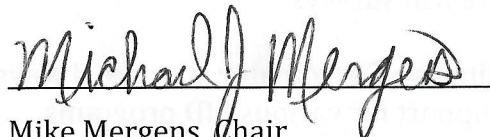
Chisago County Water Resources Updates

Wilson Witkowski stated that Chisago County has been selected as a host site for the 2024 We Are Water MN exhibit, (June 20th through August 12th). The next step is a staff/volunteer retreat to take place on October 16th and 17th in Stillwater to kick off the planning and create an exhibit workplan timeline.

Wilson Witkowski shared that AIS inspections would continue through October, that a Land Protection Tour takes place on September 12th, the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center showcase takes place on September 20th, and the St. Croix River Research Rendezvous takes place on October 3rd at the Acreage at Osceola.

Wilson Witkowski notified the Board that the Department of Agriculture is offering local government grants to assist with noxious weed management, and that Wild Rivers Conservancy will apply with the intent to resurvey areas for phragmites and to locate purple loosestrife populations within the county.

Director Behnke offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Motion seconded by Director Schumacher and, upon a vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows:
IN FAVOR THEREOF: Jill Behnke, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte


Mike Mergens, Chair

Attest: _____

Benjamin Elfelt, Administrator

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District