

**APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, December 4, 2023**

The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Board of Directors met for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, December 4th, 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, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher. **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur

Notice of Participation via Microsoft Teams

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, Lake Improvement District (LID) Board Director Gary Schumacher remotely attended the LID Board meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Teams. Director Schumacher was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from 8840 98th Street, Road Unit C, Ocala, FL 34481, a location open and accessible to the public.

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 13D.02, LID Board Director Todd McBride remotely attended the LID Board meeting on Monday, December 4, 2023, at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Teams. Director McBride was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from Hilton Vancouver Downtown, 433 Robson St, Vancouver, BC V6B 6L9, Canada, 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: LID Administrator Ben Elfelt, LID Water Resource Specialist Monica Kinny, Chisago County Water Resource Manager Susanna Wilson Witkowski, Chisago County Commissioner Marlys Dunne, Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) Water Resources Engineer, Greg Graske and Environmental Scientist Jimmy Marty, and 3 citizens.

Chair Mike Mergens called the business meeting to order at 6:31 pm and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director Behnke made a motion to approve the 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, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur

Director McBride 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 November 6th, 2023, the b) Financial Report, and c) Approval of Invoice Payments. Motion seconded by Director Schumacher and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur

December 2023 LID Invoices Received		
Invoice Detail	LID Budget Category	Amount
CLLA	AIS Partnership Program Reimbursement	214.65
CLA	AIS Partnership Program Reimbursement	728.52
GLA	AIS Partnership Program Reimbursement	728.52
EOR	Meeting Attendance (October)	250.00
EOR	Fall Channel & Weir Inspection, General Engineering	1,280.08
EOR	2023 Point Intercept Surveys	1,545.75
SWCD	Goal 3, Obj. 2: <i>Olmschenk, Olinda Green TA & Lund</i>	24,000.00
SWCD	Goal 3, Obj. 3: <i>BMP Maintenance Program</i>	3,600.00
WSB	East Basin Carp Baseline Data Collection	6,719.83
Monthly Expense Total		39,067.35

The Chair opened the Citizen's Forum at 6:33 p.m. No citizens offered comment. The Chair closed the Citizen's Forum at 6:34 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

A member of the Center Lakes Association requested LID funds for a targeted Aquatic Invasive Species educational mailer to be sent to lakeshore homeowners on North and South Center Lakes. Susanna Wilson Witkowski shared with all in attendance that, following the January Water Plan Policy Team meeting, she will have information to share regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funds that may be available for lake associations to use for educational materials. **No motion was made.**

LID Director Travis LaMotte joined the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

EOR Environmental Scientist Jimmy Marty presented the point-intercept survey that he prepared for South Center Lake. Marty compared his data to a survey conducted in 2009 and discussed the changes in macrophyte species and abundance over that time period. He stated that hybrid watermilfoil has crowded out the native variety, and that South Center Lake has a good Floristic Quality Index for a lake with the amount of development and recreational pressure that exists. Marty offered guidance to consider regarding future AIS management as a result of these recent survey results.

OLD BUSINESS

Elfelt shared with the Board that although \$1500 remained in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative fund after terrestrial phragmites treatment, the leftover funds were not available for lakeshore phragmites treatment costs.

Elfelt stated that LID Election activities were underway, and that the candidate application notice was submitted to the Chisago County Press for publication.

Elfelt discussed the process for scoping and bidding out the needed Lake Ellen and Lofton Weir repairs. He will work with Collins Engineering, who completed the initial inspection, to determine the details and logistics to ensure the LID Board has a complete cost estimate to budget for future repairs. Elfelt also plans to meet with County Engineer Joe Triplett to discuss the bidding process for large infrastructure projects, and with County Commissioner Marlys Dunne, County Administrator Chase Burnham, County Auditor-Treasurer Bridgitte Konrad, and others to determine whether ARPA funds may be utilized for a project of this type.

LID Director Todd McBride left the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

LID Updates

Elfelt relayed to the Board that the beaver contractor had located and removed 5 beavers within the channel near Chisago Lake.

Chisago County Water Resources Updates

Wilson Witkowski shared with the Board that no zebra mussels or spiny waterfleas had been discovered within Chisago County lakes this year, and that Wild Rivers Conservancy had not discovered any additional roadside phragmites populations during their survey.

Wilson Witkowski stated that no county lakes had been added nor removed from the state Impaired Waters list, and that the Water Plan Policy Team would be revisiting the ARPA grant program to tweak it for 2024, potentially using some funding for lake management plans.

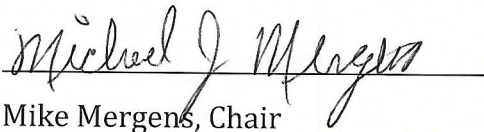
Wilson Witkowski shared with the Board the results of a point-intercept survey completed on Sunrise Lake and stated that they were looking for a volunteer water quality monitor to take samples next year.

Wilson Witkowski updated the Board on We Are Water MN exhibit developments and the Lower St. Croix, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (1W1P) Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan for FY24.

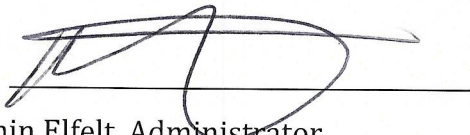
Emmons and Olivier Resources, Inc. Updates

EOR Engineer Greg Graske shared his findings from the October 26th channel and weir inspection. Monitoring the channel for vegetative overgrowth as well as beaver activity, and clearing out debris within Swamp Lake's seven culverts are recommended.

Director LaMotte offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Motion seconded by Director Paquay and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride


Mike Mergens, Chair

Attest:


Benjamin Elfelt, Administrator

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District