

**APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, January 8, 2024**

The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Board of Directors met for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, January 8th, 2024, 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 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, January 8, 2024, 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, Lake Improvement District (LID) Board Director Todd McBride remotely attended the LID Board meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024, at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Teams. Director McBride was seen and heard via electronic means and participated from 3750 Valleyway Road, Cumming, GA, 30040, 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 Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist Camden Droppo, Chisago County Commissioner Marlys Dunne, Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) Water Resources Engineer, Greg Graske, Department of Natural Resources Hinckley Area Fisheries Supervisor, Matt Ward, and 3 citizens.

Chair Mike Mergens called the business meeting to order at 6:30 pm and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Director LeVasseur 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, 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 December 4th, 2023, and the Planning & Budget Workgroup meeting on December 28, 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, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte

January 2024 LID Invoices Received		
Invoice Detail	LID Budget Category	Amount
Alliance Labs	September Samples (22)	1,844.00
CC Press	Vacancy Announcement	524.16
EOR (Nov)	Point Intercept Survey	294.00
EOR (Nov)	Inspection Report, General Engineering	1,089.00
EOR (Dec)	2023 Point Intercept Surveys	183.75
EOR (Dec)	Meeting Attendance	250.00
EOR (Dec)	General Engineering	594.00
Fleet Farm	Waders	138.39
Lindstrom Hardware	Tools/Supplies	27.99
North Country Beaver Control	Beaver Removal	300.00
SWCD	Goal 6, Obj. 1, Chisago Lakes School	780.00
WSB	Data Collection/October 2023	1,982.50
Monthly Expense Total		8,007.79

The Chair opened the Citizen's Forum at 6:36 p.m. Dan Hames of 30566 Moonlight Bay Ct, Lindstrom, MN, 55045, expressed his interest in running for the LID Board, Area 3 seat. The Chair closed the Citizen's Forum at 6:40 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Elfelt shared with the Board the request for quote – professional services letter that went out to numerous engineering firms soliciting engineering and design bids for repair of the Lofton Avenue and Lake Ellen Weirs. Submittal deadline is February 2, 2024. Several firms have expressed interest in the project.

Director McBride offered a motion to request \$175,000 from the County Board via American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to provide a 50% match to state or federal grant money to fund the full weir repair project estimated at \$350,000. Motion seconded by Director Behnke and, upon a voice 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

NEW BUSINESS

Elfelt reminded the Board that voting is open for the available Area 3 and Area 4 Director seats, and will remain open until February 5th at 4:00 p.m.

Candidates who submitted applications include:

Area 3: Margaret LeVasseur and Dan Hames

Area 4: Steve Paquay and Derek Duffy

Directors LeVasseur and Paquay expressed their interest in remaining on the LID Board for another term.

Matt Ward, Hinckley Area Fisheries Supervisor, Division of Fish and Wildlife for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources introduced himself to the Board. Ward assumed the position from Leslie George in August of 2023. Ward discussed upcoming lake vegetation and fish surveys, discussed the Quality Sunfish Initiative, and the process for stocking fish in area lakes. He solicited suggestions for additional surveys that the LID may be interested in going forward.

Director Schumacher offered a motion to fund up to \$175.00 for a LID/Lake Associations booth at the upcoming Chisago Lakes Showcase on March 23rd, 2024. Motion seconded by Director LeVasseur and, upon a voice 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

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

LID Updates

Elfelt stated that due to lakes not being entirely frozen yet, LID staff has continued to check lake levels as needed to monitor water movement and beaver activity within the channel system.

Elfelt shared that Commissioner Dunne is the County Board Chair for 2024 and will continue to be Board Liaison to the LID.

Chisago County Water Resources Updates

Water Resources Manager Wilson Witkowski shared that an East Metro Water Resources Education Program (EMWREP) Planning meeting for 2024 took place and that a summary of 2023 activities would be available soon.

The Water Plan Policy Team met earlier in the day and suggested some changes to the ARPA AIS Treatment and Education Grant and application, which will be updated and available on February 1st. The Water Resources truck and laptops have been purchased, and the volunteer water quality program in the northern lakes is taking shape. AIS signage will be updated at water accesses using ARPA funds.

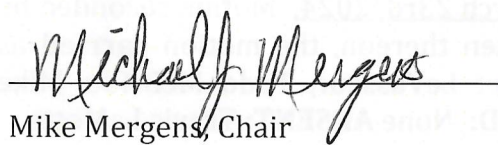
Roadside surveys will commence this year to circle back to the LID and Fish Lake in Nessel Township to determine if any new phragmites populations have been established, as well as to monitor for purple loosestrife.

The We Are Water MN indoor exhibit will be located at the North Branch public library from June 20th through August 12th, and the outdoor exhibit location will likely be determined this week.

Wilson Witkowski shared upcoming free Floodplain/Shoreland Winter 2024 Virtual Trainings courtesy of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/ewr/2024-shoreland-floodplain-education-training.html>

The Lower St. Croix, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (1W1P) organization created a video entitled: When Development Comes to Town, which can be viewed here: https://youtu.be/E4qfzN3qhpg?si=Dv92nKw2NQ_OBTJS

Director LeVasseur offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 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, 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