

**APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, March 4, 2024**

The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Board of Directors met for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 4th, 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, one or more LID Board Directors remotely attended the LID Board meeting on Monday, March 4, 2024, at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Teams. Directors were seen and heard via electronic means and participated from the following locations, which were open and accessible to the public:

Gary Schumacher: 8840 98th Street, Road Unit C, Ocala, FL 34481

Steve Paquay: 19610 Gulf Blvd, Indian Shores, Florida 33785

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, and Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) Water Resources Engineer, Greg Graske.

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

Director Behnke made a motion to approve the amended agenda for the LID meeting. 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

Director LeVasseur 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 February 5th, 2024, b) the 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

March 2024 LID Invoices Received		
Invoice Detail	LID Budget Category	Amount
EOR	Board Meeting Attendance	275.00
EOR	Water Levels	368.18
WSB	East Zone Baseline Data Invoice	1,286.37
Monthly Expense Total		1,929.55

The Chair opened the Citizen's Forum at 6:33 p.m. No citizens were in attendance. The Chair closed the Citizen's Forum at 6:33 p.m.

Chisago County Water Resources Updates

Water Resource Manager Wilson Witkowski updated the LID Board on the following:

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has classified non-native Phragmites as a Prohibited Invasive Species, meaning it is unlawful to possess, import, purchase, transport, or introduce this species, except under permit for disposal, control, research, or education. It is also on the Minnesota Department of Agriculture Prohibited Noxious Weed Control List.

The East Metro Water Resources Education Program (EMWREP) Annual Report is available here: <https://www.mnwcd.org/s/2023-Annual-Report-nb5c.pdf>

The Wild Rivers Conservancy is seeking citizen science volunteers to raise beetles for help in battling invasive Purple Loosestrife:

<https://wildriversconservancy.org/biocontrolproject/>

DNR is revising the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area Master Plan. A meeting for public input will be held March 6th from 6:00 – 8:00 pm:

https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/areas/wildlife/carlos_avery_wma.html

Job postings for Level 1 and Level 2 Watercraft Inspectors for the county have been posted.

A One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P), Lower St. Croix Partnership Shoreline Classification Contractor Training took place on March 4th from 9:00 – 11:00 am.

The Open House Kick-Off event for We Are Water MN is scheduled for March 19th from 3:00 – 5:00 pm. Attending virtually may be an option.

ARPA AIS Treatment and Education Grant applications are due March 8th by 4:30 pm. A base grant of \$6,615 is available to each lake association within the county as well as additional funds based on littoral area. Funds may be requested for both years combined and used in either 2024 or 2025.

WORKGROUP & COMMITTEE REPORTS

LID Administrator Elfelt shared with the Board that the Invasive Phragmites Planning Team is currently identifying the best method to revegetate a large area near Ivywood Trail where Phragmites has recently been eradicated.

Elfelt updated the Board on the various weir repair or replacement project funding options, including the bill submitted to the state legislature by Senator Koran, a DNR Dam Safety grant, a DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation grant, and a Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

Director McBride offered a motion to approve the Collins Engineers, Inc. Phase 1 Feasibility Study, without retainer option, for a total cost of \$17,000. 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

Director Schumacher offered a motion to pause the LID/Lake Associations Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership Program for 2024. 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 shared with the Board the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center's (MAISRC) P.I. Charter database which compiled hundreds of completed point intercept surveys throughout the state into a comprehensive, searchable database for public use.

Director LeVasseur offered a motion to approve the 2024 water quality monitoring program sample analysis cost proposal of \$9200 (LID portion) from Alliance Technical Group. Motion seconded by Director Schumacher 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

Director LeVasseur offered a motion to approve spending up to \$6000 to conduct an Aquatic Plant Point Intercept survey on Green Lake, as well as Little Green Lake if time and funding allows. Motion seconded by Director McBride 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

Elfelt inquired about the preferences of the Board for hosting a LID tour of projects on an area lake. The recommendation was made to have the weirs and their upcoming repair/replacement project as a possible tour stop and discussion point.

Director Behnke offered a motion to approve spending \$40 for a shared LID/Lake Associations booth rental at Karl Oskar Days in Lindstrom on July 12th and 13th, 2024. Motion seconded by Director McBride 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

OLD BUSINESS

LID Water Resource Specialist Kinny updated the Board on the LID/Lake Associations booth schedule for the upcoming Chisago Lakes Showcase being held on March 23rd from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm.

Elfelt discussed the county's upcoming strategic planning project and how that intersects with the LID Board's planning goals. More information will be forthcoming.

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

LID Updates

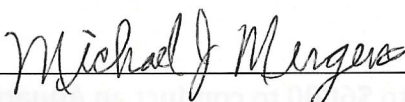
Kinny updated the Board on lake ice conditions and stated that water level monitoring had begun on March 4th due to the early ice-out this year.

Elfelt shared with the Board that staff is working on a survey to gauge public opinion on local lake conditions and uses.

EOR Updates

Water Resources Engineer Graske shared with the Board that the spring channel and weir inspection would be scheduled soon.

Director LeVasseur offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. 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


Mike Mergens, Chair

Attest: 
Benjamin Elfelt, Administrator

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District