

**APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, April 1, 2024**

The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Board of Directors met for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 1, 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, Travis LaMotte, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher. **ABSENT:** Margaret LeVasseur

*****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, April 1, 2024, at 6:30 pm via Microsoft Teams. Directors were seen and heard via electronic means and participated from the following location(s), which were open and accessible to the public:

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

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 one citizen.

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

Director McBride 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, Travis LaMotte, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Margaret LeVasseur

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 March 4, 2024, b) the Financial Report, and c) Approval of Invoice Payments. Motion seconded by Director Paquay and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows **IN FAVOR**

THEREOF: Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Margaret LeVasseur

April 2024 LID Invoices Received		
Invoice Detail	LID Budget Category	Amount
County Auditor/Treasurer	Postage (Election)	47.76
EOR	Board Meeting Attendance	275.00
EOR	Water Levels	775.57
Monthly Expense Total		1,098.33

The Chair opened the Citizen's Forum at 6:32 p.m. No citizens commented. The Chair closed the Citizen's Forum at 6:32 p.m.

WORKGROUP & COMMITTEE REPORTS

LID Administrator Elfelt shared with the Board that the Invasive Phragmites Planning Team is working to identify the best method to revegetate a large area near Ivywood Trail where Phragmites has recently been eradicated. The planning team is also attempting to connect with the Chisago Lakes Joint Sewage Treatment Commission (CLJSTC) and/or Facility Manager to discuss replacement of invasive Phragmites plants within the treatment beds. Elfelt recently spoke with Lisa Iverson, CLJSTC Chair, and will continue a conversation on best management practices for phasing out invasive Phragmites at the facility.

Another challenge with invasive Phragmites management and treatment has been the lack of consistency between different mapping platforms being used by staff. Elfelt is working with the County GIS specialist to create a new mapping platform that should eliminate some of the discrepancies.

NEW BUSINESS

LID Water Resource Specialist Kinny shared with the Board that the LID Lakes and Waters Survey launched in late March and has received 213 responses to date. The survey will commence on April 30th, and data will be shared at the May LID meeting.

Director LaMotte made a motion to approve spending \$65 for a shared LID/Lake Associations booth rental at Ki-Chi-Saga Days in Chisago City on August 17th and 18th, 2024. Motion seconded by Director McBride and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Todd McBride,

Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Margaret LeVasseur

OLD BUSINESS

Elfelt shared with the Board that the LID Tour for Elected Officials is tentatively scheduled for September 16, 2024, and will include land-based projects this year.

Elfelt relayed to the Board that the Collins Engineering, Inc. contract has been signed and the feasibility study to assess the condition of the weirs will commence on Thursday, April 4th. A one-month turnaround time is expected.

The DNR Dam Safety Grant is not likely to be a funding source for the weir project this year, but the potential exists for next year. The bill submitted to the state legislature by Senator Koran is likely not an option this year and should be submitted again next year when a definitive project and firm numbers are determined.

Kinny relayed to the Board the results of hosting a shared LID/Lake Associations booth at the Chisago Lakes Showcase on March 23rd. Show attendance was moderate but conversations with visitors were highly engaging.

Elfelt instructed the LID Board to prioritize the tasks and work that the LID currently performs to inform the upcoming facilitated planning discussion. The goal assessment worksheets will be discussed further at the May LID meeting.

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

LID Updates

Elfelt stated that the City of Lindstrom would be cleaning up the shoreline at Beach Park, and a permit has been submitted to DNR for work to be performed below the ordinary high water mark.

Kinny shared that a free EDDMAPS Summit would be taking place online later in the week and would be a great opportunity to get familiar with this AIS mapping program.

Elfelt shared that he had opened the Lake Ellen weir last week, though water levels were still below the outlet elevation, and water was not flowing out of the system.

Kinny informed the Board that the Volunteer Water Quality Monitors had been contacted and staff was getting ready to commence the 2024 sampling season.

Elfelt mentioned that he tracked carp last week and would continue once the county boat is out of storage. LID Directors are welcome to join staff on carp tracking excursions if they are available.

Elfelt will attend the Chisago Lindstrom Lakes Association meetings on April 2nd and April 30th to discuss LID programs.

Chisago County Water Resources Updates

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

ARPA Updates: 6 AIS treatment and education grants applications were received and are being reviewed. EOR will supply lake management planning services to lake associations as well as county-wide engineering consulting services thanks to County Board approval.

Wild Rivers Conservancy is offering a free online and in-person AIS training on April 23rd. Species covered include zebra mussels, spiny waterflea, and purple loosestrife.

Watercraft inspections will commence on April 26th with returning inspectors, and additional inspectors will be hired soon.

Reimbursement is being offered for up to 3 citizens in the AIS Detector program in Detroit Lakes. The programs in Duluth and Plymouth are offering the program free of charge.

The 4-H Water Watchers program will educate youth on AIS and those students will assist with the Starry Trek program scheduled for August 10th.

The AIS early detection programs are beginning soon throughout the county.

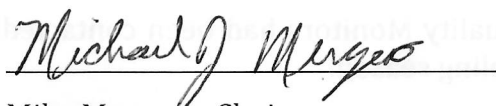
Point Intercept surveys will take place on Horseshoe and Fish Lakes in the northern part of the county this year.

The We Are Water MN Exhibit open house took place on March 19th and was well attended. The planning group connected with many interested partners and is in the process of planning events for the exhibit.

EOR Updates

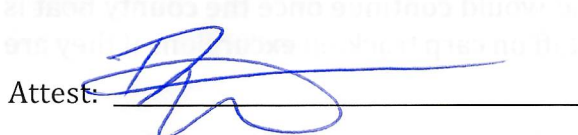
Water Resources Engineer Grasko shared with the Board that the spring channel and weir inspection would be commence later in the week and an update would take place at the May LID meeting.

Director Behnke offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m. Motion seconded by Director McBride and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Margaret LeVasseur



Mike Mergens, Chair

Attest:



Benjamin Elfelt, Administrator

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District