

**APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, May 6, 2024**

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

Notice of Participation via Microsoft Teams

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, Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc. (EOR) Water Resources Engineer, Greg Graske, and Collins Engineers, Inc. staff Marc Parker and Matt O'Dell.

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 LaMotte and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Todd McBride

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 April 1, 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, Margaret LeVasseur, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Todd McBride

May 2024 LID Invoices Received		
Invoice Detail	LID Budget Category	Amount
EOR	Water Levels	104.00
EOR	Board Meeting Attendance	275.00
Rapid Press	Map Posters 1938 & 2013	192.00
Washington Conservation District	Shared Water Resource Educator	1,671.40
Monthly Expense Total		2,242.40

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.

WORKGROUP & COMMITTEE REPORTS

LID Administrator Elfelt shared with the Board that the Planning and Budget Workgroup would tentatively be convening at the end of May to begin the 2025 budgeting process.

NEW BUSINESS

Director LeVasseur made a motion to propose to the County Board that the Water Resources Department assume sample analysis and report preparation costs associated with the LID's water quality monitoring program beginning in 2025. Motion seconded by Director LaMotte and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Todd McBride

Efelt informed the board that he has contracted with Gary Nelson for beaver removal near the Swamp Lake culverts at the cost of \$75 per beaver, not to exceed \$300 total.

OLD BUSINESS

Collins Engineers, Inc. staff Marc Parker and Matt O'Dell presented their findings after inspection of the Lofton Avenue and Lake Ellen Weirs. Parker stated that the sheet pilings are in fair condition, but the metal support I-beams are compromised, and they would recommend repairing the structures versus a complete replacement at this time. Their plan includes refastening the timber decking to newly installed steel sheet piling around the exterior of the structure, as well as patching and coating the interior of the sheet piling to reinforce the metal when the structure is dewatered. The rough cost estimate is \$300,000 -

\$600,000 for the entire project, with minimal permitting needed, and approximately a week's time for each weir structure repair.

Elfelt discussed the survey that LID Directors submitted prioritizing the existing goals and objectives. This discussion will be revisited during the Planning and Budgeting process in late May.

Kinny summarized finding from the LID Lakes and Waterways survey completed by 234 area residents. Information gathered from this survey will inform LID goals and objectives as well as future education and outreach efforts.

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

LID Updates

Elfelt shared with the board that the LID has reassumed installation and management of the carp barrier between Little Green and Lake Ellen, and that the barrier will be installed when water temperatures reach 60 degrees.

Elfelt stated that he would be on a future agenda for the Chisago Lakes Joint Sewage Treatment Commission meeting to discuss replacement of the invasive phragmites currently utilized on site at the wastewater treatment facility.

Elfelt shared the highest and lowest water levels that have been recorded for LID lakes over the past 15 years as a comparison to current lake levels.

Elfelt informed the board that he and EOR's Jimmy Marty attended the Chisago-Lindstrom Lakes Association meeting and shared LID information and programs with them.

Kinny shared with the board that public tours are available of the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC) on a monthly basis, and that they are offering a training on spiny waterflea surveillance.

Chisago County Water Resources Updates

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

All ARPA AIS treatment and education grant requests have been approved by the county board and will be funded this year.

Watercraft inspectors are in training and beginning inspection duties at boat launches.

The annual AIS workshop facilitated by Wild Rivers Conservancy (WRC) took place on April 26th at the Government Center and covered topics such as zebra mussels, spiny waterfleas, and purple loosestrife. Researchers from MAISRC, the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and WRC provided the training sessions.

Zebra mussel monitoring plates have been delivered to volunteers, and Starry Trek will take place on August 10th this year. An Aquatic Plant Identification workshop will take place on

July 25th with registration opening May 15th. The AIS Detector Training reimbursement is still being offered for classes held in May and June: <https://maisrc.umn.edu/detectors-core>
An Invasive Phragmites webinar is being offered on May 22nd and will feature researchers who are part of the Chisago County Invasive Phragmites planning team.

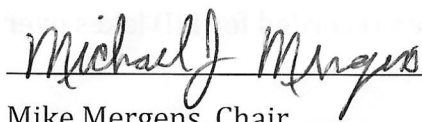
The 2024 Minnesota Impaired Waters List was released, and no waterbodies within Chisago County were added or removed from the list. <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/minnesotas-impaired-waters-list>

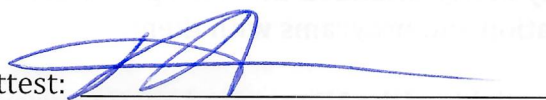
We Are Water MN Exhibit Updates will be available via the website here:
<https://www.chisagocountymn.gov/1349/We-Are-Water-MN-Exhibit>

EOR Updates

Water Resources Engineer Graske shared with the Board that the spring channel and weir inspection took place on April 4th. A notable item was a small sinkhole near County Road 23 that will be monitored for change during future inspections.

Director LeVasseur offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion seconded by Paquay and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Todd McBride


Mike Mergens, Chair

Attest: 

Benjamin Elfelt, Administrator

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District