

**APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, September 9, 2024**

The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Board of Directors met for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, September 9th, 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, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, and Gary Schumacher. **ABSENT:** Steve Paquay

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, County Water Resource Manager Susanna Wilson Witkowski, County Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist Madelyn Kinny, County Commissioner Marlys Dunne, EOR Water Resources Engineer Greg Graske, WSB Fisheries Director Tony Havranek, 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 LeVasseur made a motion to approve the agenda for the LID meeting as amended. Motion seconded by Director Schumacher and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Steve Paquay

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 August 5th, 2024, b) the Financial Report, and c) Approval of Invoice Payments. Motion seconded by Director Behnke and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Steve Paquay

September 2024 LID Invoices Received		
Invoice Detail	LID Budget Category	Amount
Amazon Business	2-pack easels, for metal poster boards	30.98
Collins Engineers	Weir Design	18,724.25
EOR	Board Meeting Attendance	275.00
EOR	Water Levels	3,426.70
Rapid Press	Poster Boards (3)	321.87
Monthly Expense Total		22,778.80

The Chair opened the Citizen's Forum at 6:32 p.m. No citizen offered comment. The Chair closed the Citizen's Forum at 6:32 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

John Henrikson of Chisago City shared with the board his concerns about ponding on his property adjacent to Paradise Park. He will be contacting Chisago City to discuss further.

OLD BUSINESS

Elfelt updated the Board on the status of the North Center–North Lindstrom Channel project. The County Board approved moving forward with getting appraisals on the property to be acquired along the channel. Legal descriptions are needed before an appraisal can take place, and the options are to have the county surveyor complete them when possible or move forward with a private company. Elfelt will explore the options further and make a recommendation at the October LID meeting.

Elfelt update the Board on the status of the weir repair project and stated that Collins Engineers is slightly behind schedule but is still on track with key dates, including having a bid-ready package by the end of October.

Tony Havranek from WSB updated the Board on the status of the Carp Management Plan and shared that funding from the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center's (MAISRC) Lab to Lakes Initiative would help the LID complete data collection and move the plan into the implementation and maintenance stages.

Director Behnke made a motion to continue working with WSB's Workplan and Budget in conjunction with MAISRC's Lab to Lakes Initiative funding. 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, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Steve Paquay

Director Schumacher made a motion to accept the terms of MAISRC's Subrecipient Agreement in conjunction with their Lab to Lakes Initiative. Motion seconded by Director LaMotte and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Steve Paquay

Elfelt shared with the Board that over 100 new populations of invasive phragmites were discovered on LID lakes during the week-long survey that took place in August. Treating all existing phragmites stands on the lakes is within the approved \$7000 Lakes Management contract. Elfelt also stated that Lakes Management will be treating 5% of the populations with Imazapyr as a pilot project in an effort to phase out the use of the higher toxicity chemical glyphosate.

Elfelt updated the Board on the status of the cancelled LID Tour of Projects stating that there had been minimal commitment by attendees, and that staff would look at scheduling another tour next year.

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

LID Updates

Elfelt encouraged the Board to view the newly created poster boards that were designed for use at local festivals and displayed outside of the Water Resources office, and shared upcoming Lower St. Croix Partnership programming, including two local events.

Kinny invited the Board to attend the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District's upcoming 25th Anniversary Banquet on September 18th.

Chisago County Water Resources Updates

Wilson Witkowski updated the LID Board on the following:

The Children's Water Festival is still looking for volunteers for its 22nd annual festival on September 26th.

Madelyn Kinny has been hired as the new Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist/Lead Watercraft Inspector after having worked for the county for two summers as well as the National Park Service and MAISRC.

AIS inspections have wound down due to many inspectors returning to college, but the program would continue into October. Decontamination Blitz took place August 16-18th at

the Osceola landing and Lions Park in Taylors Falls in conjunction with Wild Rivers Conservancy.

Starry Trek took place on August 10th and attendance was at an all-time high.

Wilson Witkowski is pursuing a grant to survey for purple loosestrife and possibly start a Galerucella beetle raising program to combat loosestrife populations.

The American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) grant program is underway, and the County Board has approved the recommendation by the Water Plan Policy Team to create county-wide lake management plans.

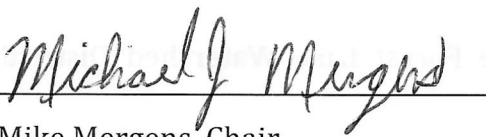
The We Are Water MN Exhibit has ended and the final event is wrapping up in the form of a youth poetry contest.

The St. Croix River Research Rendezvous will take place on October 8th and is a full day event.

EOR Updates

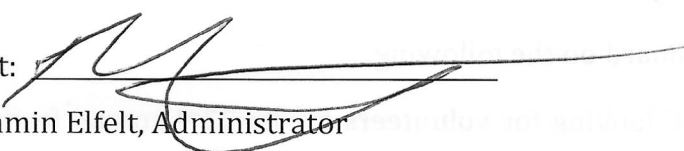
Graske shared with the Board findings and recommendations from the channel and weir inspection that took place on August 12th.

Director McBride offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Motion seconded by Director LaMotte and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Steve Paquay



Mike Mergens, Chair

Attest:



Benjamin Elfelt, Administrator

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District