

**APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, October 7, 2024**

The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Board of Directors met for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, October 7th, 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, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher. **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur

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

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 September 9th, 2024, b) the Financial Report, and c) Approval of Invoice Payments. Motion seconded by Director Paquay and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur

October 2024 LID Invoices Received			
Invoice Detail		LID Budget Category	Amount
EOR		Board Meeting Attendance	275.00
EOR		Water Levels	1,075.51
EOR		Point Intercept Surveys	4,642.91
Lindstrom Hardware		Dock Hardware	14.99
Lindstrom Hardware		Dock Hardware	17.12
Lindstrom Hardware		Dock Hardware	28.21
Monthly Expense Total			6,053.74

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

NEW BUSINESS

Director McBride made a motion to not renew the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) for the upcoming year. Motion seconded by Director Schumacher and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur

Director Schumacher made a motion to approve the \$150 registration fee for the Chisago Lakes Business Showcase on March 1st, 2025. Motion seconded by Director McBride and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur

Elfelt relayed to the Board the status of John Henrikson's property concern with Chisago City and the LID. Elfelt has been in contact with Chisago City Administrator John Pechman and a meeting will be scheduled with the city, the LID, and their respective engineers to review documents and talk about next steps. Additional discussion may take place regarding brush removal along the channel between Chisago and Wallmark Lakes.

Elfelt and Kinny informed the Board that seats for LID Director Areas 5 and 7 will be up for election in early 2025. Election timeline information will be provided at the November meeting.

Elfelt shared with the Board designs for new LID stickers and thank you cards that will be offered to LID water quality volunteers for their service in 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

Director McBride made a motion to approve the contract for professional services from Widseth Smith Nolting & Associates, Inc. for 3 easement legal descriptions at a cost of \$3,500.00. Motion seconded by Director Paquay and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Jill Behnke, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur

Elfelt relayed to the Board the weir rehabilitation construction cost estimate for the Lake Ellen and Lofton Avenue Weirs. The total construction cost estimate came in at \$257,945 for both weirs. Collins Engineers will facilitate the bid process. Elfelt will amend the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) request he had submitted to the County Board to reflect this updated project cost. Collins will work this week to get bid advertisement documents together and gather proposals to bring to the LID Board at the November meeting.

Elfelt updated the Board on the Lab to Lakes Initiative with the Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC). Carp surveys will begin next week and final contract and budget paperwork is nearing completion. Work will commence through spring of 2028.

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

LID Updates

Kinny shared with the Board the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) rebate offer in conjunction with their Get the Lead Out program. MPCA is offering a 45% reimbursement to retailers who purchase lead-free tackle for sale in their stores. Total rebate amount is \$3000 per retailer and the application deadline is March of 2027.

Kinny informed the Board that Minnesota Lakes and Rivers is offering a free Lake Steward webinar on October 15th.

Elfelt shared that both Lakes Management Inc. and Minnesota Native Landscapes would be treating invasive phragmites populations within the LID this week.

Elfelt relayed that both staff and volunteer water quality monitoring efforts had wrapped up for the season in September and that staff was investigating options for obtaining water samples from Ogren Lake for next season.

Chisago County Water Resources Updates

Wilson Witkowski updated the LID Board on the following:

The Children's Water Festival successfully took place on September 26th.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) inspections will conclude on October 20th. The Zebra Mussel Watch program is wrapping up and plates are being collected and cleaned. There were no zebra mussels found within the LID this year. Reminders have gone out to inspect docks and lifts for zebra mussels when removing them. An EMWREP flyer was created with information for Lake Service Providers to prevent the spread of AIS.

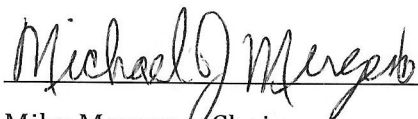
The American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) grant program reimbursement requests are all in, and applications for 2025 will be available on October 11th.

The final We Are Water MN Exhibit event is wrapping up in the form of a youth poetry contest. Winners have been notified and their poems are on display outside the North Branch Public Library.

EOR Updates

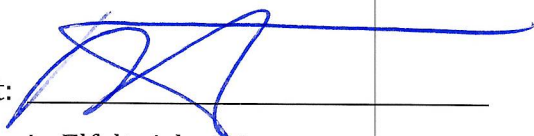
Graske shared that EOR staff member Jimmy Marty will be in attendance at the December LID meeting to share survey results from Green and Little Green Lakes.

Director Behnke offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 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, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur



Mike Mergens, Chair

Attest:



Benjamin Elfelt, Administrator

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District