

APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, January 6, 2025

The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Board of Directors met for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, January 6th, 2025, via both an in-person and virtual meeting held at the Chisago County Government Center in Center City, MN with the following Directors present: Jill Behnke, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher. **ABSENT:** None

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, January 6, 2025 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

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, EOR Water Resources Engineer Greg Graske, EOR Environmental Scientist Jimmy Marty, DNR Hinckley Area Fisheries Supervisor Matt Ward, County Planning Commission member Chris DuBose, and two citizens.

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

Director LaMotte made a motion to approve the agenda for the LID meeting as presented. Motion seconded by Director LeVasseur 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 Steve Paquay. **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Gary Schumacher

Director Schumacher joined the meeting virtually at 6:31.

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 Meetings on December 2 and 9, 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, Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** None

January 2025 LID Invoices Received		
Invoice Detail	LID Budget Category	Amount
EOR	Board Meeting Attendance	275.00
EOR	PI Surveys	1,003.00
EOR	Water Levels	2,159.06
North Country Beaver Control	Trap/Remove 7 Beavers	875.00
Peterson Companies	Beaver Dam Removal	6,610.00
Peterson Companies	Swamp Lake Culverts Cleanout	6,070.00
WSB	Lab to Lakes/Carp Mgmt	18,850.12
Monthly Expense Total		35,842.18

The Chair opened the Citizen's Forum at 6:32 p.m. One citizen offered comments. The Chair closed the Citizen's Forum at 6:35 p.m.

WORKGROUP & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elfelt shared with the Board an updated quote for removal of the sand beds beneath the drying beds at the Chisago Lakes Joint Sewage Treatment (CLJST) Facility. An additional \$175,000 was quoted for removal and replacement of each sand bed, which is necessary to prevent resprouting of Invasive Phragmites plants that are currently established within the beds. The next meeting of the CLJST Commission is March 17th, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Matt Ward, Hinckley Area Fisheries Supervisor, discussed the upcoming Chisago Lakes creel survey that will take place this summer. The LID may add a few questions to the survey if desired, but generally the survey will gather information on angling pressure, target species, catch rates, harvest rates, and angler demographic trends.

Jimmy Marty, EOR Environmental Scientist, discussed the Aquatic Point-Intercept survey that he completed on Green and Little Green Lakes in 2024. This survey provides information on aquatic habitat quality and a method for tracking changes over time. He stated that hybrid water milfoil is becoming more abundant than both native and Eurasian varieties, and that the hybrid tends to be more invasive and herbicide-resistant than the others.

Director McBride offered a motion to nominate Mike Mergens as the At Large LID Representative to the One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee. 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, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** None

Director McBride offered a motion to nominate Gary Schumacher as the Alternate LID Representative to the One Watershed, One Plan Policy Committee. 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, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** None

OLD BUSINESS

Elfelt updated the Board on the LID Election proceedings. Travis LaMotte was the only applicant for the LID Area 5 seat, and Todd McBride the only applicant for Area 7 (At Large). Voting is open now and will remain so until the day of the LID annual meeting on February 3, 2025.

Elfelt shared that appraisers were currently interviewing the affected landowners along the North Center – North Lindstrom Channel to gauge the impact that a channel project would have on their property value. No firm timeline for completion of this task has been established.

Elfelt relayed to the Board that the beaver obstructions near Swamp Lake and Wallmark Lake have been removed.

Elfelt informed the Board that the weir repair project would be getting underway with a pre-construction meeting between Collins Engineers and Peterson Companies in the near future.

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

LID Updates

Elfelt informed the Board that the upcoming Chisago Lakes Showcase would take place on Saturday, March 1, 2025, and encouraged them to sign up for a shift at the shared LID/Lake Associations booth.

Kinny shared with the Board several educational opportunities in the form of an online webinar regarding harmful algal blooms and the Minnesota Lakes Management Symposium held in person at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum.

Chisago County Water Resources Updates

Wilson Witkowski updated the LID Board on the following:

The City of Stacy is in the process of updating its Wellhead Protection Plan, which will include opportunities for public comment, and should be completed by 2027.

The Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) annual report will be available soon, and the hiring process for seasonal inspectors will begin later this spring.

A webinar on Starry Stonewort is available on January 16 for those interested. The AIS Management 101 course will begin on February 3 and registration is here: <https://maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors/webinars>

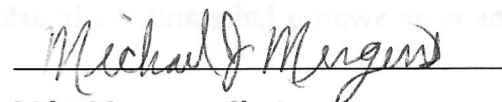
New AIS signage will be installed in 2025 at boat launches within the county as a result of American Recovery Plan Act funds.

The We Are Water MN planning team will reconvene and determine if there is interest in holding future events to further the impact that the traveling exhibit had within the county last summer.

EOR Updates

No further updates.

Director LeVasseur offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 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, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** None



Mike Mergens, Chair

Attest: 

Benjamin Elfelt, Administrator

Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District