

APPROVED MINUTES
CHISAGO LAKES LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
Monday, March 3, 2025

The Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District (LID) Board of Directors met for their regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 3rd, 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: Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher ABSENT: Jill Behnke

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, March 3, 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

Steve Paquay: 19610 Gulf Blvd., Indian Shores, FL 33785

Meg LeVasseur: 12915 Pleasant Avenue, Lindstrom, MN 55045

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, Assistant County Attorney Jeff Fuge, County Commissioner Marlys Dunne, EOR Water Resources Engineer Greg Graske, and three citizens.

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

Director LaMotte 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 February 3, 2025, 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:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Jill Behnke

March 2025 LID Invoices Received		
Invoice Detail	LID Budget Category	Amount
EOR	Board Meeting Attendance	275.00
EOR	PI Surveys 2024	324.00
EOR	Water Levels	109.00
Lake State Realty Services, Inc.	3 Appraisal Reports	10,000.00
Rapid Press	Nametags - Update w/ new logo	128.00
Rapid Press	LID Logo Tablecloth	300.00
WSB	Lab to Lakes Carp Mgmt	2,094.00
Monthly Expense Total		13,230.00

The Chair opened the Citizen's Forum at 6:33 p.m. One citizen offered comments. The Chair closed the Citizen's Forum at 6:36 p.m.

COUNTY COMMISSIONER REPORT

Commissioner Dunne reported that the County Board approved a letter to Governor Walz discouraging cuts to the state's Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) budget that are currently under consideration.

Dunne updated the LID Board on the county lobbyist's efforts to secure grant funding for the Chisago Lakes Joint Sewage Treatment Commission's transition from Invasive Phragmites to Native Phragmites.

WORKGROUP & COMMITTEE REPORTS

Elfelt shared that the AIS Workgroup met on 2/27/25 and discussed the 2025 Lab to Lakes workplan.

Director McBride offered a motion to accept the recommendation from the AIS Workgroup to have a Point Intercept Survey completed on North Center Lake in 2025. Motion seconded by Director Schumacher and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Jill Behnke

Elfelt stated that the North Center / North Lindstrom Channel Workgroup met on 2/11/25 and have a recommendation that will be discussed in closed session.

Elfelt informed the Board that the Invasive Phragmites Planning Committee met on 2/19/25 and reviewed talking points for the March 17, 2025, Chisago Lakes Joint Sewage Treatment Commission meeting.

Wilson Witkowski discussed Water Plan funding for roadside surveys within the LID and greater Chisago County to be completed by Wild Rivers Conservancy in 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Schumacher offered a motion to contract with Gary Nelson of North Country Beaver Control for up to \$1000 for beaver removal in 2025. Motion seconded by Director McBride and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Jill Behnke

Director Paquay offered a motion to approve a new Save Our Shorelines (SOS) Program including up to \$1000 in expenses for signage and outreach materials in 2025. Motion seconded by Director LaMotte and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Jill Behnke

Chisago County Water Resources Updates

Wilson Witkowski updated the LID Board on the county-wide Lake Management Planning process and encouraged LID Directors to respond with any additional concerns or adjustments before the March 24th presentation at the Water Plan Policy Team meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Director McBride offered a motion to recess the open portion of the LID meeting at 7:16 and convene in closed session. Motion seconded by Director LaMotte and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Jill Behnke

Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 13.05, Subd. 3 (c), the Lake Improvement District Board convened in closed session to develop recommendations concerning offers for the acquisition of real property and easements necessary for channel improvements and to review nonpublic appraisal data concerning properties that may be the subject of such offers. Prior to convening in closed session, the

Lake Improvement District Board identified in open session the properties that are the subject to the closed session.

At the conclusion of the closed session, the Lake Improvement District Board reconvened in open session and considered and acted on matters noticed on the meeting notice for consideration and action, including those matters noticed for consideration or action in closed session. Notice was also provided that the data concerning recommendations of the Lake Improvement District Board as to offers that the County Board may authorize for the acquisition of property or easements will remain nonpublic data until after the County Board has completed its development of such offers and review of the nonpublic appraisal data concerning the subject properties and authorized such offers.

Director LeVasseur offered a motion to conclude the closed portion of the LID meeting at 8:17 and reconvene in open session. Motion seconded by Director Schumacher and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Jill Behnke

Director LaMotte offered a motion to recommend that the County Board authorize offers of purchase of permanent channel easements on the property of the Raymond Keller/Diane John property for the purpose of installing and maintaining improvements to the North Center - North Lindstrom Channel and including an improved turnaround and for an amount and on terms that the County Board determine to be in the interest of the County. Motion seconded by Director McBride and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Jill Behnke

Director LaMotte offered a motion to recommend that the County Board authorize an offer to purchase a portion of the real property of Lindstrom Park, L.L.C. doing business as Blue Waters Leisure Park Chisago Lakes and Chisago Lakes Township located adjacent to the Channel for the purpose of installing and maintaining channel improvements, and for an amount and on terms that the County Board determine to be in the interest of the County. Motion seconded by Director McBride and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Jill Behnke

STAFF & ENGINEER REPORTS

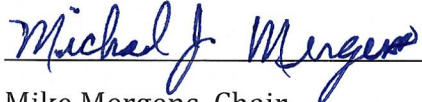
EOR Updates

Graske recommended that the offer to purchase the Keller Property include language regarding the improvement of an added vehicle turnaround on site.

Director LaMotte offered a motion to amend a previous motion to authorize an offer including the improvement of a turnaround on the Keller Property. Motion seconded by Director LeVasseur and, upon a roll call vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Jill Behnke

Graske stated that he and Elfelt attended a preconstruction meeting regarding the weir repairs on February 6th. Materials are being ordered and the weir repairs will commence this fall.

Director McBride offered a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Motion seconded by Director LaMotte and, upon a voice vote being taken thereon, the motion **carried** as follows: **IN FAVOR THEREOF:** Travis LaMotte, Margaret LeVasseur, Todd McBride, Mike Mergens, Steve Paquay, and Gary Schumacher **OPPOSED:** None **ABSENT:** Jill Behnke


Mike Mergens, Chair

Attest: 
Benjamin Elfelt, Administrator
Chisago Lakes Lake Improvement District