

KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
Annual Meeting Minutes
08/15/2020

Board Members Present:

Kyle Hams, Terry Wells, Ray Ludowese, Jeff Suess, Chuck Hartl, Ron Groebner, Kurt Seidel

Board Members Absent: None

Guests: Doug Sabinash, Ed Hamlin, Gene Carda, Diane Norby, Emily King, Rachel Hamlin

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am, all stood for the pledge of allegiance.

Approval of 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes

Last year's meeting minutes were reviewed by board and guests. Motion by Ray Ludowese, seconded by Chuck Hartl to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Thankyous

Kyle acknowledged and thanked the Sportsmen's Club for use of the clubhouse and fireworks, Diane Norby for fireworks and help with elections, and the board members and commissioners for their service.

Payment of Bills

Ray presented two bills for payment:

Kanabec Publications, Inc. for two notices of annual meeting - \$41.13

RMB Environmental Labs for water testing - \$95.00

Motion to pay bills made by Terry Wells, second by Chuck Hartl. All ayes, motion carried.

Nominations

There are two positions open: Ray Ludowese and Kurt Seidel. Kyle called for nominations from the floor. No nominations were made. Motion was made by Terry Wells, seconded by Kyle Hams for Ray Ludowese and Kurt Seidel to serve another term. All ayes, motion carried.

Financial Report

Copies of the financial report and proposed budget were available for attendees. Ray Ludowese reviewed highlights from these documents. Revenues from assessments, donations, grants, interest earned, and miscellaneous totaled \$37,565.13. Expenses prior to the two bills just approved totaled \$60,080.14. Ray reviewed six-year average. Average annual shortfall is \$10,000. Grant availability is an unknown each year.

In 2016 assessment to lake association membership was addressed but remained at \$100.00. In 2017 County Commissioners were approached about state statute 103B.501 and 103B.555 regarding providing funding for the Knife Lake Improvement District. On 9/29/2017 Kanabec

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County denied the “request” for \$50,000. At the October, 2017 board meeting a commissioner attending said the commission found other counties did not fund. KLID did receive a letter indicating the county set aside \$5,000 for dam maintenance. There was discussion of making the area a township. Tax dollars from the lake area in 2016 were \$800,000. Discussions were dropped at that time.

At the current rate the organization will be insolvent in 4.1 years. An increase in assessment requires a vote of the general membership. There was discussion about reducing expenses with a different way of spraying, but would not be enough to resolve the larger financial issues. Chuck indicated he thought we should go back to the county; that we cannot ask the owners to pay more – especially this year when many are dissatisfied due to the weed situation. Kurt suggested the full board attend. Ray clarified the county responsibility because this is an improvement district, not an association. There was discussion regarding involving a lawyer or charging non-property owners who use the lake. The DNR owns so cannot charge. Townships were approached but have no avenue to funnel money and cannot because KLID is “county”. Jeff wondered if we could get donations from groups that have fishing contests on the lake.

Consensus was for board members to attend the commission meeting.

Motion to approve proposed budget was made by Chuck Hartl, second by Kurt Seidel. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by to keep assessments as they currently are (\$100 per owner), made by Jeff Suess, second by Chuck Hartl. All ayes, motion carried.

Amendment to Bylaws

Attendees were provided with a copy of the bylaws including the following proposed wording regarding the addition of a liaison to the officers: “Liaison: The liaison will be a representative of the Knife Lake Sportsmen Club (KLSC). KLSC membership will elect the liaison and agree upon and set the term of the liaison.”

Motion to approve the proposed amendment was made by Ed Hamlin, second by Gene Carda. All ayes, motion carried. Board will further discuss whether or not liaison will have voting rights.

Weeds

Terry Wells reported 31.5 acres were sprayed for curly weed. This was partially funded by a grant. 199 properties were sprayed for nuisance weed. 336 letters were sent out informing property owners regarding spraying. Total for all spraying was \$55,080.28.

There was discussion about needing an estimate for next year as well as exploring other vendors. Need to have a permit from the DNR to spray. Individuals can get for \$35 to spray

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around their own docks. Chemicals are about \$300 and what can be used is restricted. Tank for spraying the lake is 200 gallons.

AIS

Kyle Hams read a message from Leslie George regarding attention given to Knife Lake in 2019 and fish life reported. No aeration was needed. A boat to boat survey was scheduled for 2020 but was not done due to Covid19.

Kyle reported COLA meetings are held once every other month. They get funding from the state to attack invasive species. In 2020 we received \$6,626.74 for curly leaf spraying. They hired two weekend inspectors for the 6 lakes in the coalition. They tell boaters to clean/drain/dry, survey where they are coming from and going to (collect data) and do some education, including billboard.

RMB laboratory tested for zebra mussels and veliger (baby zebra mussels). Results were negative. Ed Hamlin will publish an item for the Sportsmen's Club reminding people to look for anything questionable when removing docks, lifts, etc.

Water Testing

Jeff Suess reported he has not been able to reach contact. Kyle Hams is conducting tests monthly. In May he could see down 8 feet, June 3 feet 6 inches, and in July 2 feet. There will be two more tests this year. Phosphorous and algae are high. All information can be found on the RMB laboratory website under monitoring and lake database. Kyle will send link to Ed to include on the Sportsmen's Club website.

Aerators

Chuck Hartl reported he got the permit last December and will get again this fall. Per Ed Hamlin, the fountain is installed on the north end of the lake; he will publish an item in the Lakelines. Terry said to remind property owners they can sprinkle the green on the lake shore to help break it up. Ed requested KLID members help keep garage area picked up.

Dam Inspection

Board members all saw the report. Work needs to be done within 60 days of the inspection. Will work on dam maintenance two Saturdays. First is scheduled for August 29 at 8:00 a.m. Various board members will bring supplies.

Ron Groebner mentioned there was a combination padlock on the gate; KLID has an easement. Now need to go through a field of corn to get to the area. Gene Carda suggested a written

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notice be sent to the owner, Tom Felger, reminding he cannot plant corn in the easement area.

Wayside Rest

No updates

Open Forum

Gene Carda indicated Gene Rosno is in favor of fixing erosion; they agree it needs to be rock. Carda indicated willow shoots are a waste of money and suggested a private engineer be hired to look at it. Board members indicated Soil and Water has jurisdiction over the river; they have indicated it is not an issue. KLID does not have authority to do anything and has tabled the subject.

No other items of discussion were raised.

Adjournment

Motion by Jeff Suess to adjourn, seconded by Terry Wells. All ayes, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue DeGolier