

KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
September 19, 2020

**Members Present:** Kyle Hams, Jeff Suess, Terry Wells, Ray Ludowese, Ron Groebner, Chuck Hartl, Kurt Seidel

**Guests:** Ed Hamlin, Gene Anderson

**Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM.** All stood for the pledge of allegiance.

**Present Agenda for Review/Approval, Additions/Changes.**

Motion by Ray Ludowese seconded by Kurt Seidel to approve agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

**Review Minutes from July 18 board meeting.** Motion by Ray Ludowese seconded by Terry Wells to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

**Review Minutes from August 15 Annual Meeting.** One edit recommended by Chuck Hartl. Minutes need to be held for public approval at the annual meeting next year.

**Payment of Bills.** Ray Ludowese reported there were no bills to pay. Knife Lake Sportsman Club contributed \$5,000 for weed control which has been deposited. Checkbook balance as of 9-18-20 is \$113,232.66. Kyle Hams reported a contribution of \$2,000 was received from the Ogilvie Lions (pull tabs) toward weed spraying expense.

**Old Business:**

**EAP**

Kyle reported the plan is complete and has been signed by the sheriff. Appropriate individuals have received copies.

**Weeds**

There was discussion about plan for treating weeds next year. Board members agreed they do not want to do the spraying themselves. Weeds were bad in some areas this year. The lake was clear early in the year so sun could shine into the water. Group wants to get estimates from several providers. Property owners are assessed \$100 per year, which goes toward spraying for weeds, but also needs to be used to pay for other things. Money from assessment does not cover the expense of spraying. It was suggested that the letter to owners next March could further clarify intended use of assessment funds and ask owners to make an additional voluntary contribution toward weed spraying. This led to discussion about people requesting to be sprayed but may not actually be sprayed. Spraying for curly weed is based on a survey. Property owners who respond indicating they want to be sprayed put out a bucket with a sticker. Those who do not return the form definitely do not get sprayed. If a property has two docks only one will be sprayed. There is no guarantee of no weeds even for those who are sprayed. 199 properties were sprayed. A number of letters are returned each year; may not be going to the right person (parent owns, but kids use property).

Terry will check with the DNR to see if a person who fills out a request will get sprayed. If an individual applies for a permit, they get one). Terry Wells will research how many of the property owners who returned forms were actually sprayed.

Plan is to get the list of approved sprayers from the DNR, get estimates, then decide about message for letter to property owners. Ed Hamlin requested that Terry remind him to publish an item in the February Lakelines.

Chuck Hartl asked what was decided about approaching the county for funding. Gene Anderson indicated the state said no improvement districts are funded by the county board. Allowing them to do an assessment meets the requirement for funding.

### **AIS**

Kyle reported there has not been a quorum for the meetings being held by Zoom. He is still testing the lake; will do one more test next week. Kyle asked if we have received a check for about \$6,000 from COLA to offset curly leaf. Ray indicated the check has not been received. Kyle will check with Deanna.

**Pull Tabs** - contribution from Ogilvie Lions to help offset nuisance weed spraying (noted above).

**Water test and water level** - Jeff Suess fills out a chart bi-weekly. Information gets posted monthly.

### **Fix dam pipes or call inspector**

Board members were unable to thread the pipe. Ron Groebner suggests a plane lock. Kyle will find out the name of the inspector from Shannon. What is the point in further repair since no one could take off what is already there? Terry mentioned there is a \$5,000 dam maintenance fund, but KLID has never received money from it. Gene indicated would need to check with Chris McNally to see if KLID can turn in expenses for this project. Terry indicated gates need to be fixed. Can we hire someone to do this? Ray Ludowese will talk with Chris.

### **New Business:**

#### **Easement to dam**

Kyle raised question of who put on locks. The west side is no issue. On the east side KLID had to approach through someone else's land. KLID is supposed to be able to access the dam. Need to find the actual easement (reportedly is in a rusty old cabinet in the Sportsman's Club). Need to talk to the owner (not the person farming) and have a copy of the easement next year to show. Jeff will talk to Rob.

#### **Aerators**

Chuck reported he has started the permit process and will need to get an insurance document from Ray. Raised a question whether KLID wants to manage aerators or hire someone to install and do daily inspections. It is dangerous and not easily done. The DNR does a lot of the work, the problem is the daily inspections. KLID needs to place prepaid ad about putting out the aerators in March (cost is \$48), but then the oxygen level may be good and they will not be needed. The DNR specifies what the ad needs to say. Subject tabled for now; will discuss at the next board meeting.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Terry seconded by Kurt to adjourn. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue DeGolier