

KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 20, 2021

Members Present: Kyle Hams, Jeff Suess, Terry Wells, Ray Ludowese, Ron Groebner, Kurt Seidel, Ed Hamlin

Members Absent: Chuck Hartl

Guests: Gene Anderson, Gene Carda, Mark Norcross, Tom Carlson

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

Agenda presented for review/approval, additions/changes. Motion by Jeff Suess seconded by Terry Wells to approve agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes from January 16, 2021 were presented for review. Motion by Terry Wells seconded by Kurt Seidel to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

Payment of Bills:

Ray Ludowese presented the Treasurer's Report. Deposit of \$219.93 from final 2020 assessments.

Invoices:

MCIT insurance premium	\$1,885.00
Ray Ludowese (postage stamps)	55.00
Terry Wells (address labels for spraying)	56.02
Terry Wells (postage for spraying)	187.02

Check book balance as of 2-20-21 is \$133,838.33 Ray noted this balance includes paying a bill for \$672.00 from Kanabec County Accounting to put assessment for 336 parcels on a form (accidentally omitted from Treasurer's report). Motion by Ed Hamlin seconded by Kurt Seidel to pay bills. All ayes, motion carried.

Old Business:

Weeds—Terry Wells has the letter and return form regarding 2021 spraying ready to go. This year there will be two sprayings. Letter will go in the mail March 10. Ed Hamlin will put an announcement in the Lakelines. Spraying for curly leaf needs to be announced in three places: letter mailed to property owners in March, advertisement in paper in May, and published in Lakelines April and May. Question from Mark Norcross regarding where the list comes from as he did not receive last year. The list comes from Kanabec County for 336 parcels – it is the list for the people who were assessed \$100.00. It comes with their tax statement. Norcross was a new property owner; mailing would have gone to previous owner. Secretary will check to see if his name is on the list.

Terry just heard about a grant application for curly leaf spraying. DNR has \$400,000 which will be issued based on a drawing. Those drawn will receive minimum of \$1,500 to maximum of \$5,000. March 1 is deadline to apply. Terry will work on it his week.

Ed Hamlin shared feedback received wondering if anything different would be done this year that might be more effective. Yes, KLID is using a different company to spray and there will be a second spraying. Concern also mentioned algae which will be discussed later in the meeting.

Easement – Ray read a letter that he recently sent the property owner Ted Hoefner of Andover and copied to the renter Tom Folger, Kris McNally, the Kanabec County Coordinator, and the Kanabec County Sheriff. The letter addressed KLID’s right and need for access. Situation must be corrected by May 31, 2021.

Aerators – Chuck sent necessary message. Oxygen levels are good. Now we just need to wait for the DNR to check.

Contact List – revisions look good. Kurt indicated one correction in his information which will be made.

Housekeeping – Kyle mentioned that we need to clarify the liaison from Sportsmen’s Club is to be a voting member of the KLID board. This will need to be made as a motion to amend the bylaws and voted on at the annual meeting.

Lake Quality – Kyle asked for ideas about what more can be done. Discussion included the following:

- We will be using a different company and two sprayings this year.
- We are at the mercy of what comes downstream from the river, i.e., phosphorus.
- Calm weather, sunshine, and a clear lake – we will have algae.
- Of 336 possible parcels only 199 gave permission for spraying in 2020; that is about 57% participation.
- KLID used to give grants toward proper lakeshore improvements. Soil and Water has funds available. Projects can take a long time.
- It ends up being only a small percentage of the lake that gets sprayed. DNR determines where to spray. Not spray lily pads, only spray 1 dock and a 15 to 25 foot channel per property.
- We are doing testing now which was not done for 10-12 years.
- Ed will include awareness items in the next few editions of Lakelines to help property owners be aware of keeping sewers up-to-date and avoiding fertilizers with phosphorus.

Dam inspection – Kyle reported this will be scheduled for June or July after we hear back regarding the easement.

Operating Agreement – Ray referenced two documents regarding the Knife Lake Improvement District, but he does not have a copy of the original actual agreement. Gene Anderson will work with Kris McNally from Kanabec County to get the correct document. It should address operating the dam and water quality as an addendum. Last month Gene Anderson mentioned the KLID board needs to provide the county with an annual report. Currently after being approved, meeting minutes are submitted to Kelsey Schiferli, the administrative assistant in the Kanabec County Coordinator’s office. As the board secretary, Chuck Hartl will need to format an annual report and send it to the county. In addition to posting the minutes, the KLID board instructed Sue DeGolier to ask Kelsey to include the KLID minutes in packets for the commissioners.

New Business:

Gene Carda addressed a comment that the river quality is in KLID’s control. He raised the issue of the Rosnow project and offered to serve as a go-between. Kyle clarified the comment in reference was that we do not control what comes downstream into the lake. Several board members reviewed steps the KLID board has gone through regarding this issue. KLID went through three engineers who said there is nothing more we can do. Soil & Water tells us we need to do what the engineers say. Our hands are tied.

Mr. Carda said the DNR person in Cambridge indicated he would write a permit. Mr. Rosnow would not sign the form with \$5,000 offer because he did not understand it.

Ray indicated the KLID has spent up to \$10,000. They had an easement developed, which Mr. Rosnow would need to sign. They sent a letter with the offer to Mr. Rosnow. The KLID board met with Mr. Rosnow and went over the documents; he still would not sign. At this point, based on the recommendations of the engineers and Soil and Water the KLID board could put in willows, but KLID chose not to participate (as a sponsor) because KLID does not have jurisdiction for the rivers.

Soil and Water does have jurisdiction, and Gene Carda is on that board. Soil and Water could put in willows. They can get an easement. KLID does not need to give Mr. Carda permission to do anything; he is on the Soil and Water board.

Conclusion: Kyle will talk with Deanna Pomije this week

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sue DeGolier