

KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
JANUARY 16, 2021

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

Guests: Deanna Pomije, Gene Anderson, Gene Carda

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

Agenda presented for Review/Approval, Additions/Changes. Add Deanna Pomije to provide information about Knife River Area funding. Ray Ludowese moved to approve agenda with addition of Deanna; seconded by Ed Hamlin. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes from December 19 meeting were reviewed. Chuck Hartl indicated aerator notice will be published in February (not March). Motion by Ray to approve minutes with correction as noted; seconded by Terry Wells. All ayes, motion carried.

Payment of Bills: Ray reported there were no bills to pay. Received a credit invoice from Kanabec Publications. Checkbook balance as of 12-18-20 was \$136,473.42. No action or motion required.

New Business:

Deanna Pomije, District Manager Kanabec Soil and Water Conservation District distributed a handout about Knife River Area Funding. SWCD received a \$70,000 grant from the State of Minnesota. The grant is for three years; \$34,500 is for projects related to erosion and development. The focus is on impairment on the river with a goal to implement four to six best management practices. The grant helps private land owners by matching their 25% contribution with 75% grant funding.

There was discussion about the ecosystem, including water bugs, livestock, nutrients, sediments, and phosphorus. Deanna indicated the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has a voluntary registration process for farms, which is required for operations with over 300 animals. In the early 1970s clean water setbacks were put in place. In 2017 or 2018 buffer laws were put in place - if farmers maintain grass, they meet the intent of the law. Deanna encourages KLID board to support this initiative and bring forward ideas and areas of concern. If people have concerns SWCD will make a site visit. Ed will put an item in the Sportsline to create awareness; Deanna will send him an electronic version.

There was discussion regarding pesticides coming into the lake from the watershed to the north and culverts under highway 65. Deanna indicated this funding focuses specifically on the Knife River. There are other county wide projects and a comprehensive watershed plan that involves multiple entities. Board members can provide Deanna with information about additional concerns.

Old Business:

Weeds – Terry provided board members with two handouts: Open Estimates for Weed Control on Knife Lake 2021 and Weed Cost for Curly Leaf/Pond Weed and Aquatic Plant Management using Central Minnesota Aquatics, Inc. All bids are based on 14.2 acres for nuisance weed and 31.2 for curly leaf pond weed at same depth, etc. Discussion included the following:

- KLID does not want to provide a boat

- Terry does have references for providers
- Another option would be to not spray for one type of weed or the other for a year. Individual owners could spray their own. In that case the Clarke pricing would be different as this bid was based on a bundle. Ray cautioned against this as property owners are assessed.
- Clarke recommends two sprayings
- Availability of grants this year is still an unknown

Chuck made a motion, seconded by Ray, to use Clarke Environmental Mosquito Management for three sprayings. All ayes: motion carried. Will wait to communicate this until after KLID board meeting next month. Terry will send the PDF for Clarke company to board members.

Boat Landing – Terry reported landing was not repaired. His contact is retiring but will pass this on to Dan Peterson in the Moose Lake office. Ed reported the MN DNR has a fishing contest page that shows contests per county/lake. It gives the contact information if KLID wants to reach out about contributions or restricting powering in/out at landing. DNR permits are required for 25 or more boats.

Easement – carry forward to next month per Ray.

Aerators – Chuck – nothing to report.

AIS – Kyle reported the state will fund \$6601.21 this year for spraying curly weed. KLID will have two inspectors on weekends. There is money in AIS for decontamination units. Most violations noted were plugs left in, etc. and did not involve a need for decontamination. Will continue to gather data for another year or two. Education has been hard to do with Covid situation.

Contact list – Kyle and Sue will work on this.

Lake Quality – continue per Kyle.

Operating Agreement – Ray will do and send it to all for review.

Dam inspection – The inspectors will not do it on the weekend. Kyle would like to do on a Tuesday. Will need some strong helpers. Kyle will set it up with Shannon for a Tuesday in June. Ray will make sure the easement situation has been addressed before then.

Other Business/Discussion:

Ed reported the new owners of the Northwoods Supper Club hope to make contributions. Kyle reported Diane does as well.

Chuck inquired about the status of the wayside rest area. Gene Anderson reported there has not been any activity due to Covid.

Gene Anderson reported the county put two lots on Solmonson up for sale (each a little over two acres). He also indicated KLID is required by statute to provide an annual report to the county, DNR and townships. This is not minutes; it should include past and future projects and budget.

Adjournment: Hearing no other business, a motion was made by Ray and seconded by Jeff Sues to adjourn at 8:49. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Sue DeGolier