

KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Annual Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Board members present:

Kyle Hams, Terry Wells, Ron Groebner, Ed Hamlin, Kevin Johnson, Bob Hecht

The following attendees signed in:

Pat Johnson, Dianne Miller, Richard Larson, LuAnn Johnson, Doug Sabinash, Diane Norby, Rachel Hamlin, Gene Carda, John Valasin

Kyle Hams called the meeting to order. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

The agenda was presented for approval. Motion by Kevin Johnson second by Ron Groebner to approve the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

President Kyle Hams expressed thanks to the following:

Knife Lake Sportsman's Club – for support throughout the year
Board Members and Commissioners for their service
Ed Hamlin – liaison from Sportsmen's Club to KLID – a lot of work on social media
Sue DeGolier – administrative support
Diane Norby – assistance with ballots and elections

Minutes for the previous year's annual meeting were provided for review. One correction was noted – change last name from Jerry McCoy to McCabe. Motion from Terry Wells seconded by Ed Hamlin to approve the minutes with correction. All ayes, motion carried.

Treasurer Bob Hecht provided copies of the monthly and annual Treasurer's Report. Ray Ludowese, former treasurer, retired mid-term. His position was filled by Bob Hecht. Bob has lived on the lake seven years; retired five years ago. He has a desire to help keep the lake in pristine condition. Bob presented the August Treasurer's Report. The checkbook balance as of August 15, 2022, is \$105,527.01. Payments to be made were First Citizens Checking Fee \$4.00 and Kanabec Publications for Annual Meeting Notice \$43.90. Motion by Kyle, second by Kevin to approve payment of bills as presented. All ayes, motion carried.

Kyle received a check from The Sportsmen's Club today for \$5000.00 to help offset some of the cost of spraying for nuisance weed. This is not reflected in the financial report.

Nominations for two open board positions.

Terry Wells is retiring, Kyle Ham's term is up, but he is willing to serve another term. Prior to the meeting no one else had expressed an interest in serving on the board. There were no nominations from the floor, so it was not necessary to take a vote.

Reports

Financial Report (Bob) – Copies of the 2021-22 Financials and the approved 2023 budget were available. Income is down a little over \$30,000. This reflects the increase in expense for weed spraying. The AIS grant will not be received until next year.

Bylaws – Kyle reported the board would like to amend the bylaws regarding how the Knife Lake Improvement District will notify the public to include notices in the newspaper, on the website, and in the Lake Lines. Terry Wells indicated so moved, seconded by Ed Hamlin. All ayes, motion carried.

Weeds – Kevin reported the mailing regarding weed spraying went out on March 1 to 340 property owners. 264 returned forms; 3 opted out. Ice out was April 23. Fifty acres were sprayed for curly leaf pond weed on May 18. Previously about 24 acres have been sprayed. Payment to Central Minnesota Aquatics was \$36,570. On June 22, 243 properties were sprayed. Cost was \$32,208. Total invoiced for both was \$68,958. AIS grant not yet received will be \$6,800 and we received \$5,000 today from The Sportsmen’s Club. This is the most acreage we have sprayed. Terry indicated we could have done 75 acres but could not afford to do so. Will probably spray 50 acres again next year to try to contain the weeds. Kevin clarified that the spraying for nuisance weeds is to treat native weeds so property owners can have access from their docks to open water; that is the only reason the DNR allows the spraying. A second spraying will not be done.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – Kevin submitted an invoice, but they will not fund all the expense. We will get \$6,800 through the Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA). Kyle has tried to get more funding. Other lakes were holding unused funds in accounts. Some of those funds were pulled back and put into the general fund. KLID will continue to press for increased funding. There will be a grant from the DNR for 2023.

Diane Norby asked about \$12,000 from Pokegema; Kyle will check on this. Diane will also try to get money from Ogilvie.

Ron did a good job on the lake and weather was good. Spraying for nuisance weed before July 4th was good.

Audrey from the DNR wants to have the permits IN by February to mid-March. KLID will move up the mailing process for letters to go out in January and return by mid-February (no motion required). The mailing is based on the fee-list from Kanabec County. Any properties that sell after the list is generated would not be contacted. Terry indicated it is a busy time for the county and it may be difficult to get the list. Ed will put something in the Lake Lines informing people to watch for the mailing, which will be coming earlier.

AIS has decided against the proposed decontamination unit. They have \$27,000 that could be used for it, but KLID would need to maintain and operate it. They decided to make new displays and provide tools for cleaning and drying boats. Ed indicated The Sportsmen’s Club was going to fix the sign; they will wait for it to be done by AIS in the spring. May need to get permission from the DNR to post a sign: check with Deanna Pomje.

Lake Testing – Kyle reported that he does this monthly. Three tests have been turned in; fourth will be done in September. Both phosphorus and algae level are high. Water clarity in June was 8 feet. In August it was 16 inches. Reports are sent to RMB Laboratories. Information about algae and phosphorus is posted on their website. Look under Lakes Survey, then Kanabec County, then Knife Lake. When this has been done for three years we can look at developing a plan for the lake. Audrey suggests setting some goals rather than a “lake plan” that may lock us in.

Dam Inspection – Kyle reported that the dam inspection went well. There were two minor things to fix. Vegetation was sprayed on both sides with Garlon. On the west side, 6 -8 bolts were sprayed with WD40 and put back on so they would not rust. Kyle spoke with sheriff Brian Smith regarding the easement; both the east and west are for government use only. If anyone gets calls they should be referred to the sheriff's department. Government access includes NRCS, Soil & Water, and KLID. Kyle notifies the property owner when KLID will be doing maintenance work.

Aerators – Kyle indicated a public notice is published in February in case aerators would be needed. In March, the DNR notifies KLID regarding the oxygen level. Aerators are a huge liability/risk and a lot of work.

Fisheries – Kyle indicated handouts were available with information about the Creel study. Ed mentioned The Sportsmen's Club is considering a stocking program for the next three years, depending on a survey and budget. Diane Norby asked about being required to have a slot limit sign on her property. Kyle will check with the DNR.

Assessment for next year

Public is given an opportunity to vote regarding the assessment. It was increased last year. Kyle suggests we keep it the same and re-evaluate after grants are received. Costs are going up with inflation. Last year we were able to save some money by purchasing chemicals early. Will try to do that again. Motion by Pat Johnson, second by Doug Sabinash to keep the assessment the same as last year. All ayes, motion carried. Kelsey from Kanabec County will need to be notified.

Doug Sabinash indicated he would be willing to serve on the board. Motion by Ed seconded by Terry to accept Doug's offer. All ayes, motion carried.

Discussion – Kyle opened the floor for any other discussion. Attendee expressed thanks to the board for their service.

Question from attendee about who owns the dam. Commissioner Craig Smith has indicated the dam is owned by Kanabec County.

Board will discuss the Emergency Action Plan at their next meeting and whether to pursue reclassification of the dam. Want to clarify who is responsible for what: Soil & Water, KLID, and County.

Thank you to all who attended and to Terry Wells for many years of service and work on the weeds! Applause from all.

Adjournment – Terry motioned, Ed second for meeting to be adjourned. All in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue DeGolier