

**KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES, JANUARY 15, 2022**

Members Present: Kyle Hams, Jeff Suess, Ron Groebner, Kurt Seidel, Ed Hamlin

Members Absent: Terry Wells, Ray Ludowese, Kevin Johnson

Guests: Doug Sabinash, Rick Mattson, Kanabec County Commissioner

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

Agenda was presented for Review/Approval, Additions/Changes. Motion by Jeff Suess seconded by Kurt Seidel to approve agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes from December 18, 2021 meeting were presented. Motion by Ed Hamlin seconded by Kurt to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

Payment of Bills: In Ray's absence, Kyle reported three checks were received: \$14,072.86 from county assessment, \$2,500 from Lake Pokegama Association (Kurt requested), and \$829.95 from Denise at Kanabec County. Kurt took the checks and will deposit them. There was a \$4.00 monthly fee from the bank but appears to be automatically deducted. Motion by Kurt seconded by Ed to pay bill if necessary. All ayes, motion carried.

Kyle introduced Rick Mattson, county commissioner for the south side of Knife Lake and thanked him for attending. Craig Smith is the commissioner for the north side.

Old Business:

Weeds – The group discussed the plan for treating weeds this year following presentation by Ron Duy from Minnesota Aquatics, Inc. in December. Discussion included the following:

- Board already voted for Ron Duy to treat curly leaf. Information Ron provided about the life cycle of plants was helpful. Ron indicated he has capacity to also treat nuisance weed this year. He would honor the quote from the previous year . . . board thinks it is about \$130 per dock. Ron is willing to do a second spraying if needed but it would be an additional expense. Kyle indicated that per Terry Wells, second permits would not be needed if a second spraying is done.
- Communication to property owners needs to be reviewed for clarity. We will be back to the pail on the dock system. Some owners express concern that they are assessed even though they do not get sprayed. Communication needs to include that the assessment goes for more than just weed control, such as dam maintenance.
- Kyle indicated on Fish Lake if a second spraying was desired individuals paid the sprayer.
- Board members feel the first spraying should be done and see what happens. Then discuss doing a second spraying concentrated where needed to help get weeds under control.
- Both companies agreed that last year was unusually bad and set us back about 3 years. Spraying should be done earlier; at least two weeks before July 4th.
- Board wants a post spray study done.

Motion was made by Jeff seconded by Ed to contract with Minnesota Aquatics, Inc. to have Ron Duy also spray for nuisance weeds this year. All ayes, motion carried. RonDuy will apply for a grant. Goal is to spray 40 acres. Board will review mailing for property owners next month. Kurt will check on

announcement that needs to be published; perhaps the newspaper has it on file and dates could just be changed.

AIS – Kyle explained about the budget for COLA (Coalition of Area Lakes). This money is used to hire boat inspectors in an effort to control curly leaf and zebra mussels. It is still unclear what funds will be provided this year. Funding is determined based on the number of parking spaces and boat ramps. There is a lot of traffic on Knife Lake, so it brings in a lot of money. Kyle is working on getting a greater percentage of the money. Discussion was tabled at the last COLA meeting.

Emergency Action Plan – in Ray's absence Sue DeGolier reported we have received responses from 35 of the property owners downstream from the dam, providing current contact information. If no response is received it will be listed as not available so process can continue moving forward. Last time the signature process at the county took several months. We are eager to get this finished.

Wayside Rest - Kyle reported that commissioners have indicated the State of Minnesota wants Kanabec County to buy the property and then do whatever they wish. Rick Mattson indicated there is consensus at the county that the state should give the property to the county to be designated as a county park. The Sportsmen's Club and KLID agree that they do not want it to be developed and are willing to maintain the property (mow, clean up, etc.). Rick indicated there is another meeting this coming Tuesday; they are trying to get all four state representatives there. Perhaps DNR also needs to be involved. Snow removal could be done by the county.

Doug Sabinash is involved in the 2050 comprehensive plan. This discussion includes county parks; the county does not want to own parks as that takes the property off the tax base. However, this is not currently on the tax base, so it is not an issue. Plan will get a final review on January 24 before being submitted to the commissioners.

Kyle mentioned that a decontamination unit has been on the back burner, but this site could possibly be a location where the unit could be used. Would need a level one inspector in order to send people for decontamination; we have level two inspectors. We now have two years of data. Currently the studies show no violations in any of the lakes. We do not want to buy a unit if it is not needed.

New Business:

- The Snake River Watershed Management Board has an opening for someone to serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee. The group meets the fourth Monday of the month at 9:00 a.m. at the court house. Kyle will forward information from Deanna Pomije from Soil & Water Conservation. Please contact her if interested.
- Kurt provided a handout about how rocks impact the quality of the lake.
- Kyle previously forwarded an article about reducing phosphorus in the lake.
- Again, Kyle thanked Rick for attending the meeting. Gene Anderson used to regularly attend.

Adjournment: Motion by Jeff seconded by Ron Groebner. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue DeGolier