

**KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES MAY 21, 2022**

**Members Present:** Kyle Hams, Jeff Suess, Terry Wells, Ray Ludowese, Ron Groebner, Ed Hamlin, Kevin Johnson

**Members Absent:** Kurt Seidel,

**Guests:** Craig Smith, County Commissioner, Rick Mattson, County Commissioner, Doug Sabinash, Elizabeth Oolman, Natural Resources Conservation Service

**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.** Add Easement to agenda. Under Old Business – Dam, DNR should be NRCS. Motion by Ed Hamlin seconded by Kevin Johnson to approve agenda with additions. All ayes, motion carried.

**Minutes from April 15 meeting were presented for Review/Approval, Additions/Changes.**

Under Dam inspection DNR should be NRCS. Motion by Terry Wells seconded by Jeff Suess to approve the minutes with correction. All ayes, motion carried.

**Payment of Bills:** Ray Ludowese provided copies of treasurer’s report. The following bills were presented:

First Citizens Bank – fee for checking account March and April of \$8.00

Kanabec Publications – fee for spraying notice o \$10.89

Post Office – annual fee for PO Box of \$70:00

Central MN Aquatics, Inc. fee for Curly Leaf Pond Weed spraying \$9750.00

Terry Wells – reimbursement for postage \$8.95

Central MN Aquatics, Inc. fee for DNR Permit for spraying \$2,500.00

Motion by Jeff seconded by Kyle to pay bills. All ayes, motion carried.

**Old Business:**

Dam

Elizabeth Oolman, P.E. , Hydrology and Hydraulics Engineer with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) presented information about the process for determining classification of the dam. NRCS does an assessment to determine classification for their programs, which is used to determine rehab priorities. The DNR classifies. Dam safety is tasked to the state regulatory agency. NRCS uses two methods for breach analysis: maximum discharge and breach equations. Classification of hazard considers what is below the dam: buildings (such as school, hospital, care center – expensive and need to be evacuated), roads, utilities, railroads, and potential for loss of life.

In 2015/2016 assessment done by NRCS found seven dams to be “significant to high hazard” – including the dam on Knife Lake, which was the largest of the dams. When Oolman was hired, she was assigned to review this; the DNR had not necessarily accepted the assessment. The concern was about breach discharge: maximum discharge = 76,100 cfs and TR-60 = 17,400 cfs. 30 feet of water expected to go over the weir. She looked at the original design of the dam, which showed a maximum discharge of 7,613; she believes there was a typo that added an extra zero. She redid the breach analysis with 17,400 cfs using original data. Board member mentioned the “natural dam” of a bridge upstream; Oolman said this would be considered the same as a series of dams and assume both would fail. Oolman indicated modeling is not an exact science – need to estimate to know if the answer looks right. Aerial views of the downstream

area of Knife Lake dam show the following: no railroads, some impact to utilities, no major buildings, loss of life concerns – campground, seasonal home, residential home, and out buildings. Considerations include time to evacuate, and can evacuation be done at night? Apparently, no flood plain mapping for Knife Lake done by FEMA. Need to do ground truthing to see real situation and update emergency action plan (EAP). Board and commissioners indicated the dam went out in 1972, so there is data. Riverside in Mora was flooded.

Next steps - need to determine risk and what can be done to reduce it. Oolman is here to give technical assistance so KLID can work with DNR. The EAP is required by NRCS; we work with Shannon who is our local contact. There was discussion about zoning; there are DNR setback requirements of 300 feet but no county wide zoning. Board thinks there is flood plain mapping for the Snake River. One big question is who owns the dam? The National Core of Engineers built it. KLID was formed after dam was under construction; KLID is an extension of Kanabec County to maintain the dam.

Dam inspection is scheduled for June 7 at 10:00 a.m. Oolman will attend, as well as several KLID board members.

#### Weeds

Terry reported 50 acres were sprayed for curly leaf this week. Terry and Kevin have a map of what was done. 210-220 properties will be treated for nuisance weed.

#### AIS

Kevin attended meeting. Still discussing decontamination unit; feel it is a waste of money.

#### Easement

Questions have been raised about public access on the west side of the dam. Rick Mattson indicated he checked on the west side easement last year; it is private - open to access for KLID but not public access. Sheriff Brian found the court record but not the actual easement. Ray will get a copy of the actual easement to Rick so he can get it to the sheriff for official posting.

#### **New Business:**

Ed Hamlin reported Gene Carda had asked him to mention his previous concern. Board indicated this issue has been closed.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Ray seconded by Jeff to adjourn the meeting. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue DeGolier