

**KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES - JUNE 18, 2022**

**Members Present:** Jeff Suess, Terry Wells, Ron Groebner, Kurt Seidel, Ed Hamlin, Kevin Johnson

**Members Absent:** Kyle Hams, Ray Ludowese

**Meeting called to order at 8:00 AM by Terry Wells. All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**The agenda was presented for Review/Approval, Additions/Changes.** Motion by Ed Hamlin seconded by Kurt Seidel to approve agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

**The minutes from the May 21 meeting were presented for Review/Approval, Additions/Changes.** Motion by Ed seconded by Kevin Johnson to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried. For the record the board had a *question* about what it means when Elizabeth Oolman said, “the DNR had not necessarily approve the assessment.” If there was an error in the numbers, it should be corrected. Terry will contact Kyle regarding follow-up.

**Payment of Bills:** None

**Old Business:**

Weeds – Kevin Johnson reported that Ron, from Central MN Aquatics, Inc., sprayed and did a post-spray survey this week. Overall, the lake looked good. It appears the May 18 spray was very successful. Ron found a few places with Curly Leaf – most are places that were not treated. The cool spring and heavy snow cover also helped.

Per Audrey, Nuisance Weed spraying will take place June 22 – 23, pending the permit from the DNR. Hopefully this will be done prior to July 4<sup>th</sup>. About 220 properties requested spraying for Nuisance Weed. Often lake shore properties sell in the spring and might get missed between application and spring spraying; new requests must be inspected by DNR. Audrey indicated she would like KLID to apply as early as November/December. An announcement regarding spraying will be submitted to Kanabec Publications on Monday. Ed indicated he will put something on the Facebook page about spraying for nuisance weed pending; let him know when the spraying will actually happen.

AIS – Kevin reported they are still talking about the decontamination unit; no one wants it. The DNR person talked about a machine for algae in the lake. As Kevin looked into it further he found one machine only covers 16,000 foot diameter (5 acres). To treat a 900-acre lake would be 8 – 9 hundred thousand dollars. We will scratch it from our agenda. The fountain on the north end of the lake seems to be effective for keeping the immediate area clear. Terry has a neighbor who bought a propeller for about \$1000. It essentially pushes the algae from his area to another area.

Grant – Kevin reported we were approved for the grant this year and next year. However, the spraying cannot have happened before the grant. So, the grant for a one-year period was NOT approved. However, we WERE approved for a 2-year grant, which will apply to the 2023 spraying (\$7,200). Discussion between Kevin and Terry – do we need to apply next year? Per Terry, confirm with Jake; have survey, get sprayed, submit invoice to Jake.

Easement - Jeff indicated that Ray Ludowese talked with Sheriff Brian. A copy of the easement was found in the black KLID file drawers, but it was difficult to read. The sheriff now has a better copy and signage

will be posted about private access by order of the sheriff (KLID is granted access). Ed indicated there have been a lot of questions on social media this year; the new owner on the west side has been turning people away who had been fishing there for years. People can come up the river.

NRCS – Kevin reported the dam inspection went well; nothing had moved or shifted. Jeff indicated they will send the inspection report to Kyle. They mentioned one area where shrubs need to be cleaned up. The spray used last year worked well. Two or three years ago, when the water level was down, it was possible to check out the pillars. Rebar was sticking out and will rust. There was discussion about ways to take care of this, such as sand blast and patch, cut off and epoxy over, or another product that could be used when the water level is down. It does not affect the structure of the dam.

Reclassification of the dam is still up in the air. One building on the Snake River is apparently causing the higher classification. If the classification changed, would we no longer need to do the Emergency Action Plan? ***The bigger question is who owns the dam.*** Apparently, the last inspection said the county *owns* the dam; KLID is *maintaining* it. The EAP should not be done by us as we do not own it; KLID could assist the owner. Question: who was the project okayed to by the Civil Core of Engineers when they built it? ***The board feels we should stop doing the EAP and that this topic should be brought up at the annual meeting. Elizabeth Oolman said the property is owned by Kanabec County.***

The board is concerned about liability for the board. Kanabec County provides \$5,000 annually to maintain the dam, which shows on paper, but we have not gotten it. Commissioner Gene Anderson, now deceased, said the county does not own the dam. A housing development is being built on the flood plain.

We should submit for reimbursement for chemicals and supplies to maintain the dam area, EAP mailing expense, and administrative support to prepare the EAP. This should be added to the agenda for the annual meeting and the commissioners be invited to attend.

**New Business:**

KLID records – where to store the contents of the file cabinet? Is there a backup? Could we scan it and store it in a fire proof container? There is a two-drawer cabinet that is full of paper copies. Gene Carda has indicated he has some documents that are not duplicates. Ed will reach out to Gene about what he has. Sue DeGolier is willing to help as desired by the board.

**Discussion:**

Kevin expressed thanks to Terry Well for his years of work on weeds. We all wish him well on his retirement from the KLID board.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Kurt seconded by Jeff to adjourn the meeting. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:53 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue DeGolier