

**KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 21, 2023**

Members Present: Kyle Hams, Ron Groebner, Kurt Seidel, Ed Hamlin, Kevin Johnson, Doug Sabinash, Jeff Suess

Members Absent: Bob Hecht

Guests: Mark Norcross, Mark Bruley

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

The agenda was presented for review/approval, additions/changes. Motion by Ed Hamlin seconded by Kevin Johnson to approve agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes from the December meeting were presented for review. Motion by Doug Sabinash seconded by Ed Hamlin to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

Payment of Bills. Kyle presented the Treasurer's report prepared by Bob Hecht. Expenses from weed spray mailing to be reimbursed to Sue DeGolier are: \$270.41 printing done by Rush Printing and \$204.00 for postage (total \$474.41). There was discussion about the payment to MN Counties Annual Trust; why is it needed and how is the rate determined? Kyle indicated this is for Workmen's Compensation and is needed due to risk with aerators and work on the dam, even though the board members are volunteers. A partial refund is received each year if funds are not used. Motion by Ed seconded by Jeff Suess to pay bills. All ayes, motion carried.

Old Business:

AIS – Neither Kyle nor Kevin attended the last meeting. They reviewed the budget and will continue to advocate for more funds allocated for treatment of Curly Leaf on Knife Lake. The water inspection report showed no problems with zebra mussels. Monitors worked 164 hours at the highway 65 access and 67 hours at the south access. Phosphorus levels are improving.

Aerators – An announcement will need to be published in the newspaper for two weeks. Kurt has the wording and will submit it after the February KLID board meeting. In 2021 it ran in the February 18 and 25 editions. The wording needs to be changed to reflect that aerators may be activated. This discussion was tabled until next month. The DNR will test oxygen levels at the end of February/early March and will notify KLID board whether aerators will be needed. Leslie George is no longer with the DNR; the interim person has the contact information for the KLID board. In the past Ray Ludowese took a course regarding aerators. Kyle asked Jeff Suess to take the training.

Dam Reclassification – Kyle contacted Elizabeth Oolman from USDA but has not heard back yet. We will hold on doing another Emergency Action Plan for now while waiting to hear back.

Weeds – Kevin reported the mailing regarding weed spraying for 2023 went out January 3. To date we have received 132 responses. Even with efforts to improve the mailing, it is still unclear. Kevin will follow up with a couple of responses for clarification, signature missing, etc. Sue DeGolier will continue to monitor the mailbox and track responses. Deadline is February 15. We will try to further clarify the mailing next year.

Guest Mark Norcross asked a question wondering what caused a “chocolate milk” like appearance to the lake last year into the fall? There were no weeds and suspended particles were present. Kevin will check with the sprayer, Ron Duy, and Deanna Pomije from Soil and Water. The lake is impacted by weeds, temperature, and lake turn over. KLID sprayed for invasive Curly Leaf early in May. Treatment of nuisance weed is regulated by the DNR. We are not killing off all the weeds.

Phosphorus in the lake comes from three sources: (1) what was here in the past - core samples show existing phosphorus. The area used to be a potato field. A dam was built so the lake is essentially a reservoir. When the lake turns in July/August phosphorus is released. (2) run off entering the lake from rivers and creeks, and (3) septic systems, yard fertilizers, etc. We may want to consider testing upriver.

Ed showed a picture of Knife Lake from Google Earth dated May 2021. Blooms were already visible; it was a bad year for weeds.

Kevin reported our permit for Curly Leaf expired. Will renew and request to treat 60 acres this year. Last year we requested and were granted to treat 70 acres, but actually treated 50 acres. The permit process required two ways that people on the lake are notified: we use the mailing to owners and publications through the Sportsmen’s Club (they will work to make it more accessible on the website).

Meeting with County Coordinators – Kyle indicated the meeting with Kris McNally and the County Attorney has been moved up to this Tuesday at 9 A.M. at the courthouse. Any board members are welcome to attend. Agenda includes: (1) who owns the dam. Craig Smith says it is the county; the board wants something in writing. (2) who is liable? And (3) Where is the \$5,000 per year and how much money is there now? The board asked to add (4) what is the status regarding the wayside area along highway 65.

Report to State – Ray did this in the past. Kyle will talk with Bob Hecht about it.

Snow measurement – snow depth affects weed growth. Several board members will measure monthly and report to Sue; she will track it on a spreadsheet. Kurt measured 8 inches on the lake. Doug measured 8 inches (3 of slush) and Jeff measured 12 inches (4 of slush).

New Business: none

Discussion:

Mark Bruley mentioned treatment done by the DNR on Cedar Lake in Wisconsin; they put down a layer that seals in the phosphorus. Kyle indicated Ann Lake has been trying this at a cost of about a million dollars. Filters can also be put up stream. It would cost an additional 3 – 400 dollars to add another location. Kevin mentioned that farmers are doing a lot to irradicate runoff into the water. Kyle said in the past Deanna Pomije has indicated it is their (Soil & Water) responsibility to take care of the river; KLID takes care of the lake. Question: when was the last core sample done? Kevin reported the Snake River watershed has an improvement grant, but it will be 4 – 5 years before it reaches our end of the river.

Adjournment: Motion by Ed seconded by Kurt Seidel to adjourn. All ayes, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue DeGolier