

**KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 20, 2023**

**Members Present:** Ron Groebner, Kurt Seidel, Ed Hamlin, Kevin Johnson, Bob Hecht, Doug Sabinash, Jeff Suess

**Members Absent:** Kyle Hams

**Guests:** LuAnn Johnson, Tom Zych, Rachel Hamlin, Commissioner Rick Mattson

**Meeting called to order at 8:00 A.M. by Kevin Johnson. All stood for the pledge of allegiance.**

**The agenda was presented for review/approval, additions/changes.** Motion by Ed Hamlin seconded by Doug Sabinash to approve the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

**Minutes from the April 15 meeting were presented for review/approval, additions/changes.** Jeff Suess asked a question regarding the mention of a survey being needed for the proposed park where the wayside rest used to be. That is yet to be determined. The landing is operated by the DNR; DOT will continue to do the mowing this season. Motion by Jeff Suess seconded by Ed Hamlin to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

**Payment of Bills.** Bob Hecht provided the Treasurer's Report. Bills to be paid are Sue DeGolier (reimbursement of expenses for EAP mailing – copies and postage) and Kanabec Publications for notice about weed spraying. An additional bill just received from Kevin for \$674.00 payable to Kanabec County for special assessment to property owners. Motion by Jeff seconded by Doug to pay all bills. All ayes, motion carried.

**Old Business:**

AIS – at the most recent meeting, Kevin made a presentation (copy of Power Point provided to board members). It contained interesting numbers regarding the amount of acres being treated and funds received for each lake. This pertains to invasive species only. COLA receives \$48,000 annually from the State of Minnesota. Fifty percent of the funds are used for administrative expenses. Eventually, the remaining monies are divided among the lakes in the area. The proposal presented to the AIS group demonstrated that Knife Lake brings value to the community and current funding is not equitable in comparison to the care being provided to the lake. Each lake can carry over \$5,000 annually. Some lakes receive funds even though they do not spend them to treat the lake. Knife Lake requested an additional \$5,000 annually. The presentation suggested additional funds be allocated to Knife Lake from the carryover and contingency funds, the decontamination fund, or the boat inspection fund. After discussion, the AIS group approved \$5,000 additional dollars for Knife Lake for one year from the carryover fund. Kevin is hoping the allocation discussion for 2024 can take place at the November meeting while he is still in Minnesota.

The process for new signage at the boat landing is moving forward. Knife Lake will receive one sign, which will be posted on the south side of the north access. Funding for the signs will come from the decontamination fund.

Emergency Action Plan – Sue DeGolier reported that 81 letters were mailed to property owners between the dam and the Mora city limits requesting current emergency contact information. To date, 37 responses have been received. Sue will continue to monitor responses and begin updating the EAP.

Dam Inspection – this is scheduled for June 6. Bob, Doug, and Kevin will be there for sure.

Weeds – Kevin reported the delineation survey was done on Tuesday. The report was received on Thursday (map available). Ron Duy submitted the information right away, and the permit was approved on Friday. The contact at the DNR is now Christine instead of Audrey.

- Knife Lake is approved to treat 50.3 acres.
- Ron Duy says the cost remained the same as last year.
- For Curly Leaf, the permit is good until May 31. The goal is to spray as late as possible. Total is \$36,970.00.
- Nuisance weed will be sprayed mid to end of June; 260 properties @ \$132.00 per property. The cost is more per property than assessed, but not all get sprayed, so it comes out okay.

Once the spraying is done, invoices can be submitted and KLID will receive funds from the grant that was rolled over to this year (\$7,500.00).

Aerators - currently there is a 110 plug in being used for the fountain; property owners volunteer it. There is not an easement agreement. We need to find an additional spot. Ray Ludowese has electrical; no easement agreement is in place. Bob Hecht will talk with Ray. Needs to be 240 without affecting the house. Need about a ten-foot-wide path from the road to the lake with an electrical outlet box that can be used. KLID would need to write up an easement and bring it to Kanabec County to be notarized; filing fee would be paid by KLID. KLID would pay the difference in the electrical bill. Ed could mention this need in the Lakelines. Kurt's yard might be a possibility. Motion by Ed seconded by Jeff to investigate the cost of putting this in Kurt's yard. All ayes; motion carried. Will need to look at the cost for a meter, quote from a local electrician to install, also possibly negotiate with ECE. Would need to pay the up-front.

**New Business:** none

**Discussion:**

Jeff was asked to talk about the start time for fishing contests and the issue of noise from big boat motors at 6 a.m. This is authorized by the DNR; upcoming fishing contests are listed on the DNR website under county and then by lake.

Rick Mattson provided an update regarding the former wayside rest area. The Kanabec County Attorney and the DOT are working on this. They requested written documentation from the Sportsmen's Club stating that they are willing to assume responsibility for maintaining the area. There is a question whether the Lewis family is given permission to own the property in the original contract. Kevin indicated questions that need to be clarified are: would the property be deeded to Kanabec County? Exactly what would the Sportsmen's Club be responsible for doing? And who is liable? The DNR manages the boat launch ramp. Rick was provided with a copy of the approved minutes from the April KLID board meeting. Ed will provide additional documentation to Rick.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Jeff seconded by Ed to adjourn the meeting. All ayes, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue DeGolier