

**KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 15, 2023**

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

Members Absent: Ron Groebner

Guests: Gene Carda, Rachel Hamlin

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM 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 Doug Sabinash to approve the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

The minutes from the June 17 meeting were presented for review/approval, additions/changes. Motion by Doug seconded by Ed to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

Payment of Bills:

Bob Hecht provided a printed copy of the Treasurer's Report. The following bills were presented for payment:

\$34,188.00 to Central Minnesota Aquatics for spraying Nuisance Weed

\$38.12 to Kevin Johnson for purchase of Quick Crete for dam repair

\$820.00 to Sue DeGolier for administrative support time January through June 2023.

Motion by Jeff Suess seconded by Kurt Seidel to pay bills. All ayes, motion carried.

Kevin Johnson presented two checks for deposit: \$7290.00 from state grant and \$11,463.04 from Kanabec County for COLA.

Old Business:

Meeting with Kanabec County for increased funding

In August there will be a meeting (Kyle will get the date). Chris McNally wants the KLID board to discuss asking that more money be set aside for use in the event of a dam breach. The board discussed the following:

How much would it cost to rebuild the dam and repair damages done? At the dam inspection, the inspector said it would cost more than \$20,000 if there were a breach. The board feels this money should be set aside by the county and be kept by the county in a designated fund.

It is still unclear who "owns" the dam, who is responsible for what? Who is liable for what? The board's understanding is that KLID is responsible to inspect and maintain the dam. KLID is doing due diligence to inspect and keep the area clear; we feel we are doing our job. The board feels the operating agreement is unclear and desires a written response from the commissioners regarding major repairs and liability. There is a list of who the KLID board members were when the operating agreement was signed. Other duties were added later. The county paid bills during the construction of the dam. Craig Smith says the county owns. The DNR dam finder shows Kanabec County, KLID, and Soil and Water. The board wonders about personal liability. At a meeting Kyle was told KLID would be covered by tort law.

Kyle has not heard anything further from Mrs. Oolman, who was forwarding the question of ownership to her supervisor.

Gene Carda indicated he is on the board for Soil & Water and will bring the question up at their next meeting.

The County should have an attorney define what KLID is responsible for, and it should be added to the KLID bylaws. We would need county permission to change the bylaws. Kyle will talk with Chris and put this on the agenda for the September KLID board meeting.

If the Sportsmen's Club becomes responsible for the wayside rest area the terms of the agreement need to be clearly spelled out to avoid this kind of confusion.

Preparation for annual meeting

The KLID annual meeting will be held on August 19 at 9 a.m. (switch time with the Sportsmen's Club).

- Kurt will place an announcement in the paper by next week to run two weeks. Can run the same content as last year with dates changed. List Ed Hamlin as the contact. Ed will also announce in the Lakelines newsletter.
- There will be two positions open on the board. Jeff's term is up. Bob served the rest of the term for Ray Ludowese. Both desire to step down. To qualify for the board, person must own property on the lake/river. Do the bylaws say how many board members are required? Need an odd number and a quorum in attendance for meetings.
- Bob will need to get annual financial information prepared; will talk with Ray.
- Kyle will call the DNR for a lake update and lake inspection report.
- Kevin will provide a simple report on weeds.
- The cost for weed spraying is \$132 per property. The property owners need to vote on the amount for the annual assessment.
- Ed suggested finding out from Central Minnesota Aquatics if they anticipate an increase in expenses for 2024.

Weeds – the lake looks great, especially considering the hot and dry weather.

Dam Repairs – the gate has been fixed and vegetation sprayed. Water level is down now; would be a good time to make the repair. Kyle let the property owner know the group would need to come again. There is one tree that needs to be dealt with. The board decided to do the project the following day and discussed equipment needed.

AIS – Kevin said there has been no word from DNR regarding new signs. A \$40,000 grant is being applied to Knife River. All the improvements are south of the dam dealing with erosion mitigation. There is also a watershed project funded for \$500,000 a year for ten years. Knife lake will be last to be impacted by this project. Kevin asked that the annual financial discussion be moved to the December meeting so he can be present.

EAP – Sue DeGolier has been working on this. We are also looking at the actual requirements for KLID as specified in the EAP document.

Aerators – someone needs to take the class by October. It can be done on-line. Then we apply for a permit; it will be good for three years. We also need easements recorded on paper (Ray?). Access to the lake must be kept plowed in the winter. Will discuss further in September.

New Business:

Kevin gave a form regarding Lake Pokegama to Kurt (Kurt filled it out last year). They need to know what kind of organization we are.

Discussion:

Gene Carda expressed concern about the lake access on the south end of the lake and traffic on the county road. He suggested KLID help with a petition to address dangerous conditions. The County and DNR own the area. Gene will talk with Deanna. Ed suggested clearing trees for a better line of sight.

Adjournment: Motion by Jeff seconded by Kurt to adjourn the meeting. All ayes, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue DeGolier