

**KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**

Members Present: Kyle Hams, Kurt Seidel, Ed Hamlin, Kevin Johnson, Doug Sabinash, Ray Ludowese, Tom Zych

Members Absent: Ron Groebner

Guests: Rachel Hamlin

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 the agenda. All ayes, motion carried.

Drafts of the minutes from the 7-15-23 meeting and the 8-19-23 annual meeting were presented for review. Motion by Ed seconded by Tom Zyll to approve both sets of minutes. All ayes, motion carried. The draft of minutes from the annual meeting will be presented at the annual meeting in August, 2024 for formal approval.

Payment of Bills:

Ray Ludowese provided a copy of the 2022-2023 financials with a correction from what was provided at the annual meeting. The balance is the same, just a difference in how something was recorded. There were no bills to pay. Kurt Seidel presented a check from the Pokegama Lake Association in the amount of \$2,500. Sue DeGolier will begin checking the mailbox on a regular basis and let Ray know if there are bills that need to be paid.

Kyle indicated he encloses a personal check for \$21.00 each time he sends a cooler with a lake sample to RMB Laboratories. When they send the report, they also send a bill. He will do one more test this week. When the testing season is over Kyle will submit a request for reimbursement. His cancelled checks are available if needed for records.

Old Business:

Weeds – Kevin said the timeframe and process for weed spraying in 2024 will be the same this year. The letters will be mailed January 3 with a return deadline of February 15. The DNR and Central MN Aquatics requested the earlier dates to allow them more time for the permit process. It worked well and the permits were received sooner. Ed indicated he can have extra forms available for the Winter Day of Fun. Kyle commended Ron Duy on the great job he did on the weed spraying this year; the lake looks great.

Kevin is now set up in SWIFT, the DNR payment system. In the past, checks were going to Terry Wells' home address. It is now approved for the checks to go to the KLID post office box.

AIS – there was not an AIS meeting this month. This week Kevin will do the final round of visits to the area bait shops for the DNR. There is a new bait shop in Mora next to Freddie's Restaurant. LuAnn will attend the October AIS meeting. Kyle will attend this winter while Kevin is away. Kevin will get financial information from Deanna Pomije in October, so he can prepare a presentation about equitable distribution of funds for the December AIS meeting. Groups need to have a lake association to be part of the group.

Lake Testing – Kyle will send in the last sample for this year on Monday. He will share the reports when he receives them. He recommends we continue to test. Originally the laboratory said three years of testing to determine trends; now they recommend eight years. Perhaps testing at the mouth of the river (which was added this year) could be done every other year.

Aerators – Doug Sabinash is willing to be the person who takes the test. That will need to be done now in October. We need to have a place for the aerator to be plugged in. That can be on Ray Ludowese's property; he is back on the board – we do not have an easement. In March Doug will check with the DNR for oxygen levels.

File Cabinet – Kyle said we need to find out what is in the file cabinets and take whatever needs to be kept to the Kanabec County Courthouse. This will be a winter project. We need to find out if there are statutes regarding what needs to be kept. We are an improvement district, not an association or non-profit. Monthly minutes and financials are sent to Kelsey to be recorded.

New Business:

Report to Commissioners – Kyle will get information to Sue DeGolier to put into the Annual Report format (include dam inspection and financials).

Election of Officers – following are the officer assignments for 2024:

Chair – Kyle Hams

Vice Chair – Doug Sabinash

Secretary – Tom Zyll

Treasurer – Ray Ludowese

Aerators – Doug Sabinash

Weeds & AIS – Kevin Johnson

Fisheries – Kyle (if needed)''

Motion by Ed seconded by Doug to approve officers as presented. All ayes; motion carried. The contact list will be updated with new board members. Kurt Seidel will continue to serve on the board.

On-line banking – Ray asked that Sue send him a signed copy of the minutes from the meeting today indicating he is treasurer. He will bring that to the bank to be a signer for the checking account. Statements will now be received electronically.

Re-check financials – noted above in bill payment section.

Discussion:

The November meeting will be cancelled due to deer hunting and quorum. There was discussion about the number of ways this needs to be announced. The by-laws indicate three ways are needed for weed spraying, aerators, and the annual meeting. Otherwise, two ways are sufficient. The three ways are: Lakelines, social media, and the Kanabec newspaper. There is cost involved with using the newspaper. For this to change, a by-law change needs to be approved at the annual meeting. Kyle will send the by-laws to Sue to be scanned, saved, and a copy provided to the new board members.

Some lakes require individual owners to pay for nuisance weed spraying. Our current financial model is not sustainable. KLID is supposed to be funded by state statute, but that is not happening. Grants such as those from DNR and COLA are not guaranteed. Donations are also not guaranteed. Next year at the annual meeting this will need to be discussed, with projected costs for three to five years. Choices are

increase the assessment or individual owners pay for their own spraying. About 100 property owners do not get sprayed. This only pertains to nuisance weed spraying; treatment of curly leaf must be continued.

Adjournment: Motion by Tom seconded by Kurt to adjourn. All ayes, motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:46 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue DeGolier