

**KNIFE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT  
MEETING MINUTES MAY 18, 2024**

**Members Present:** Kyle Hams, Ron Groebner, Ed Hamlin, Kevin Johnson, Doug Sabinash, Ray Ludowese, Tom Zych

**The meeting was 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.** Ed Hamlin added an item for New Business: donations for fireworks display. Motion by Ray Ludowese seconded by Doug Sabinash to approve the agenda with the addition. All ayes, motion carried.

**The minutes from the April 20 meeting were presented for Review/Approval, Additions/Changes.** Motion by Ed seconded by Tom Zych to approve the minutes. All ayes, motion carried.

**Payment of Bills.** Ray provided handouts of the Treasurer's report and the year-to-date financials, noting interest deposits to both checking and savings and balances. Bills to be paid are:

Daniel Swanson for Curly-leaf delineation survey \$1,500.

Central MN Aquatics, Inc. for spraying 50 acres for Curly-leaf \$36,750.

Post Office for box rent (12 months) \$84.00

Kanabec Publications for aerator notice \$18.70 (Ray confirmed this was paid in March)

Motion by Tom seconded by Doug to pay bills. All ayes, motion carried.

Kyle asked about a recent charge from Kanabec County for \$672. Ray explained this is a fee the county charges for providing KLID with the tax fee list (used for weed spray mailing to property owners). There was discussion about this as KLID is an extension of the County. Kyle will talk with Chris McNally about it. There was further discussion regarding where the \$5,000 set aside for KLID for the dam is located. According to Chris, KLID now has \$25,000 set aside in an account, but it does not show up in the county budget.

**Old Business:**

AIS – Kevin Johnson shared information from a presentation at the Soil & Water meeting pertaining to a machine that produces nano bubbles, which stay suspended and force iron to adhere to phosphorus and sink it to the bottom of the lake. Case studies show it is effective, gets rid of algae, and clears muck from the bottom of the lake. For Lake Ann, the up-front cost is about \$600,000 and then \$75,000 annually. It is portable and can be purchased or leased. There could possibly be funders. Discussion included:

- Who might fund this, how they would be reached, would it be at the county level or state?
- If phosphorus continues to come into the lake the work would need to be repeated.
- Kyle reported that lake testing showed the phosphorus level at the river entrance into the lake was extremely low compared to out in the lake.
- This device essentially aerates the lake (improves oxygen level), so there will be native weed growth.

AIS has not had a meeting yet. Based on how funds are now being allocated, this year KLID should receive more than in previous years (with the exception of a special one-time increase last year).

Kevin provided a copy of the delineation survey to Kyle and emailed copies to the members of the board.

Weeds

**Curly Leaf** -- Kevin indicated spraying for Curly Leaf was done on May 6. The cost for treating Curly Leaf is \$735.00 per acre. Kevin provided copies of the delineation survey which also shows where chemicals were applied. Some areas previously treated were changed to treat other areas. Seventy acres of Curly Leaf were identified; fifty acres were treated.

**Nuisance weed** -- Ron Duy chares \$132.00 per residence for treating nuisance weed. *The county assessment, which KLID receives, is \$125 per property: the assessment goes to treat Curly Leaf – which is invasive, dam maintenance, and other expenses. The current model is not sustainable.* Approximately one-third of the property owners on the lake do not have nuisance weed sprayed.

Another model: Fish Lake pays for the permit for the lake. Then people either do the spraying or they send payment for the spraying to be done. The cost of the permit is \$1200. It is proposed that KLID would pay for the permit, rather than paying for spraying nuisance weed. It is likely that some people will choose not to pay for spraying. With this model, KLID would control it but not fund it. If you pay you get sprayed.

KLID is committed to spraying for nuisance weed this year. This will need to be discussed and decided at the annual meeting. It needs to be announced that the agenda for the annual meeting will include discussion and a decision about how spraying for nuisance weed will be funded after 2024. Kevin is tasked with talking to Ron about feasibility prior to the next KLID meeting. The rate for spraying the following year is yet to be determined but likely to increase.

Workmen's Comp – not done yet.

Dam Inspection – scheduled for June 11 – anyone who can is welcome to attend.

Water Testing – Kyle just received the kit. This testing is for phosphorus and algae. At the end of the year there will be an invoice of approximately \$395 and possibly a charge for the courier.

Yearly budget—Ray completed this and received confirmation that the state received it.

**New Business:**

Ed Hamin added this item to the agenda. Northwoods and the Sportsmen's Club will now be the sponsors of the fireworks display. The Crow's Nest is no longer participating. All the proceeds over cost for the sale of flares will go toward the event. If individuals or businesses would like to contribute it would be appreciated. The cost of the fireworks display is about \$11,000. The Sportsmen's club is a 501.c3 and can accept donations. Non-cash donations can go to Northwoods; they will hold a silent auction. Contributions of \$100 show up at the bottom of the banner, \$500 further up, etc. Items or donations need to be received by June 15.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue DeGolier