

Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District (LMLID)

Annual Membership Meeting

July 28, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

McGregor Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by LMLID Secretary, Dan Westberg. A quorum was confirmed.

Board members present were: Westberg, Pat Rath, Bruce Patterson, and Steve Olson. Also present was recording secretary Dora Potts. Cathy Larson, Jeff Johnson, and James Bradley were absent. Also in attendance were owners of eight Lake Minnewawa properties.

Welcome

Westberg welcomed the guests to the meeting and read the LMLID statement of purpose, which is:

"...to provide an equitable and stable tax-based funding mechanism to support and improve the health of Lake Minnewawa. The LMLID is responsible for compliance with all State and applicable County LID related statutes and other requirements as directed by Aitkin County."

Westberg then introduced the board members present and reminded the group that more information about the LMLID activities could always be found on its website: www.lmlid.org.

LMLID Board of Directors:

President: Cathy Larson
Vice President: Jim Bradley
Secretary: Dan Westberg
Treasurer: Patrick Rath
Bruce Patterson
Steve Olson
Jeff Johnson

1. Financials for the Year 2020 (complete) and 2021 to Date

Prior to the financial presentation, Pat Rath asked for the board to approve a funding request from the LMA. The item had been shared with all board members in advance of the meeting

Bruce Patterson made a motion to approve and Dan Westberg seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

Rath then presented and explained the financial records of the LMLID for the complete year of 2020 as well as the actual year-to-date 2021 expenditures/income and the proposed

expenditures/income for the remainder of 2021. All these figures are available on the LMLID website. A brief summary of the present account status is as follows:

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Current checking account balance: | \$30,703.78 |
| Current worth of three CDs purchased @!0,000 each for future AIS needs: | 10,218.00 |
| | 10,196.00 |
| | 10,045.00 |

2. LMLID Budget for 2022

The proposed budget for the year 2022 was also presented by Rath. In keeping with the LID requirement for membership to approve any items exceeding \$5,000, members were asked to consider the proposed amounts of \$20,000 for LMA expenses and \$8,000 for assistance with the Weir Dam (fish ladder) project. These and other items combine for a total budget of \$33,800 for the year 2022. Funding will come from the 521 district property owners @\$65 each.

Bruce Patterson made a motion to approve the financial report and proposed budget and Steve Olson seconded. The motion was approved unanimously by the entire membership.

3. LMA Harvester Update

The harvester collected 800 tons of weeds this year, according to John Montour. He said this was higher than last year with the low water allowing weeds to come to the surface and grow more quickly.

Montour also gave information about recent and ongoing repairs to the harvester. Recent repairs to the gear box have been necessary and, earlier in the season, an oil cooler was added to prevent extremely high temperatures during operation. The cooler has significantly reduced operating temperatures which contributes to a safer situation for the harvester and its operator.

Montour noted that the harvester had to be pulled from the lake early this year (about 2 weeks ago) due to the low water levels.

An LMLID member asked what was done with the harvested weeds and Montour replied that they are taken to a DNR-designated dumping site where the DNR monitors the types of weeds cut, comparing this data to their regulations for weed harvesting. Montour also said that some farmers and gardeners have used harvested weeds in the past to support crop and plant growth. Weed harvesting is important for maintaining lake clarity.

4. Loon Nesting Project Update

During the past year, the LMA purchased materials to construct three loon nesting platforms and St. Cloud Technical College provided welding of the materials at no cost. Tim Rinowski provided details of this past year's operation.

The platforms must be put out no later than 7 days after ice-out. The purpose of these platforms is to provide a nesting option that is safer from predators. In its first year, one platform was used producing one chick. Another nest in a natural location produced one chick and a third nest (in a natural location) was destroyed.

It is important for boaters to stay clear of the nesting locations, so the LMA has purchased buoys to mark the locations of the platforms and any other nests discovered. Residents are encouraged to contact the LMA upon discovery of a natural loon nest.

The LMA will use the same three platforms next year to see if more loons can be attracted to these safe nesting areas.

5. LMA Update

Sue Westberg updated the membership on the following LMA initiatives

- **Weirs Dam:** All grants for this project are in and a contractor willing to take on the work is being sought. Funding for the dam will come from the grants, the LMA, the LMLID, and the Sportsmen's Club.
- **Fishing Line Recycling:** A lake resident volunteered to monitor fishing line receptacles if they were installed at landings. The receptacles have been built from large PVC pipe and will be visible at landings next season. Westberg noted for information that fishing line does not *ever* break down and discarded line, hooks, etc. remain in the lake or surrounding areas forever. For this reason, fisher people are highly encouraged to make use of the receptacles or otherwise dispose of fishing line safely.
- **The LMA BBQ:** This was a huge success this year after being cancelled last year due to the pandemic. About \$17,000 for lake improvement was raised, according to current calculations.
- **T-Shirts for Kids:** On the Fourth of July, the LMA distributed 200 t-shirts to kids around the lake. This was up from 100 the previous year and the distribution helps publicize our lake and the activities offered here.
- **About the LMA:** The Lake Minnewawa Association is a group that actually performs lake improvement projects around the lake. The LMA always welcomes new members who are interested in lake health and ways they can help. In addition to the previously-mentioned activities, one annual project of the LMA is to clean the ditches along lake roads in the spring. Meetings are held the second Saturday of each month, usually at Bann's Bar and Restaurant on Goshawk Street (Highway 6).

6. Open Discussion

- Dan Westberg reported that the DNR is consistently happy to help with Lake Minnewawa projects and DNR officials are pleased with the walleye reproduction. The LMA, for their part, has been more than willing to help the DNR with such initiatives as scap netting (to count walleye eggs) at certain GPS coordinates. This helps monitor walleye reproduction in the lake. Future projects may include "walleye restoration" that involves providing rubble or pebbles for the fish to use for spawning as this is their preferred spawning medium.
- A member asked about the boat checkpoints at landings. Sue Westberg said that this is a project of the LMA but fully supported by the DNR at the LMA's request. Inspectors are provided every weekend from Memorial to Labor Day, with extra inspectors posted during busy holiday weeks.

7. Board of Director Election

Jeff Johnson and Dan Westberg were re-elected for three-year terms on the LMLID board of directors.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by John Montour and seconded by Steve Olson. The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Submitted by Dora Potts, as recording secretary
August 29, 2021

Approved by Dan Westberg, LMLID Secretary
August 30, 2021