

Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District (LMLID)

Annual Membership Meeting

August 27, 2016 10:00 a.m.

McGregor Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by Pat Rath.

A quorum was confirmed.

Board members present were: Pat Rath, James Bradley, David Warner, Bob Bass, Cathy Larson, and Sue Woodard. Also present was recording secretary, Dora Potts.

Also in attendance were numerous LMLID members and spouses. Total attendance represented 17 properties on the lake.

Welcome

Rath welcomed the attendees and announced that the purpose of the meeting was threefold:

- To inform the membership concerning the LMLID's use of the \$65.00 per property tax assessment
- To approve the proposed LMLID budget for 2017
- To elect officers to fill empty positions on the LMLID board

Rath then introduced the current members of the LMLID board and turned the microphone over to Jim Bradley, board member and current acting treasurer of the LMLID.

Financial Report

2015

Bradley presented a record of LMLID receipts and expenditures for the 2015 year:

Income:	\$32,370	Revenue from Aitkin County
Expenses:	\$18,023	LMA harvesting operations
	8,236	LMA harvester capital fund
	146	Water Conference—Rath
	1,679	LMLID administrative
	<u>949</u>	membership survey
	\$ 6058	end of year balance

2016

Next, Bradley shared the year-to-date LMLID financial report for 2016.

He noted that final payment from Aitkin County is not received, each year, until October.

Income:	\$19,450	Revenue from Aitkin County
Expenses:	\$ 5,702	LMA harvesting operations
	1,478	LMLID Administrative
	4,580	Lake mapping project
	<u>223</u>	Membership survey
	\$13,475	end of year balance

2017

The proposed budget for 2017, as presented by Bradley, is:

\$ 3,000	LMLID Administration
2,500	Documentation of lake management plan
3,000	Review/analysis of lake mapping
13,500	Vegetation management by LMA (harvesting, etc.)
9,000	LMA harvester loan
2,800	Contingency (to cover overruns and unbudgeted items)
\$ 33,800	520 property owners @ \$65 = \$33,800

Unused funds up to \$20,000 can be applied to capital payment of LMA harvester loan.

The board was asked to clarify the proposed \$3,000 expenditure for administrative costs. Board members explained that this figure included \$1200 in board insurance costs, secretarial costs, required newspaper ads, postage and paperwork, and other expenses necessary to run the LMLID. The suggestion was made to itemize administrative expenses given in future financial reports. This request was duly noted by the board.

At the conclusion of the financial report, there was a motion made by Chuck Munson to approve the 2017 budget, as presented. Dale Kratochwill seconded the motion.

During the discussion that followed, several members expressed a desire to learn more about the LMLID projects before voting on the budget.

A motion was made by Chuck Munson to delay the budget vote until after information about current and planned LMLID projects had been presented. This was a later item on the meeting agenda. Al Eld seconded the motion and it was passed, unanimously.

Election of Officers

Due to a procedural error during the 2015 election process, it was subsequently necessary, in 2016, for the LMLID board to temporarily approve Bob Bass as an LMLID board member, pending the next possible election process. Therefore, the membership at this meeting was asked to vote on Bass' continuation in this role for the next two years. Chuck Munson moved to approved the seat extension of Bob Bass and Dale Kratochwill seconded the motion. The motion passed by show of hands, with one opposed.

David Warner then asked for nominations from the floor to fill the vacant board seats. There were none. [Note: This option will not be available at subsequent annual meetings due to a bylaw change, which was approved later in the meeting. The new bylaw text requires notice of candidacy to the board prior to the annual meeting.]

Warner then announced that his board seat and that of Patrick Rath expire at the end of 2016 and they had both filed for re-election. In addition, it is necessary to fill the seat of board member, Lee Carlson, who resigned in July.

Steve Olson and Allen Eld had previously notified the board of their interest in serving and they were nominated by the board. This action created a ballot with four choices to fill three LMLID Board of Directors' seats.

One ballot was distributed for each property owned. Members were asked to mark three of the four candidates. Warner asked for two volunteers to tally the votes. Dale Kratochwill and Chuck Monson volunteered and subsequently presented the results of the election to the membership. Pat Rath, David Warner, and Steve Olson were elected to fill the three LMLID board seats.

Bylaw Revision

Pat Rath reviewed several proposed changes to the LMLID bylaws. The text of these changes was given to members in attendance and is available for viewing on the LMLID website.

One of the proposed changes deals with the mailing of LMLID meeting notices. There was a brief discussion during which two members in attendance reported they had not received notice of the current meeting. Rath stated that the addresses used for mailings were given to him by Aitkin County. He also said that county officials had previously indicated that the lists in question might not include recently changed addresses due to updating delays on the part of the county. Rath is to meet with the county again in January 2017 to, again, obtain the most current data.

A suggestion was made by a member to investigate the mailing process and to consider making the mailed document more eye-catching to the recipients. This suggestion was duly noted by the board and will be considered prior to future mailings.

Robbie Danko moved to approve the bylaw changes and Jerry Bass seconded the motion. Bylaw revision was approved unanimously.

LMLID Treasurer

Pat Rath thanked Lee Carlson for his previous work on the board as treasurer of the LMLID. Carlson resigned in July and current board member Jim Bradley has offered to serve in the vacated position, pending approval by the membership.

Bob Bass moved to approve Jim Bradley as LMLID treasurer. The motion was seconded by Greg Pfeifer and the motion passed, unanimously.

LMLID Project: Vegetation Mapping

The LMLID has engaged the services of Gene Burma to gather scientific data about Lake Minnewawa in order to inform the LMLID operations and management of funding. A Lowrance depth finder, with cio-biobase software capabilities, was installed on Burma's boat. He will keep the hardware as reimbursement for his time and services. The data will serve as a baseline for future actions by the LMLID and will be made available to the LMA, DNR, and other organizations with lake improvement interests. It is anticipated that the data will be useful in planning vegetation control as well as fish-stocking and other lake improvement efforts.

At this time, Burma has made two complete transections of the lake: one this past spring and one in late July. The transection operation requires covering the entire lake, in measured passes, at about 15 miles per hour, stopping every hour to download the digital information gathered. The digital files will be used to produce two sets of maps, each depicting lake depth, bottom composition, and biovolume (vegetation presence). These maps will be available shortly on the LMLID website.

Practical analysis of the gathered data will be done by James Johnson of Scientific Freshwater Services, as soon as his schedule permits. This will provide additional observations from a person with experience in this area.

There was a question from the membership concerning the future of this operation and the wisdom of Burma's ownership of the equipment without a contract for future services. Rath stated that an alternate method for obtaining the same data would have cost about \$9000, compared to the \$4000 spent for Burma's services and explained that the LMLID board chose the least expensive route. He also affirmed that Burma has indicated commitment to future services. The board has discussed repeating the process at regular intervals for the purpose of studying lake changes.

LMLID Project: Membership Survey

In order to fully represent property-owner interests during the appropriation of tax dollars, the LMLID distributed a membership survey in January 2016. The survey covered lake information knowledge, lake use preferences, lake improvement efforts (including harvesting), lake quality, and miscellaneous concerns.

Rath thanked David Warner for his role in the survey creation and Dora Potts and Cathy Larson for their survey result tabulation efforts. He said that the tabulated results would help the LMLID consider property-owner preferences as tax money is appropriated for lake improvement efforts.

Members were given approximately one month to return the survey, but all responses received were included in the tabulation of results. Of the 522 surveys mailed to property owners, 246 completed surveys were returned: 235 by mail and 11 through the online option, Survey Monkey.

Rath commended the membership for its participation in the survey which provides the LMLID with a vast amount of information about property owner concerns and preferences. Rath noted that the most preferred lake activities were fishing and boating, but that there was a wide variety of other activities listed. He also cited overwhelming support for LMA efforts (84%) and the efforts of the LMLID (82%), as indicated by the survey. A complete report of survey results is available on the LMLID website.

Rath also noted that the survey results illuminated some confusion about the specific roles of the various lake organizations. Most notably, Rath mentioned the difference among the LMA (which runs the harvesting operation and other lake improvement initiatives), the LMLID (which administers the funding and oversees its use in lake improvement), and the Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club (which conducts a variety of community activities, such as the children's Christmas give-aways).

Results of the survey will continue to be used by the LMLID to address property owner concerns.

Return to Budget Approval

Jerry Bass made a motion to approve the previously presented LMLID budget for 2017. John Brady seconded and the motion was approved, unanimously.

Open Discussion

There were several questions posed by attending LMLID members and addressed by board members, with these results:

- The map contained in the meeting handout was previously identified as a vegetation map. It is, instead, a depth chart, but all three map types will soon be available on the LMLID website. The enclosed map was given as a sample of the type of data provided by the vegetation-mapping project.
- The information gained by the vegetation-mapping project will indeed be shared with the DNR, in hopes of informing their operations, such as fish stocking, habitat study, and weed-harvesting

regulation. It is anticipated that the invaluable information provided will help advance the DNR fishery program.

Jerry Bass made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Robbie Danko and the meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Submitted by Dora Potts, as recording secretary
August 29, 2016

Approved by Robert Bass, LMLID Secretary
September 1, 2016