

## **Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District (LMLID)**

Annual Membership Meeting

August 24, 2019 10:00 a.m.

McGregor Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairperson Cathy Larson.

A quorum was confirmed.

Board members present were: Pat Rath, James Bradley, David Warner, Cathy Larson, Steve Olson, and Dan Westberg. Sue Woodard was absent. Also present was recording secretary, Dora Potts.

Additional attendees included numerous LMLID members and spouses. Total attendance represented 14 properties on Lake Minnewawa.

LMLID Board President, Cathy Larson, welcomed the attendees and introduced the other current members of the LMLID board of directors, mentioning Sue Woodard, who was absent:

- Patrick Rath, Vice President
- Jim Bradley, treasurer
- Dan Westberg, secretary
- Steve Olson
- David Warner

She also introduced Dora Potts who serves the LMLID as recording secretary.

Larson apologized for the error concerning the meeting place as published in the Voyageur Press. The correct meeting place was submitted to the newspaper. A sign to proceed to the McGregor Community Center was placed on the door of the Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club to redirect any attendees who might have gone there.

Larson then stated the purposes of the annual meeting. This year, there were no bylaws up for revision, so topics would include:

- Transparent discussion of financial matters
- Board of Director elections
- Approval of any expenditures over \$5000
- Approval of 2020 LMLID budget

### **Financial Report**

Larson confirmed with Robbie Danko (of the Lake Minnewawa Association) that most of LMA requests had already been submitted and would be included in the treasurer's report. The remaining LMA requests would come in August and September, according to Danko. LMA members were reminded that these requests should be submitted prior to the September 28 LMLID meeting, which will be the last meeting of 2019.

Larson also defined the items included in the "Admin." Category of each year's budget. They are:

- Clerical
- Printing

- Website
- Postage

Jim Bradley addressed the board, presenting an outstanding budget request from the LMA for \$10,749.74. The request included an itemized list of expenses for the months of January through July 2019 that included:

- Water quality program expenses and fees
- Utilities
- Professional fees
- Insurance—water quality program
- Payroll—water quality program
- Special projects—scap netting of fish eggs

Pat Rath moved that the request be funded. Cathy Larson seconded, and the request was approved unanimously.

Bradley then presented the annual financial report, referencing a handout that showed LMLID expenditures from 2015 through 2018. Additionally, there were columns for the 2019 budget, 2019 actual expenditures to date, and the proposed budget for 2020. He noted that actual expenditures for 2019 are not complete at this time.

Bradley noted that the greatest expenditure in the Admin. category was insurance. (Note that this expenditure has been reduced by over half this year as a result of Dan Westberg's efforts in securing a more reasonably priced policy.) Bradley also noted the purchase of a second \$10,000 CD to add to the current LMLID AIS/emergency fund, bringing the total of that fund to \$20,000. A member asked whether this fund is strictly limited to AIS and the board answered, "No," saying that the board could exercise discretion with regard to its disbursement.

The current balance in the LMLID checking account is \$14,560.64.

### **Project Status**

Cathy Larson spoke on this topic, saying that current projects are:

- Weed harvesting by the LMA, which will now be called "Water Quality Program," as requested by the LMA.
- CDs for AIS/Emergency fund

### **2020 Budget**

Jim Bradley added a possible contribution to the funding of the fish ladder to the above projects for 2020. Also, if not spent, an additional \$10,000 CD may be purchased to add to the AIS/Emergency fund.

Larson provided details on the fish ladder project spending, saying that most of the actual ladder would probably be covered by grants, but that the LMLID stood ready to help if additional funds were needed, for example, to prepare the road leading into and out of the area. The interest of the LMLID is being sure the project is done right.

Tim Rinowski presented more information about the proposed fish ladder, also called a “weirs dam.” It is a series of pools to enable fish to get into the lake after spawning, rather than staying in the tributary. Its purpose is to increase the number of fish in Lake Minnewawa and the DNR says this could involve a very large number of fish. The DNR has done ten years of research and has found no invasive species in the water from which the fish would come. It was noted that the DNR has great respect for lake improvement efforts at Lake Minnewawa and that our lake is noted for this even at the state DNR level. This regard for the lake contributes to efforts by the DNR to further improve the lake.

A member posed a question about the meaning of “scap netting.” This was explained by Dan Westberg as a process in which volunteers go along the shore in the spring and disturb the lake bottom to gather fish eggs in nets. They then count and report the number and species of eggs found. The DNR uses these findings to determine areas for “test netting” as a means of determining how the lake is doing, where fish are spawning, and the need for improving the fishery.

Dan Westberg moved that the financial report and 2020 budget be approved. Cathy Larson seconded the motion, and the budget was approved unanimously.

### **Board of Director Elections**

Cathy Larson reported that, for the first time this year, the LMLID offered to provide an absentee ballot to any member requesting one. This was previously requested by membership and, after extensive discussion and contact with the State Attorney General, the board decided it was the best thing to do. All LMLID members were sent a meeting announcement with absentee ballot instructions included.

Ballot requests and submissions were governed by a clearly stated procedure and were left sealed until this meeting. Any member who submitted an absentee ballot was not given a ballot at the meeting. In total, there were eight ballots requested and all eight were submitted according to regulations.

A total of 528 announcement cards were mailed and only 19 were returned by the post office for faulty addresses. Larson noted that the LMLID receives address information from the county and that sometimes the most recent transactions have not been recorded in county records when this information is sent. However, any member not receiving a 2019 LMLID Annual Membership Meeting postcard is urged to contact Liz Harmon with the county to correct possible address errors in their records.

A member asked if board members who currently held office were still up for election or if the officer position entitled them to keep their seat. The answer is that any board member who has served his or her elected number of years must come up for a vote to remain on the board. It was added that board officers were elected by board members each year at the January meeting.

Larson secured two members of the membership to voluntarily help secretary Dan Westberg count ballots. She also provided time for the four candidates for the three open board positions to introduce themselves and speak to the group.

All absentee and membership meeting ballots (total of 22 ballots) were counted and the election results seated three LMLID Board of Director members to begin service on January 1, 2020.

They are Pat Rath, Bruce Patterson, and Steve Olson. Larson thanked David Warner for his service to the LMLID.

### **Open Discussion**

Larson reminded the membership that the LMLID is a funding organization and that it welcomes projects that improve the entire lake.

A member asked who determines what areas of the lake are harvested. Larson replied that the DNR establishes this and that it depends on the type of weed and the area of the lake. There is also a limit on what percentage of the lake can be harvested. In addition, there are certain “no cut” zones and nothing may be cut within 150 feet of a dock. Larson reminded the membership that our lake is a weedy lake. Westberg noted that other lakes have even greater restrictions—for example, the limiting of harvesting to the month of June, only.

Cathy Larson moved that the meeting be adjourned, and Dan Westberg seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Submitted by Dora Potts, as recording secretary  
August 26, 2019

Approved by Dan Westberg, LMLID Secretary  
August 27, 2019