

Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District (LMLID)

Board of Directors' Meeting

June 23, 2018 10:00 a.m.

Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club

The meeting was called to order at 10:16 a.m. by Dan Westberg, standing in for Chairman, Pat Rath. A quorum was confirmed.

Board members present were: James Bradley, David Warner, Sue Woodard, Steve Olson, and Dan Westberg. Pat Rath and Cathy Larson were absent. Also present was recording secretary, Dora Potts. There were no guests in attendance.

Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by David Warner to approve the agenda, James Bradley seconded and the agenda was unanimously approved.

Financial Report

Treasurer, Jim Bradley, reported that, after bills paid in May, the LMLID checking account balance was \$9,352.17.

With the addition of the Aitkin County disbursement this month, the balance is projected to be \$25,215.50.

Bradley received a request for funding from the Lake Minnewawa Association for \$2329.83. The request did not include the backup documentation previously requested by the LMLID and there was not time to process it before this meeting. Therefore, this request will be considered at the July meeting of the LMLID.

Proposal to Join Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates

Sue Woodard proposed that the LMLID join the Minnesota Lakes and Rivers Advocates (MLR) for an annual membership fee of \$300. She added that this organization would benefit the LMLID by providing newsletters concerning pertinent lake information, supporting lake concern-advocating legislation, and being a good resource for the LMLID.

Dan Westberg contributed information about the association's lobbyist group, the support the association could provide with representation of the LMLID, and stated that he thought \$300 was a reasonable fee for the resources the association could provide.

Sue Woodard moved that the LMLID join the MLR and David Warner seconded the motion.

The following concerns were voiced during discussion:

- Jim Bradley said he had concerns about setting a precedent and the potential for a conflict of interest.
- Steve Olson voiced his concern about the MLR having the same mission as the LMLID and said he thought the LMLID should seek more information about the organization before joining.

- Jim Bradley added that the LMLID could send representation to the MLR conferences without actually joining.

Sue Woodard suggested the motion be tabled for one month with the stipulation that she would provide the MLR website information to Dora to be emailed to LMLID board members for further investigation before the July LMLID meeting.

Proposed Bylaw Changes

David Warner distributed a copy of, and reviewed, proposed changes to the LMLID bylaws that would provide for absentee ballots for LMLID Board of Director elections at annual LMLID meetings. Currently, bylaws state that only members who are present at the annual meetings can vote in these elections. The proposed changes would provide that a ballot would be mailed to all members of the LMLID.

Warner moved to approve the proposed bylaw changes as stated. Bradley seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Jim Bradley suggested a pictorial representation or timeline of what the proposed changes would involve in terms of board actions, like mailings to members and deadlines for various things.

He also asked about the case of a property being owned by more than one person and the effect of that on the number of votes per property, saying that this information should be inserted into the bylaws. Dan Westberg said that he understood from regulations he had read that voting was allowed by one person per property, regardless of how many owners were listed for that property.

David Warner suggested that the changes should be made for the LMLID to be in full compliance with LID rules. There was some discussion about whether the LMLID is bound to county or state stipulations for voting.

Jim Bradley suggested that the LMLID attempt to alter the timeline this year to provide for absentee ballots, saying that the sooner the board found out if the timeline suggested by Warner in his proposal would work, the sooner appropriate modifications could be made.

Sue Woodard questioned whether the LMLID could alter any procedure without bylaw modifications first being passed by membership at the annual meeting.

A vote was taken, with all members opposed. The motion failed.

Dan Westberg said that he would call the county for a definition of "property owner," for the LMLID's information. Dora Potts said she would provide board members with a pictorial/timeline version of what the changes would mean if the proposal was implemented in 2018.

Warner made a motion that the board attempt to try the new proposal for absentee voting as if the proposed changes were in effect to see if the changes were feasible and to show that the board was attempting to be in compliance with statutes. The validity of the vote on this motion

would be subject to board members' examination of Dora's timeline and their submission of a vote on the viability of the timeline to Pat Rath through email. Steve Olson seconded.

Discussion:

- Woodard asked for more details, including checks to be sure that members who had submitted a mail-in ballot were not issued a second ballot at the meeting and the details about the LMLID needing to send two separate mailings to members.
- Olson asked if the LMLID needed to announce nomination information by mail or if this could just be placed on the LMLID website.
- Warner said that, theoretically, the website should be enough, but it wasn't always.
- Bradley also said that attempting the change would show an attempt at compliance.

A vote was taken and Warner's second motion passed, 3 to 2. Dora Potts will provide the requested timeline to board members, asap.

Ideas for the 2018 Budget

Dan Westberg invited each board member to contribute suggestions for things that needed to be considered for the 2018 LMLID budget. The following suggestions were made:

- Bradley: \$5000 budget for the stocking of walleye
- Warner: research into how to bring the wild rice back to the lake area in north bay, north of the public landing there
- Woodard: money for the fish ladder being planned for the dam (Westberg shared that he thinks the total cost of this is already covered by the DNR) and work on invasive species prevention
- Westberg: shared that the suggestion of purchasing a pump station and curtain. (Bradley pointed out that this project would need manpower to run it and that it would be better, perhaps, to support a group that was doing this.)
- Olson: thinks that others, such as the LMA, should bring suggestions to the LMLID.
- Bradley: opening of the passage from Minnewawa to Horseshoe Lake, which has become difficult to navigate recently (Woodard pointed out that this would require DNR approval.)

Open Discussion

Contrary to a report at the last LMLID meeting, the washer is working and using hot water at the main lake access point.

Dan Westberg made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Sue Woodard. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Submitted by Dora Potts, as recording secretary
June 24, 2018

Approved by Pat Rath, LMLID Chairperson


Approved by Dan Westberg, LMLID Secretary

