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Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District (LMLID)
Annual Meeting
August 23, 2014
McGregor Community Center

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by LMLID Board Chairman, Pat Rath. Board members Mike Zell, Bob Bass, and David Warner were also present. The absence of Lee Carlson was excused. Recording secretary, Dora Potts, was present, as well. The owners of 19 Lake Minnewawa properties were also in attendance.

Rath welcomed the membership in attendance and directed all to seek further communication through the LMLID website.

First Year in Review

Explaining that this has been an organizational year, Pat Rath gave a summary of the LMLID activities, assisted by a power point presentation. Accomplishments covered were:

- Administrative set-up
- Development of a funding request form
- Meeting procedure and organizational document
- Establishment of meeting etiquette guidelines
- Establishment of policy to update the membership list twice yearly for communication and tax purposes, once each in July and December.

Financial Report

Attendees were presented with a financial summary for the year 2014, including receipts and expenditures through 8/23/14. Receipts totaled \$17,583.07 (tax money from the county) plus \$1.27 (interest), for a total of \$17,585.14. Expenditures were \$12,054.85 and included administrative start-up and maintenance expenses (checking account, post office, web site, and mailing). The remainder, which was the bulk of the LID's 2014 expenses, was money applied to weed harvesting on the lake. A further breakdown of the report can be found on the LMLID website.

The LMLID current balance is \$5,530.29. There is an expected bill from LMA for \$2,470 (AIS survey), which has been approved, but not paid. Additional Funding requests of approximately \$10,000 from LMA are expected for 2014. The LMLID expects to receive about \$16,000 from the county around the first of December 2014.

The expectation is that the LID will have about \$11,500 in unspent funds after these receipts and all currently approved disbursements.

Rath explained that taxes are paid by property owners on May 15 and October 15 of each year.

Recipients of these funds (like the LID) can expect their payments about six weeks after taxes are due.

LMA Partnership

Rath said that it is the LID's pleasure to work with the LMA and encouraged attendees to reach out to the LMA through their website www.minnewawa.org and/or their Facebook page. He also praised the LMA for being the "action" group for improving the lake. Rath spoke of the funding request form for LID funding for any proposed activity that improves the health of the total lake. Bob Bass added that the LMA is the only organization currently working on lake improvement.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Boat Inspection Program

Rath then introduced Sue Westberg, president of the LMA. Westberg spoke on what she considers the biggest accomplishment of the LMA during the past year: the establishment of the AIS inspection program.

Volunteers have been trained and were on hand for the Growlers' fishing tournament the weekend of August 16. Westberg thanked Bob and Barb Bass and David Warwick for organizing this effort. Although it is called a volunteer effort, inspectors are paid \$9.00 per hour by the LMA with funds channeled to them by the LMLID. Westberg will continue to apply for grants to help with this expense. She emphasized that DNR funding (grants) can only be used at the 2 DNR landings on the lake and that these are the only two landings currently manned due to insurance concerns. Barb Bass told of continuing efforts to find alternate insurance coverage so that other lake accesses could be manned in the future. Westberg encouraged all interested people to contact Barb Bass for information about training and to volunteer for this program. She said that many area lakes are infested with invasive species and that inspecting watercraft for AIS is the best way to keep them out of Minnewawa.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Lake Survey

Greg Pfiefer spoke about the recent hiring of Freshwater Scientific Services to perform an on-site lake survey. FSS is a private company and was chosen because it is strictly involved in lake assessment and does not sell any other services or products to improve lake health.

FSS spent 8-9 hours on the lake, covering 32 miles by boat. They conducted a variety of tests on Lake Minnewawa, including taking shoreline samples, using sonar to assess weed densities, and a one-acre intense study around many of the current boat landings.

At this time no established colonies of AIS were found. Pfiefer added that the study gives the LMA and LMLID a baseline with which to work. A second survey is planned for next year in order to further establish the baseline by performing additional inspection tests. After that, reinspection will probably be scheduled for alternate years for maintenance purposes.

Other points of discussion about this item included:

- Pfiefer expects to receive the final report from FSS in September.
- Mike Zell emphasized that early detection is key in keeping out AIS.
- A question concerning the health of Horseshoe Lake was raised. This concern was acknowledged as a possible part of expansion of current efforts.
- Residents and visitors to the lake are encouraged to be alert for AIS, as well. The various stages of AIS can be found on the DNR website and everyone should be on the lookout for them.
- The study is important in that it reassures us that there are no established colonies here. It enables us to be proactive. The other three area lakes studied the same week DID show evidence of invasive species, so Minnewawa results are especially reassuring. Those lakes were in the Brainerd, Minnetonka, and Mille Lacs areas.
- The LMLID is focused on two initiatives: reactive (such as harvesting) and proactive (lake survey and boat inspection). Mike Zell reminded the audience that the reactive portion is often much more expensive. Pat Rath believes that the LID has energized these efforts.

Approval of 2015 LMLID Budget

According to LID bylaws, the board is required to solicit a membership vote on any expenditure over \$5,000. Therefore, the proposed budget for 2015 was presented to the meeting attendees.

Expected income in 2015 is \$34,060 (524 property owners @ \$65 each)

Priorities for 2015 are:

- Liability insurance
- LMLID administration
- Subcontracting documentation of Lake Management Plan
- Vegetation management (current expenses of harvesting and starting a harvester purchase fund)
- Boat inspection for AIS
- Lake survey (to address additional details of lake health and establish benchmarks for the LID's five year report)
- Contingency fund to cover overruns and unbudgeted items.

Unused 2014 funds can be directed to LMA for capital equipment (harvester).
Unused 2015 funds will be used to improve the health of the lake.

Mike Zell presented the results of his own investigation on harvester life. According to his sources, the typical harvester life span is about 15 years. The one in use on Lake Minnewawa was new in 1987 and was purchased, used, by LMA in 1994. Zell said that the typical harvester is replaced in 10 to 15 years. The board commended the efforts of harvester workers in keeping the current one in working order, but acknowledged the probability of an upcoming harvester purchase.

A suggestion was made from the floor concerning further itemization of expenditures on future budgets. Board chair, Pat Rath, said that this could certainly be done and emphasized that the board is learning a lot during their first year in operation and that suggestions are welcomed.

More budget details are available on the LMLID website.

A motion was made to approve the 2015 budget by Chuck Munson.
The motion was seconded by Jerry Bass.

The budget was approved overwhelmingly by show of hands.

Voting and Election Concerns

Two concerns were raised concerning the LMLID voting process. One member suggested that all members should be able to vote, not just the members in attendance at the annual meeting. Chairman Rath stated that all members were invited to the meeting by mail and, thus, were given the opportunity to have their voices heard; and that our by-laws and state statute were being followed. Another member mentioned the need for an unbiased election judge. Rath said that the board was not aware of the requirement for such a judge, but that he would investigate the matter before the next meeting.

Board of Directors Elections

According to state regulations, LID boards of directors can have 5 to 9 members. The current board consists of 5 and has made a decision to try to expand to 7 at this time. The membership can vote on expanding to 9 members in the future. Two volunteers have come forward, James Bradley and Catherine Larson. No other nominations were made at the meeting.

Jerry Bass made a motion to accept the nominations of Bradley and Larson.
The motion was seconded by Robbie Danko and Nancy Karjalahti.
The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion was made by John Montour to elect Bradley and Larson to the LMLID Board of Directors.
The motion was seconded by Emil Borg.
There was no discussion.
The motion carried by voice vote.

A Healthy Lake Requires All of Us (presentation by Greg VanEeckhout, MCPA Limnologist)

VanEeckhout spoke about what it takes to have healthy lakes. He said that there are many new electronic methods and devices available to do more detailed, accurate surveys for less money. He said that it

seems that Lake Minnewawa is on the cutting edge of monitoring what is going on in the lake. He was told of additional initiatives that have been started here, such as rain gardens, the encouragement of establishing no-mow zones, and promoting run-off control.

VanEckhout also spoke of AIS, like Curly Pond Weed, a very invasive plant, which is bad for water quality, since it decays early and contributes to algae blooms. He said that rooted plants might not be desirable to some people, but that some good plants are needed for fish and a healthy lake. Thus, there is the need to encourage the growth of native aquatic plants.

There are so many lakes in Minnesota that the state deals with them in groups concerning water quality, according to the watershed in which they are located. Lake Minnewawa falls in the Mississippi River Grand Rapids Watershed. VanEckhout also said that state funding often comes to larger, more vocal groups.

Open Discussion

Chairman Rath opened the floor for discussion and these items were brought forward:

- Suggestion that budget should be subdivided next year. This was noted by Rath.
- Rath invited any members with suggestions for activities to please come forward.
- The goal of the LMLID is to keep the lake healthy for fishing and other recreational use.
- The approach of the boat inspection program is non-confrontational, but educational. Inspectors can report violations to the proper DNR authorities.
- Members were encouraged to invite other property owners to attend and to otherwise promote increased attendance at LMLID meetings.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Bob Bass.

The motion was seconded by Jerry Bass.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:24 a.m.

Submitted by Dora Potts as recording secretary

August 25, 2014

Approved by Robert Bass, LMLID Secretary

August 26, 2014