

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

Board of Directors' Meeting

May 26, 2018 10:00 a.m.

Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m. by Pat Rath.

A quorum was confirmed.

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

Guests in attendance: Fred Guenther, Jr., Fred Guenther, Sr., Bruce G. Patterson, Bill Warner, Rob Warner (representing Warner's Point), Tim Rinowski (representing the LMA), and Sue Reinhart (representing the LMA).

### **Meeting Agenda**

A motion was made by Pat Rath to approve the agenda. David Warner opposed the motion and made a motion that Bill and Robb Warner be added to the agenda. Jim Bradley seconded and there was some discussion. A vote was taken with Warner and Bradley voting for and the rest of the board against. The motion was denied.

Pat Rath made a motion to approve the agenda, as written. Jim Bradley seconded. The motion passed, with David Warner opposed.

The guests in attendance were asked to introduce themselves to the board and did so.

### **2018 Organizational Review**

Rath presented a list of organization items for the board to affirm for 2018. They were:

- the LMLID funding request form and organizational guidelines
- the LMLID by-laws
- designation of the Voyageur Press as the newspaper in which meeting notices are published
- designation of Grand Timber Bank as the LMLID's financial institution
- affirmation of Dora Potts as recording secretary, with a stipend of \$50 for each regular BOD meeting and \$75 for the annual meeting
- the LMLID meeting schedule for 2018, which is: May 26, June 23, July 28, Sept. 22, all at the Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club at 10 a.m.; the annual meeting on Saturday, Aug, 25 at McGregor Community Center, and the Dec. 8 meeting at Bann's

Regarding the funding request form, treasurer Jim Bradley noted that even though detailed receipts were requested on the form, he was not receiving these.

David Warner made a motion to approve the list of items. Dan Westberg seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **Election of Officers**

- **President:** Current President, Pat Rath invited nominations and David Warner nominated Cathy Larson. Larson declined, saying she was appreciative and might be open to the office in the future, but, at the present time, she did not feel qualified regarding lake history and LMLID bylaws. Sue Woodard nominated Rath to stay in the position. David Warner nominated Steve Olson, who also declined, saying he could not commit at this time. With only one nomination standing, Rath moved to close the nominations, Woodard seconded, and Rath accepted the office of president.
- **Vice-President:** Cathy Larson was nominated by David Warner. There were no more nominations and Warner moved they be closed. This was seconded by Dan Westberg and Larson accepted the office.
- **Treasurer:** Cathy Larson nominated Jim Bradley to remain in the position and Sue Woodard seconded the nomination. There were no further nominations, Larson moved to close nominations, with Dan Westberg seconding. Bradley accepted the position.
- **Secretary:** Pat Rath nominated Dan Westberg, with Sue Woodard seconding. After no further nominations, David Warner moved the nominations be closed and Bradley seconded. Westberg accepted the office.

Jim Bradley made the motion to add legal counsel as an LMLID office and nominated David Warner to serve. David Warner seconded.

There was some discussion about whether this would involve a conflict of interest for Warner due to his involvement with Warner's Point. Warner resisted this assertion. There were several suggestions concerning sources of legal assistance. It was suggested that pro bono help may be available through other organizations. Sue Woodard suggested researching a person with water-specific knowledge.

A vote was taken with Bradley and Olson voting for, Woodard abstaining, and the remaining board members against. The motion failed.

Rath suggested that an agenda item be created for further discussion of this topic.

## Financial Report

Treasurer, Jim Bradley, reported that, after an adjustment for 2 outstanding checks for postage from 2017, the 2017 ending balance in the LMLID checking account was \$8,449.68.

In January 2018, the LMLID received the final 2017 payment from Aitkin County, in the amount of \$1,077.60, which brings the beginning balance for 2018 to \$9,527.28.

The LMLID has received the following bills to be paid out of this balance:

- Ink Cartridges (Bradley) \$120.00
- Recording Secretary \$50.00
- Post Office rental \$54.00
- Printing \$39.28
- McGregor Insurance \$1420.00
- Steve Olson (reimbursement for State of MN Water Conference) \$204.02
- LMA Op. Expenses \$1362.69

There was discussion about the proposed payment to the LMA. Clarification was given that this payment was necessary at this time so that the organization would have money to pay for the soon-to-come harvesting operations, including operator wages.

Steve Olson moved to approve the report and Cathy Larson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Pat Rath will follow up with the LMA for detailed receipts, as requested by Bradley.

### **State of Water Conference**

Steve Olson reported on his attendance at this conference, including experiences visiting other LID groups and learning of the major differences in LID operations. Olsen said that the variation is based mainly on size, specific lake needs/concerns, and available funding. Olsen also gave the board information on blue-green algae he gained from the conference and recommended the LMLID send a representative to future conferences.

### **AIS Activities**

Pat Rath noted that the inspectors are on duty and boat washers are operational at the Lake Minnewawa public accesses. Visitor Fred Guenther, Sr., reported hearing that the washer was using cold water, instead of hot. Rath said he would check with the LMA about this.

Rath also noted the various efforts of organizations to promote AIS detection. Things like passing out towels and bag reminders and advertising on restaurant placemats help to get the word out. One project that has been implemented is "geofencing," a method of detecting boats entering the lake at various points so that inspectors may tailor their work appropriately. There is also a program that allows a person to become an official AIS inspector, a certification held by the present harvester operator.

### **Options for By-law Changes**

The expectation was that David Warner would provide options for allowing absentee voting for open director positions at our annual meeting. When asked if he had recommendations for wording changes to our bylaws, he was unable to find his notes. The board discussed the following:

- **Absentee Voting:** (concerning only the voting for the board of director positions, not for budget approval or other items brought up at the annual meeting)

David Warner stated that the state statutes for LIDs require the provision for absentee ballots in this case. He suggested mailing the ballot with the annual meeting announcement and the board discussed doing so.

Rath asked Warner if he would come up with appropriate wording for the by-law change regarding this and Warner agreed to bring that to the June LMLID meeting.

- **Proxy Voting:** (for director positions)

It was determined that it would be impossible to provide for equitable and fair proxy voting at the present time.

- **Electronic Meetings:**

Electronic meetings are not a possibility at the present time, due to system requirements. Rath said that this could be revisited at a future time.

## **Open Discussion**

Several guests contributed to this discussion:

Mainly, the guest thanked the LMLID for all they do, saying that the organization has improved the lake and gotten recognition for doing so. Several guests stated that the lake is the best it's ever been, with regard to accessibility of areas and abundance of fish.

One guest advised that the most recent stocking was last Monday and that it is possible to use DNA to determine if young fish are a result of stocking or natural reproduction in the lake.

It was agreed by many guests and board members that the health of the lake is the result of efforts by many people and that there is a desire to work together toward this end.

There was some concern expressed about failing septic systems, especially on properties that were not actually *on* the lake. Some said these would be fixed as properties changed hands, but there remains concern about the effect on lake health.

One guest reminded the group of the importance of the weed harvester because decaying weeds can harm fish.

Jim Bradley made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Steve Olson. The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.

Submitted by Dora Potts, as recording secretary  
May 27, 2018

Approved by Pat Rath, LMLID Chairperson  
May 27, 2018

Approved by Dan Westberg, LMLID Secretary  
May 28, 2018