

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

Board of Directors’ Meeting  
September 22, 2018 10:00 a.m.  
Minnewawa Sportsmen’s Club

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Pat Rath. A quorum was confirmed. Board members present were: James Bradley, Pat Rath, Sue Woodard, Steve Olson, David Warner, and Dan Westberg. Cathy Larson was absent. Guests in attendance were Bruce and Terry Patterson, Robb Warner (designated spokesperson for Warner’s Point, Inc.), and Bill Warner. Also present was recording secretary, Dora Potts.

**Meeting Agenda**

Pat Rath presented the agenda for approval. Jim Bradley proposed accepting the agenda with one addition: a review of the August LMLID membership meeting. Dan Westberg seconded and the amended agenda was approved unanimously.

**Financial Report**

Jim Bradley presented the financial report.

The checking account balance at the end of July was \$25,040.38. Since then, these expenses have been paid:

Budgeted CD purchase	\$10,000.00
Secretarial costs (2 months)	\$ 100.00
McGregor Printing	\$ 298.72
Website	\$ 107.99
P.O.	\$ 186.30
<u>LMA Grant</u>	<u>\$ 2329.83</u>

Balance after these bills were paid \$12,017.54

Since then, these bills have been received and verified. They will be paid as soon as the LMLID check reorder is received (the first check reorder contained a printing error).

LMA	\$ 2,833.47
McGregor Printing	\$ 67.33
Voyageur Press	\$ 16.00
Secretarial costs	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
For a total of:	\$ 2,966.80

That will leave a total of \$ 9,050.74 in the LMLID checking account

There are several outstanding bills from the LMA that were received immediately prior to this meeting and whose amounts need to be verified.

Pat Rath moved to pay these bills from LMA as soon as verification is complete. Dan Westberg seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

Westberg moved to approve the financial report and the motion was seconded by Sue Woodard. It passed unanimously.

### **Well Seminar**

Pat Rath presented information about a free program of septic system and private well homeowner education classes. The University of Minnesota and the Minnesota Department of Health are offering these classes and Charlie Sparks of the Big Sandy Lake Association is putting together a program for our area. It is just in the planning stages, but there will be some expenses, mainly in the area of publicity (mailings, posters, etc.) and they are looking for sponsors. Rath said he thought it would be a good idea for the LMLID to become a partner in this since it relates to the improvement/protection of the entire lake. He suggested a contribution of up to \$1500.00 toward the project.

David Warner moved that the LMLID allot up to \$1500.00 for this cause and Dan Westberg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### **CiBiobase Baseline Data**

Rath reminded the board of the baseline study done in cooperation with CiBiobase in 2016 that provided maps of three characteristics of Lake Minnewawa: depth and contour, biomass (weed density), and bottom hardness. Rath has received communication from CiBiobase giving the LMLID three options for the future care of this data:

1. Purchase maintenance of the data, as is, for \$195.00 per year
2. Purchase a subscription for additional services using the data (for a higher price)
3. Do nothing and the data will be erased from CiBiobase records

Rath recommended the LMLID do nothing as he has the data stored both on a computer hard drive and on another external disk.

Discussion followed during which these thoughts were considered by the board:

- Yes, the data could be used, as planned for a follow-up study, but only if it were done in a timely manner. This is due to the fact that changes in technology would probably make the data unusable in its current form in seven years or less.
- Is the data storage method safe? Rath assured the board that it was. Warner questioned this.
- Are there other ways to obtain this data (satellite)?
- It would cost about \$5000.00 for a new survey.

David Warner moved that the LMLID pay \$195.00 for the basic maintenance plan with CiBiobase and James Bradley seconded.

Dan Westberg proposed an amendment to the motion that this commitment be revisited in 3 years, citing the age of the data at that time.

The amended motion passed with 4 board members voting yes and 2 voting no.

### **December LMLID Meeting**

The timeliness of holding a December meeting was discussed by the board. While this meeting was originally necessary for managing board responsibilities, it has become less so as fund management has become more stable and predictable in nature and schedule. The board considered moving the meeting to one of several other dates in October. However, due to lack of availability of board members on those dates, it was decided to adhere to the current meeting schedule with its December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting date.

### **Added Agenda Item: Review of August Annual Meeting**

Jim Bradley questioned the advisability of the board presenting the issue of absentee voting to the membership implying that it was board-approved and then some members of the board voting to reject the motion at the actual meeting. He said that the LMLID is a quasi-governmental organization and should function differently from other associations. Bradley also stated his opinion that the board should have consulted a third party for legal advice pertaining to the board adhering to LID statutes.

David Warner agreed and stated that he had a copy of the state LID statutes. He read excerpts from the documents which stated that all members must be able to elect officers. He said that the LMLID had amended its bylaws to required voting members to be present. He then made a motion that the board pass a continuing resolution to use the procedure proposed at the annual meeting (that was voted down by membership) providing for absentee ballots and act accordingly during 2019. Rath stated that would require a change to the bylaws which could not be made without a membership vote.

Member attendee, Bruce Patterson, was recognized and read two separate sections from the state statutes about this issue. He noted that the two statements contradicted each other concerning the provision for voting by members not present at the annual meeting.

There was discussion of whether the mailed meeting announcement provided membership with enough opportunity to vote since they could choose to attend the meeting. The board also considered if an absentee ballot should only be available upon member request (as is permitted in other elections), instead of blanket issuance by mailing to all members.

Dan Westberg offered to contact a state authority for another opinion on the responsibility of the LMLID to offer absentee voting and report back to the board. Other board members agreed

that more information was needed concerning the official requirements since there seemed to be some contradiction and confusion. Westberg will follow up with the board on this matter.

### **Open Discussion**

- Attendee Bill Warner asked to be recognized but was denied because he is not a property owner and, although he is part of the Warner's Point Association (which owns a single property), he is not authorized to speak for that entity. Only Robb Warner has been designated as their spokesperson.

David Warner moved that Bill Warner be allowed to speak. Jim Bradley seconded. There were 3 votes for and 3 against. The motion failed.

- Pat Rath shared a copy of the Outdoor News that contained an article on Lake Minnewawa.
- Steve Olson asked if other members had noted the mention of phosphorus concerns and noted that phosphorus is present in many living things. Rath recalled that excess phosphorus can be prevented through sound shoreline practices and vegetation management.

David Warner made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Dan Westberg. The meeting adjourned at 11:08 a.m.

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

Approved by Pat Rath, LMLID Chairperson  
September 25, 2018

Approved by Dan Westberg, LMLID Secretary  
September 25, 2018