

Lake Minnewawa Lake Improvement District (LMLID)

Annual Membership Meeting

August 26, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Minnewawa Sportsmen's Club

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by LMLID President, Bruce Patterson. A quorum was confirmed.

Board members present were: Jim Fletcher, Bruce Patterson, Cathy Larson, Diane Seefeld, and Dan Westberg. Also present was recording secretary, Dora Potts. Bonnie Montour, Steve Olson, and James Bradley were absent. In addition to board members, there were 10 landowners present with a total of 8 properties represented.

Meeting Agenda

The agenda for the meeting was presented by Patterson.

1. Introduction of LMLID Board Members

Patterson gave each member of the LMLID board of directors an opportunity to introduce themselves and they all did, each giving a brief history of their time on Lake Minnewawa.

Patterson also explained the circumstances of new board member, Diane Seefeld, being appointed to fill Jeff Johnson's unexpired term on the board. This action was taken according to the LMLID bylaws. He welcomed Seefeld to the board.

2. Statement of Meeting Purpose

Patterson reviewed the purposes of the annual meeting:

- To review the previous year's finances
- To approve any planned expenditures greater than \$5000
- To approve the proposed 2024 LMLID budget
- To elect board members to open director positions
- To relay the current and planned LMLID activity status

3. Review of 2023 LMLID Finances

Treasurer, Jim Fletcher, presented this financial report:

- The current LMLID checking account balance is \$16,757.04.
- The LMLID expects to receive about \$15,400 from Aitkin County in November 2023.

- There has been a request from the LMA for \$6,037.98 to cover both harvester expenses and repair, as well as beaver trapping.
- Funds for the LMLID account are generated by the \$65 per landowner annual tax assessed by Aitkin County.
- The number of landowners remains essentially the same from year to year and the budget for both 2022 and 2023 was \$33,800.
- A summary of the 2023 LMLID budget is as follows:

○ LMLID Administration	\$3,000
○ LMA Operations	20,000
○ Weirs Dam Project	10,000
○ Miscellaneous Contingency	<u>800</u>
Total:	\$33,800

Funding: 520 District property owners @\$65 each = \$33,800

Unused District funds up to \$10,000 can be used to provide funding for LMA weed harvesting equipment, as needed.

Patterson contributed that all funds go to improve the health of the entire lake and that the Lake Minnewawa Association has been instrumental in this effort. He thanked the LMA for their initiatives.

Seefeld had a question about the breakdown of "Administrative" costs listed in the yearly budget. Fletcher referred her to the detailed listing of expenses in the 2023 Annual Meeting Report (available on LMLID website).

Westberg moved that the financial report be approved, and Patterson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Approval of Any Items Expected to Cost Over \$5,000 in 2024

The LMLID must obtain membership approval before spending over \$5,000 on any one item. In this regard, Sue Westberg of the Lake Minnewawa Association (LMA) shared an upcoming opportunity the LMA has received.

A member of the LMA is also a professor at the University of Minnesota and is interested in doing an environmental DNA study, the first of its kind in the United States, and wants to do this study in Lake Minnewawa. Every living thing in the lake deposits its DNA and, through this study, that DNA can be gathered. The results will give such information as species of fish in the lake, where these fish were bred, and the incidence of any unknown invasive aquatic species present in the lake. This type of study is non-biased, scientific, and less invasive than some other methods and the data gathered could be instrumental in planning for the continued health of the lake. Comparisons can also be made to future data gathered.

Cathy Larson moved that the LMLID agree to fund up to \$10,000 of the study expenses when requested by the LMA.

There was continued discussion:

Diane Seefeld suggested that the LMLID needed more information about the study before making a major fund commitment to the project. Several people more familiar with the proposed project provided additional facts.

- The actual cost to the LMA is currently undetermined, but the DNR has expressed great interest in this, the fisheries are very pleased at the prospect of such a study, and there will be several opportunities for grants.
- Some of the actual workers will be university students who are doing this study as part of their pursuit of either a master's degree or PhD in environmental science, so their fee will be low.
- The university will also fund part of the study and the LMLID also has the three previously purchased CDs of over \$10,000 each (originally purchased for AIS treatment if needed and now also designated for assisting LMA initiatives).

Dan Westberg moved that the LMLID board approve that an amount up to \$10,000 could be used for support of this study. This was with the understanding that there would be various other avenues of study funding and that the LMLID commitment to the project would function as evidence of support to other agencies from which grant money is sought.

Larson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Then Patterson moved that the membership approve the above expenditure plan. Larson seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

5. Approve Proposed LMLID Budget for 2024

Fletcher presented the proposed budget for 2024, which is essentially the same as that for the past two years:

LMLID Administration	\$3,000
LMA Operations	20,000
Uncommitted Funds	<u>10,800</u>
Total Budget:	\$33,800

This total is equal to the estimated income from the \$65 per landowner property tax.

Unused District funds up to \$10,000 can be used to provide funding for LMA weed harvesting equipment, as needed.

Discussion

- "Uncommitted funds" are basically contingency funds. So far, the lake is in good shape concerning aquatic invasive species, but invasion can occur at any time and the cost to eradicate them is very high. The LMLID wants to be proactive and ready.

Patterson moved that the proposed 2024 budget be approved by the membership. Westberg seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

6. Board of Director Elections

There were no absentee ballots requested or submitted this year.

Karen Olson was the only member to apply for a board position.

Members at the meeting elected her unanimously. Olson will begin her term at the May 2024 LMLID Board meeting.

7. Status of LMLID Activities

- Patterson announced that both Jim Bradley and Cathy Larson will come off the LMLID board after having served the maximum-allowed consecutive terms according to the bylaws. He thanked Larson for her service.
- Patterson also said that, according to his research, there are 130 fulltime residents of the 520 total lake residents. He encouraged all to spread the word about opportunities for all residents to serve on the LMLID board and by joining the LMA.

8. Open Discussion

- Greg Pfeifer offered accolades to the LMA for helping with the various other projects in addition to harvesting, the loon nesting platforms and water studies among them. He said that because of those who serve, the future of our lake is brighter.
- Tim Rinowski stated that the visibility of the LMA has improved due to these projects and initiatives like the kids' t-shirt give-away. He added that the organization has attracted more volunteers lately, as evidenced at the recent LMA barbecue, but that more volunteers are needed.
- Sue Westberg provided details of the LMA's recent activities:
 - Beaver trapping has now been suspended until fall and a total of 22 beavers have been trapped. The beavers build on top of the dam and the LMA has to hire a state certified and licensed trapper to control them. This costs \$100 per beaver.
 - The LMA recently lost its harvester operators but was fortunate to hire a new outstanding team of drivers who are on the lake every day.

- State of the weed harvester:
 - The harvester is aging. The LMA has been fortunate recently to find several experts in various harvester functions who have recommended, and sometimes performed, appropriate repairs.
 - In light of the above, the LMA now has a task force to study harvester purchasing possibilities so that the organization will be knowledgeable before it is absolutely necessary or prudent to replace the harvester. The aim is to determine the best time to get the most value out of the current machine.
- There have been some recent water studies in the lake, including taking vegetation samples. For the first time, a diver was recently used for one of them. This diver concentrated on areas near the landings as those are the most common locations for invasive species. The results of this should be available in about three weeks. The results of a zebra mussel study should also be communicated to the LMA soon.
- Members were asked to remind their guests to wash all boats before transferring them from another lake to Minnewawa.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Cathy Larson and seconded by Dan Westberg. The meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.

Submitted by Dora Potts, as recording secretary
August 29, 2023

Approved by Dan Westberg, LMLID Secretary
August 29, 2023

Approved by Bruce Patterson, LMLID President
August 30, 2023