

# LAKE JOHN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

July 21, 2022 MEETING MINUTES

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Steve Benzschawel, Doug Van Metre, Kirk Lindholm, Alan Isaacson, Dave Owens, Paul Fliegel, Peter MacMillan. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chris Snowdon, Dan Ventrelli. A quorum of the Board was established.

LJID Property owners present: None.

There were no others present.

The meeting of the Lake John Improvement District Board of Directors ("Board") was called to order at 6:32p.m., at the Southside Township Hall, by Chairman Steve Benzschawel.

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** The minutes of the June 16, 2022 meeting as proposed by the Secretary were reviewed. M/S/P to approve the minutes of the June 16, 2022 meeting of the Board of Directors.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

## **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:**

**Communications** –No report.

**Finance** –No report.

**Resource Management** –Freshwater Science has completed the EWM delineation and CLP posttreatment survey. As they were able to complete both simultaneously, the cost was reduced: \$950.00 for the EWM and \$250.00 for the CLP work. Freshwater Science will also complete the EWM treatment in two locations in the south end of the lake, comprising 2.5 and 3.7 acres, respectively. The cost for the two locations will be \$1,907.06 and \$2000.72. The committee is reviewing recommendations for the use of an herbicide other than 2,4-D. It is more costly, but is reported to have better and longer-lasting results.

M/S/P to approve payment of \$1,200.00 to Freshwater Scientific for the EWM delineation and CLP posttreatment survey.

**Administration** –Request for information from County for 2023 property assessments for LID funding. The property list approved by the members at the annual meeting and the minutes from the annual meeting evidencing approval of the list will be provided to the County. The requested total assessment will be divided equally among the 149 properties of the approved list. Annual report is due within 4 months of the Annual Meeting, so before October 25. A draft will be available for review and revision at our next meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Erickson farm update – No update.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Reprise of Annual Meeting - Concerns expressed regarding the various reports using acronyms and shorthand language that we are used to but unfamiliar to the membership. We need to have better control over the ballot distribution at the meeting. We will have three seats open for election again next year and recruitment of new members should be undertaken. Next year's annual meeting is June 23, 2023, at the South Haven City Hall.

Starry stonewort assessment schedule – one assessment was done mid-June. The second contracted assessment will be done mid fall.

Distribution from County - The 1<sup>st</sup> half 2022 assessment payment was received from the County on June 21. \$17,115.91.

Requested reimbursements for costs incurred for set-up and annual meeting – All costs have been submitted for reimbursement. Payments will be forthcoming.

Farm/Lake run-off – Don Bixby property and others – Concerns with unfiltered rain water entering the lake through culverts/pipes and ditches. Alan Isaacson, Paul Fliegel and Doug VanMetre will contact Don and others with concerns re: run-off from their properties.

Wake boats and effects on water quality, aquatic plants and bogs – The increase in the presence of wake boats coincides with an increase in phosphorus levels in the lake water and large amounts of vegetation uprooting, especially wild celery of late. The deep down draft from the engines on those wake boats (per their design) is understood to be the cause. Studies are underway with the DNR, U of M and others to document this effect. The water down draft from the boats can reach depths in excess of twelve feet. That churns the lake bottom sediment, releasing phosphorus otherwise trapped there, and raising the lake water phosphorus. And the water churning uproots vegetation. The average depth of Lake John is less than fourteen feet, so much of the lake area is susceptible to this happening. We have seen the phosphorus level in our lake water nearly double this year to levels that will result in algae blooms. Some education of the users of those watercraft, encouraging them to use their boats in the deepest parts of the lake may be useful in minimizing these effects. A discussion was also had as to whether the LID has the authority to remove bogs from the lake under the authority granted by the County Board. The Lake Association holds the bog removal permit from the DNR and has the volunteer manpower to tend to this when need arises. If the LID has authority to do so, the cost of the removal could be equally divided among all of the District properties through the budget/Annual Meeting process. The Administration Committee will look into this issue.

Election of Officers – Committee Assignments – An election for Officers was held. Steve Benzschawel was re-elected President unanimously, there being no other candidates; Dave Owens was re-elected Vice-President unanimously, there being no other candidates; Dan

Ventrelli was re-elected Treasurer unanimously, there being no other candidates; Peter MacMillan was re-elected Secretary unanimously, there being no other candidates.

Committee Assignments until reassigned are as follows:

Communications – Dan Ventreilli, Dave Ownes, Doug VanMetre;

Finance – Dan Ventrelli, Alan Isaacson, Dave Owens;

Resource Management – Steve Benzschawel, Chris Snowden, Paul Fliegel, Kirk Lindholm;

Administration – Peter MacMillan, Dave Owens.

**Adjournment:** There being no other business - M/S/P to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:26p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter MacMillan

Board Secretary

**NEXT MEETING:** At the Southside Township Hall, Thursday, August 18, 2022, beginning at 6:30 p.m.