

LAKE JOHN IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 18, 2023 MEETING MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Steve Benzschawel, Kirk Lindholm, Alan Isaacson, Dan Ventrelli, Dave Owens, Peter MacMillan, Doug Van Metre, Paul Fliegel. **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Chris Snowdon. 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 6:30 p.m., by Chairman Steve Benzschawel at the Southside Township Hall. However, not being able to gain access to the hall due to a faulty lock mechanism, the meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m. and reconvened at Mr. Benzschawel's cabin at 6:50 p.m.. All in attendance at the Township Hall were also in attendance at the reconvened meeting. The quorum was maintained.

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: The minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting as proposed by the Secretary were reviewed. M/S/P to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2023 meeting of the Board of Directors.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES:

Communications – Updating of LID website is on-going.

Finance – Current balance in the checking account is \$33,443.87. Current balance of the reserve fund is \$17,466.08. Adrienne Owens, full-time lake resident, has expressed an interest in running for election by the LID members to the board seat being vacated by Dan Ventrelli and also running to be elected as treasurer by the board.

Resource Management –Report covered in new business.

Administration – A telephone call was received from a DNR representative re: the annual assessments on the two DNR properties in the LID. The inquiry was regarding the nature of the work being done by the LID. Whether the DNR will pay the annual assessment is being reviewed, but we were advised not to expect that the assessments will be paid.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bob Erickson farm update – Rachel Development has been removing all bushes and trees and grading the development area. Two culverts have been installed by Rachel under the re-worked road along the east shore of Lake John. This will be investigated further.

EWM, CLP treatment/assessment update – Proposal has been received for ProcellCOR treatment of 9.2 acres in the west bay for EWM at a cost of \$8,502. M/S/P to approve that contract and treatment with that chemical compound. CLP treatment will not be pursued this summer, at the recommendation of the application company, based on the much reduced presence of CLP in the lake. This seems to be a function of the conditions experienced this past winter and is being observed in other area lakes.

Grant application update – Grants were timely submitted. Steve is anticipating that we will not receive any grants this year.

Wake Boat Study – There are other studies of this issue being conducted at other locations across the country like the one being conducted by the University of Minnesota regarding the effect of wake boats on water bodies. Nothing new from the U of M on its on-going study.

Bog Removal – The Lake John Association does have permits necessary for bog removal and transport this year. Rachel Development has stated that it would assist in the bog relocation efforts at no cost to the LID or the Lake Association. We will see if they follow through with that. The bog removal will be pursued once there are sufficient volunteers with boats back on the lake.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 Budget – M/S/P to include a line item of \$5,000 in the 2024 annual budget for bog removal. M/S/P to again propose a \$30,000.00 annual budget for the LID. With the inclusion of the \$5,000 bog removal line item and some anticipated reduced costs due to adjustments in the CLP and EWM treatment plans, that is workable, but will reduce the contribution to the reserve fund to @ \$1,800.

East shore backlot lake access – An article appeared in the recent Annandale Advocate re: some backlot(s) in the Rachel development being granted lake access. No details were available. This will be investigated further.

Wright County funded projects – Wright County staff has advised Steve that it can send staff to Lake John to assess whether there are land management projects that could be helpful to Lake John. Depending on the project and cost, the County does contribute to the cost of any projects approved by them, up to 75% of the cost. This was referred to the Resource Management committee for investigation.

Wright County Coalition of Lake Associations and Minnesota Lakes & Rivers membership – Steve recommended that the LID join these two organizations. WCCOLA is an unofficial group of lake associations and LIDs in Wright County that serves as an information clearing house and a forum to discuss best practices in responding to issues arising in lake management. It is self-

funded and runs on an annual budget of @ \$1,500.00. Steve has attended some of the meetings of this group and thinks that we could gather useful information and exchange ideas with others that are pursuing the same goals as our LID. Dues are \$25.00 per year. M/S/P to join the WCCOLA and pay \$100.00 to the organization as dues and an additional supporting contribution. Minnesota Lake & Rivers is a lobbying organization representing lakeshore owners, lake associations and LIDs, among others, at the Minnesota Legislature. It has been in operation for several years. Steve has also attended meetings of this organization and thinks that it would be beneficial to Lake John to be active in the efforts of that group. Dues are \$100.00 per year, based on the number of properties on our lake. M/S/P to join Minnesota Lake & Rivers and pay \$200.00 to the organization as dues and an additional supporting contribution.

Flowage to Lake Sylvia – The culverts through which water runs from Lake John to Lake Sylvia under County Road 3 are open and flowing with observable current in the water streams.

Liability Insurance Renewal – Dave Owens has contacted the insurance agent and we should expect a 2% premium increase at renewal in July.

Annual Meeting – the Annual Meeting of the LID is scheduled for June 24th, beginning at 9:00 a.m., at the South Haven City Hall. Peter presented drafts of the meeting Agenda, ballots, meeting notices to be posted and published and letters to be sent to the LID members and the County and Township boards, the DNR and MPCA, along with the list of proposed 2024 LID properties, updated from the Wright County Property Tax information website. The Agenda text must be updated when the final budget proposal is prepared, and subject to that modification, the documents were approved. The property list contains the same 149 properties as were originally approved by the Wright County Board. A work session was scheduled for Monday, May 22, beginning at 6:00 p.m. in Steve's garage to stuff envelopes for the mailing.

Adjournment: There being no other business - M/S/P to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:07p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter MacMillan
Board Secretary

NEXT MEETING: At the Southside Township Hall, Thursday, June 15, 2023, beginning at 6:30 p.m.