

**LIDA LAKES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Saturday, October 21, 2023
Lida Township Hall**

Members Present: David Hilber, Mike Spangler, Sheldon Poss, David Braton, Brain Graftaas.

Members Present Remotely: Zach Herrmann

Members Absent: Mimsi Weckwerth.

Guests: Wade Johnson and Courtney Peterson.

Agenda Item I. Call to order David Hilber, 9:02 AM.

Agenda Item II. Pledge of Allegiance led by David Hilber.

Agenda Item III. Introductions and Announcements. Chair David Hilber introduced Board Members present.

Agenda Item IV. Approval of Agenda

Motion to Approve Agenda by Graftaas, seconded by Spangler. Carried

Agenda Item V. Approval of August 19, 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes.

Hilber reviewed a complaint submitted to the DNR by a property owner regarding a joke that was told at our Annual Meeting by DNR Fish Specialist Steve Kubeny during his presentation. A letter of apology was sent by Kubeny to the individual and LLID. Hilber responded to Mr. Kubeny and MN DNR accepting his apology and no further action will be required by the LLID Board. Kubeny's letter and LLID's response are filed with these October 21, 2023 Board Minutes.

Motion to Approve Minutes of August 19, 2023 by Braton, seconded by Graftaas. Carried

Agenda Item VI. Treasurer's Report

Herrmann reviewed the current LLID Financial Statement showing a balance on 8/19/2023 of \$70,640.36 cash on hand. Payments on 9/14/2023 for Curly Leaf Pondweed Treatment, \$13,862.74; Inlet Sampling and Testing, \$348.21 and \$348.21; and Otter Tail COLA Dues, \$780.00 have been paid. The Annual Meeting Public Notice to Pelican Press of \$90.35 is to be paid. With all expenses current the available cash on hand is \$55,301.20 excluding Pelican Press payment. Estimated second installment (November 2023) of Tax Income is expected to be \$16,878.51. The recent walleye stocking will be billed and paid prior to the next Board meeting. The stocking expense is expected to be \$11,609.00.

Motion to approve October 19, 2023 Treasurer's Report including payment of Pelican Press Legal Notice by Graftaas, seconded by Poss. Carried.

Agenda Item VII. Lake Coordinator Services Proposal

Graftaas reviewed the open position of Lake Coordinator through RMB Labs. RMB has indicated they will not fill Steve Henry's position. Graftaas reached out to Moriya Rufer. Rufer served as Lake

Coordinator through RMB Labs for PGOLID from 2007-2018 when Lida was a Lake Association. Rufer is Scientist 5 and Watershed Planner with Houston Engineering, Inc. Graftaas has communicated with Rufer regarding contracting with her, in her Houston Engineering position, as Lida Lakes lake coordinator. Rufer was recently contracted in a like position with PGOLID. Graftaas reviewed the scope of work to be performed. The cost estimate is \$12,786. Using funds in the 2024 budget, Graftaas estimates LLID has \$7,900 that is budgeted for like duties. Graftaas indicated the LLID can redistribute additional funds in the current budget to cover the remaining \$4,886 to contract with Houston Engineering with Moriya Rufer as lead. With Rufer's expertise the board feels we would have solid direction for the future of Lida Lakes. Hiring Rufer allows the LLID to have professional guidance and oversight on contracts, surveys and treatment along with overall lake management. Hilber also indicated Rufer would be doing annual reports to board members and providing information to property owners on the website and Facebook page. Since Herrmann is Vice President of Houston Engineering, Inc. he has abstained from discussion and potential vote.

Braton made the motion to contract the services of Houston Engineering, Inc. utilizing Moriya Rufer MS, CLM, Scientist, as Lida Lakes Lake Coordinator at an estimated cost of \$12,786/year. Seconded by Spangler. Herrmann abstained due to conflict of interest. Carried.

Graftaas will contact Rufer regarding a start date. We discussed working with MN Keep It Clean for regarding ice fishing concerns.

Graftaas provided an update on the Moonlight Bay project. Graftaas has been in discussion with Aaron Larsen with West Ottertail Soil and Water Conservation District. The District will review the contract for work on the Moonlight Bay project at their November 13, 2023 meeting.

Agenda Item VIII. Board of Directors Potential Vacancy

Hilber reported this is the third consecutive board meeting Memsie Weckwerth has been unable to attend. Due to family health matters, Weckwerth verbally indicated her desire to resign from the board. To date, a letter of resignation from Weckwerth has not been received. Since the Bylaws are not specific that a written resignation is required, the board discussed options. A board appointed interim board member would serve until the August 2024 Annual Meeting. At that time property owners would determine the new board member by ballot. Braton discussed utilizing our Beach Captains and regularly attending property owners to our board meetings as a source for potential board member. Kathy Arntson was suggested as a replacement. Herrmann and Braton will check on her interest.

Agenda Item. IX. Lake Management Update

Fisheries: Walleye Stocking

Spangler provided a report on the recent walleye stocking. On Tuesday, October 24, 2023 North Lida was stocked with 270 pounds of fingerlings and South Lida 341 pounds. Last spring 72 pounds were stocked in North Lida. DNR Jim Wolters recommended an equal split in North and South Lida this year due to the weak netting results on South Lida. Mike has taken photos and video as Klugs Fish Farm in Garfield, MN placed walleye at the public landings at the north access and the State Park public access. Our expenditure was \$19/pound for a total cost of \$11,609.00. These photos are to be posted on both the website and Facebook.

Spangler reviewed the DNR's effort and recent fish counts. Lida Lakes is on an every-other-year DNR stocking cycle. If the DNR sees the stocking working they will increase number of fry stocked. Weed has been chocking the lakes for active fish. Chemical, weed rolling, shoreline lacking buffer zones, and agricultural run-off are impacting fishing. The discussion turned to fishing tournaments and how much pressure is created. Ice fishing and concerns related to the Ice Hole Bar were also discussed. Board members asked what benefit we see in having a bar on the lake that is a novelty which damages lake quality when vehicles bring salt and road grim on the lake. It was questioned what action the LLID could take. Board members shared concerns they have seen by having a bar on Lake Lida. Spangler would like the DNR to take increased action to deter abuse. After extensive discussion Braton asked the lake management committee to review this matter.

Braton made the motion that Lida Lakes Improvement District goes on record to oppose having an established ice bar on the lake as it is a natural resource and we are charged to preserve and protect the lake from harmful effects such as damaging salt and road grim detrimental to lake quality. Seconded by Poss. Motion Carried.

The Board discussed the organization of a Fishing Committee and the expectation for them to meet prior to the January board meeting.

Agenda Item X. Communications Update

Hilber indicated the Bylaws were not on the website. Meeting notices are also not posted. We need to get both those back up. Graftaas wants to see the info for Teams Meetings of our board meetings posted. Braton and Graftaas will check with Tony regarding updates. We have struggled with updates on our sites. Braton, as secretary, requested administrative rights to get website updates. Braton also is requesting format changes for mobile optimization. Hilber will visit with Katie on her interest to continue as Communication Committee lead.

Agenda Item XI. Next Meeting Dates

- January Board Meeting Tentative Date: January 13, 2024 Lida Town Hall 9 AM
- April Board Meeting Tentative Date: April 13, 2024 Lida Town Hall 9 AM
(Lida Town Hall is confirmed and approved for use on both dates.)

Agenda Item XI. Adjournment at 10:32 AM