

June 21, 2024

**Subject: Lida Lakes Improvement District Annual Meeting Notice**

Greetings Lake Lida Property Owners!

We are writing to inform and invite you to the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Lida Lakes Improvement District (LLID).

## **9 AM SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024 LIDA TOWNSHIP HALL**

**Lida Township Hall is located at 42206 230th Avenue, Pelican Rapids, Minnesota 56572**

The Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for members of the LLID (property owners around Lida Lakes) to participate and provide input and hear how your LLID is working to maintain and improve the quality of this great resource. Enclosed with this letter you will find a copy of the draft Annual Meeting Agenda, proposed 2025 budget, and an absentee ballot for election of Directors. Additional information on the budget and election process are provided below, along with a general update on Lida Lakes Improvement District activities.

### **2025 Budget**

The budget for 2025 will be presented for approval by members in attendance at the Annual Meeting. Proposed budget items are attached to this letter. The budget will result in a flat rate not to exceed \$50 per parcel being applied to your taxes, as they were this year. Budget categories are summarized below:

- **Administrative:** Expenses included in this fund category include insurance requirements, communications, the annual meeting, and organizational dues. The budget allows the Board of Directors to have discretion to best communicate with LLID members. Communication has been identified as a critical need moving forward.
- **Clean Water:** A primary purpose of the LLID is to maintain recreation and property values for its members. A key part of this is the clean water in our lakes. LLID has committed funding to a water quality improvement project in partnership with the West Otter Tail SWCD and anticipate construction this year. The state of Minnesota has committed funding to water quality that can be used to leverage local funds. This category allows the LLID to invest local match in future projects that have potential to improve our water quality. To capitalize on this, the LLID has funded this category in the prior two years and are proposing to reduce the portion of the 2025 budget to recognize a healthy reserve.
- **Recreation:** As stated above, recreation is a primary concern for the LLID, and fishing and boating are key components of it. We've increased our budget to further assist in fisheries support, which includes future yearling walleye stocking in North and South Lida. We also plan to continue to provide funding to support outreach during the winter months to limit pollution on the ice.
- **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** We plan to continue to support efforts to curb AIS in our lakes. The budget assumes we'll continue Curly Leaf Pondweed treatment in 2025 but does allow for flexibility to redirect funds if a more immediate need is identified.
- **Planning and Research:** To be fiscally responsible with our local tax dollars, we need to understand the science behind lake concerns. This will aid the LLID in making sound decisions with measurable outcomes. We plan to continue sampling and testing for 2025.

### **Election of Directors**

The Lida Lakes Improvement District (LLID) is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of seven at-large individuals meeting eligibility requirements specified in the LLID By-Laws. The terms of the Directors are staggered such that the LLID annually conducts elections for Directors. The majority of the Directors (4) must be full time residents of the LLID. Nominations were solicited by April of this year for inclusion in the ballot. For the 2024 election, three Director positions are open, with a maximum of one seasonal resident. A maximum of one seasonal resident may be elected, however

three full time residents may be elected. Background information for each of the candidates listed on the enclosed ballot are available at the LLID website (<http://lakelidalid.com/>).

*The ballot enclosed with this letter may be mailed to the LLID prior to the Annual Meeting or presented at the Annual Meeting for in-person voting. Any ballots mailed must be received by the LLID by Friday, August 16, 2024, to be eligible for the 2024 election. All votes will be tallied at the Annual Meeting, and the Director-elect will be announced.*

An important note about the voting process is only one vote per parcel is allowed, regardless of multiple owners per parcel. If more than one ballot is received for any parcel, all votes for that parcel will be disqualified. Please ensure that you are coordinating with other potential owners of your property to ensure your vote is not disqualified.

### **LLID Update**

Work has progressed since we last updated you through our March newsletter. With much of the administrative tasks required to establish the LID behind us, we've been able to focus our efforts into looking forward to what's best for our lakes. We encourage you to make a habit of checking our website periodically for updated information on the LID, including updated minutes and financials ([http://lakelidalid.com](http://lakelidalid.com/)). We also plan to continue newsletter distributions to keep the membership informed of priorities and issues around the lake.

### **Lake Coordinator Report**

Moriya Rufer is our Lake Coordinator introduced in our Spring Newsletter. As Coordinator she leads our water quality and aquatic invasive species (AIS) tracking and treatment. Volunteers, Mike Spangler and Bob Nielsen, collect lake water samples monthly in both North and South Lida lakes. The Lake Coordinator collects water samples at the lake inlets. These sample results are analyzed and compared to past data to detect any changes or trends. From 1998-2024, both North and South Lida have improving water quality trends in phosphorus and clarity. The inlets are studied for potential projects to improve water quality going into Lida Lakes. In April the lake was surveyed for curly-leaf pondweed, and in May it was treated with herbicide in the locations that curly-leaf pondweed was found. In mid-June, we will complete another plant survey to determine any additional locations of curly-leaf pondweed to be treated next year. The lake accesses are checked monthly for any new AIS that could get introduced by boats. Property Owners can help keep the Lida Lakes clean by planting a native plant buffer along your shoreline, getting your septic system inspected every few years to make sure it is working properly, disposing of yard waste away from the lake, and following shoreline ordinances during building projects (get proper permits, put up silt fences, etc.).

The LLID is committed to gathering additional scientific data about the lakes and our watershed with the intent of more informed decisions on lake management. We anticipate that this data will be incorporated into our Lake Management Plan to ensure we have a science-based rationale for management decisions funded through the LLID.

As always, thank you for your participation and interest in the LLID. We look forward to seeing all of you this summer, and hopefully at the Annual Meeting!

Sincerely,

LLID Board of Directors