

Crookneck Lake Improvement District Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Crookneck Lake Improvement District (CLID) was held on July 30th, 2022, at the Scandia Valley Town Hall.

Dan Seanger, CLID Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M., introduced the Board of Directors recognizing Bill McComb for his years of service on the board, reviewed the agenda, and announced this was the first call to cast your ballots. The meeting's power point presentation, which contains graphics and additional information in the notes section is located at CrookneckLake.com under CLID.

Standard Agenda Items

Seanger turned to the standard agenda items beginning with the secretary's report noting that the minutes of last year's meeting were approved as in the past by the board prior to inclusion in the CLID's Annual Report to the Morrison County Board of Commissioners. Both documents were then posted on the CrookneckLake.com web site.

He then continued with a review of the Crookneck Lake 5-Year Management Plan, a plan which integrates the roles and functions of the CLID and Lake Crookneck Improvement Association (LCIA) with the goal of promoting a "Healthy Ecosystem While Maximizing the Lakes Usage". Dan stated that we are now in the fifth year of the plan and as such it will be updated this year to include what is being referred to as "call to actions/trigger points". This led to a review of the CLIDs "Establishment Orders" contrasting what we can and cannot do based on our current order and what was historically done by the LCIA.

Seanger then turned to a review of the final 2021 late summer Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey, which focused on identifying Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and Zebra Mussels (ZM). This survey was performed after last year's meeting and concluded the 2021 surveys. No EWM was found in the lake for treatment; however, the surveyor reported the presence of milfoil resembling "hybrid" milfoil along the eastern shoreline and near the lake access. The surveyor recommended confirmatory genetic testing during 2022 if similar plants are present and treatment. The dive survey did not find any ZM.

Next was a review of the "2022 Performance Work Plan" approved at the 2021 annual CLID meeting.

1. Survey the lake for invasive species: Two aquatic vegetation surveys have been performed to date. The spring survey focused on Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and delineated an area of 10.6 acres for treatment compared to 11.9 acres during 2021. No viable Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was identified. The second survey, Summer AIS Survey, surveyed the entire lake for AIS and surveyed the CLP treated area for efficacy of treatment and impact on native species. The survey demonstrated the treatment was highly effective for treating CLP with no additional CLP found and

- minimal to no effect on the native population. No EWM was found. Also identified in the summer survey was the presence of Yellow Iris along the north shore. This is a new invasive to Crookneck Lake; although it should be noted that this plant is a regulated invasive species. Species are legal to buy, sell, transport and possess, but may not be introduced into a free-living state, such as released into public waters. The surveyor recommends working with property owners to remove the plants. Two plant surveys are pending. A late summer survey which will focus on EWM and any suspicious hybrid milfoil. Samples for genetic testing of suspicious plants characteristic of “hybrid” milfoil will be collected and if confirmed we will be able to treat the areas with our milfoil DNR permit. As in the past, two surveys for Zebra Mussel (veliger stage) and Spiny Water Flea were collected during June and July. The results of these samples are pending. Results from 2018 – 2021 have all been negative. During 2020 - 2021, professional dock services which remove over 30 docks across the lake, together with property owners have not identified any ZM.
2. Treat invasive species: During May, 10.6 acres of CLP was delineated and permitted for treatment by the DNR. This year we were fortunate to once again secure a permit to use the herbicide Diquat to treat CLP. The cost was \$2,236 compared to an estimated cost of \$17,000 for the alternative herbicide Aquathol-K. Our intent is to treat any EWM, or “hybrid” milfoil identified during the late summer AIS survey.
 3. Monitor the quality of the lake water: Crookneck Lake continues to be in a “Mesotrophic (healthy) State”. Total Phosphorus and Secchi Depth are “improving with 99%”, Chlorophyll-a data shows “no significant trend exists”, and the Total Trophic State Index is “improving with 90% confidence” down from 95%. It’s noted the presence of ZMs would distort the above trends. Both the surveyor and numerous individuals have commented on the clarity of the water over the past few years which declines during the summer. Could this be the result of ZMs or changing weather patterns or recreational activity across the lake...all speculation at this time?
 4. Management of the CLID: Seanger reviewed the management protocols utilized by the CLID to fulfill mandates found in the Establishment Order and state statutes noting we may need to perform a periodic 5-yr “Agreed Upon Procedures” protocol review during 2023.

Seanger made a second and final call to cast ballots for election to the Board of Director’s.

Treasurer’s Report: A recap of our financial status was reviewed, noting further details are found in the 2022 Annual Treasurer’s Report. Our beginning balance was \$84,685 and estimated ending balance is \$90,905. Estimated expenses total \$9,526. The uptick in our ending balance is primarily due to our ability to receive an AIS Grant from Morrison County, no 2021 EWM treatment cost, and approval to use Diquat, an alternative herbicide, resulting in significant savings. The 2022 Treasurer’s Report is posted on “CrookneckLake.com” under “CLID”.

2023 Proposed Performance Plan, 2023 Proposed Performance Plan Budget and 2023 Proposed Levy: Seanger reviewed the process used for approval of each indicating the members present

would approve the Proposed Performance Plan, Performance Plan Budget, while the board has the responsibility to set the Proposed Levy. All three are included in the annual report to the Morrison County Board of Commissioners who approve them by motion at our annual meeting with them during August or September.

Proposed 2023 Performance Plan and Proposed Performance Plan Budget: Seanger provided a summary review of each indicating the performance plan represents the “work plan” for the CLID next year while the budget “funds” the work.

Seanger asked for a motion from floor to approve the 2023 Performance Plan. Rick Theisen made the motion, seconded by John Gurney. Subject opened for discussion. No discussion ensued. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Seanger asked for a motion from floor to approve the 2023 Performance Plan Budget. John Gurney made the motion, Rick Theisen seconded. Dan began the discussion of the 2023 Performance Plan Budget in detail by reviewing actual costs, estimated cost, and the proposed budget. The board has demonstrated over the years a fiscal discipline to spend significantly less than budgeted for. However, the board requests continued full funding of the budgetary line items so as not to find their ability to fund projects tied to limited funding, a scenario the board faced in 2019. The Proposed 2023 Performance Plan Budget has a nominal increase for each line item. A question was asked referencing the increase in Admin Costs. Dan explained it includes \$5,100+ for an “Agreed-Upon Procedures” protocol which we may be required to engage in every five years and also explained the state statute which limits the Board to not spend over \$5,000 on a line item without prior approval at the annual meeting. Discussion ensued on providing ample funds for the board to perform its functions. Our ability to fund the treatment of both EWM and hybrid milfoil this year was asked. As of now we have \$1,752 in grant funds and the \$24,000 approved in the 2022 CLID budget. During 2023, the proposed budget includes \$24,000 for treatment of all AIS (CLP and milfoil) plus we will apply for a grant from the county. There are a multitude of unknowns when it comes to answering this question but based on historical worst-case scenarios, we believe we would be okay. After a short discussion on funding streams, levy collections, and flexibility of board to be able to react to unknown variable costs the budget was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Dan Seanger made a motion to authorize the annual CLID meeting to be held in any weekend during 2023, Adolf Rabe seconded. During discussion Seanger explained the reason for this request is that state statute specifies that unless approved during the previous annual meeting, the annual meeting must be held during specific summer months. Motion passed by voice vote.

2023 Proposed Levy: Seanger stated that it is the responsibility of the Board to set the 2023 levy; however, Dan made the following motion at the direction of the board members present (JJ Parker absent) to hear from the floor any discussion referencing the 2023 levy. Is there a second from the floor. Seconded by Rick Theisen. Seanger opened the discussion with his opinion of future grant availability, the ability to continue to use the alternative herbicide, cost of herbicides, CLP located during the summer survey and unknown milfoil saga. He further stated he would be comfortable accepting the risk of setting the levy at a rate to recapture an amount

below the 2023 estimated expenses vs. the proposed 2023 proposed budget. Dan also stated that JJ Parker believes we have a healthy reserve which he is comfortable with lowering. Don Johnson and several members present stated levy consistency from year to year is desirable rather than a large differential between years. Dan was asked if he had a recommendation for the levy and he stated that he would recommend less than \$60 but not as low as \$20 to have a stable multiyear levy. There being no further discussion, Dan closed the open session, and called on the four board members present (JJ Parker absent) for a motion for the 2023 levy. April Powell made the following motion, “The CLID Board will set the 2023 levy at \$40 which will be recommended to the Morrison County Board of Commissioners for approval”, Don Johnson seconded. There was no further discussion by the board. The motion was approved by a unanimous hand vote of the board members present.

Election of Board of Directors: Don Johnson certified the ballot results and announced the results: 21 votes were cast (2 by mail, 8 by email, and 11 at the meeting) via a secret ballot. Dan Seanger (homestead/resident) received 21 and John Monahan (non-homestead/non-resident) received 21 votes. Their terms on the CLID Board of Directors will run through the 2024 election. Don then introduced John Monahan to the group.

Old Business

Update “LCIA/CLID” web site: Migration has been ongoing. Target date for completion remains 2022.

Revise 5-Year Crookneck Lake Management Plan: Target date for completion is 2022 and will include “Trigger Points/Call for Action”.

New Business

Contact Info: Notify a board member of property sales or change of addresses to ensure receipt of mailings.

2023 AIS Treatment: The CLID Board intends to treat the lake during 2023 for identified AIS with approved herbicides. If you wish to opt out and not allow treatment adjacent to your property notify a board member by April 30, 2023.

First call for next year’s Board of Directors. At this time, projected 2023-2025 term board vacancies: two resident/homestead and one non-resident/non-homestead. Contact any board member for more information on responsibilities or to have your name on the ballot.

Information/Updates

Crookneck Lake Water Level: On 7 July 2022, the lake was at 2.56 ft or ~2ft 7in above the OHW which is about 5.5in above the level on 8 July 2021. Overall, the lake is down 1.3ft or 1ft 3.6in from its all-time high on 19 Oct 2019.

Lake Shamineau “Lake Lowering Project”: Dan reviewed that the a the CLID and LCIA provided a joint reply to the project’s Environmental Assessment Worksheet. The LSLID Board, the EAW approval authority subsequently declined to address our concerns further. The current

“Draft” Operational Plan does contain provisions which call for the LSLID to study the impact on Crookneck Lake should our lake be lowered to our OHW level while they are pumping down to their OHW level.

Wake/Prop Trust Studies: The St. Anthony Falls Lab (SAFL) has completed Phase I and will be performing Phase II of their studies into Wake Energy and Dynamics produced by ‘high-prop thrust’ boats. Phase I focused on the wave energy developed and distance required to dispel it concluding a distance twice that of a watercraft. Phase II will focus on the angular downward thrust towards the bottom of the lake. Currently, we are in a wait and see mode as the studies are pending. The question for the CLID is, what is the impact on AIS and water quality management (water clarity and shoreline erosion as it impacts water quality)? The SAFL studies may shed light on the subject. Dan also reviewed Lake Minnetonka’s proposed regulatory limits on the use of these crafts on this lake.

Seanger opened the meeting up for any additional new business. Dan thanked the board for the coffee and donuts. There being no additional new business, John Gurney made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Rick Theisen seconded, approved unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 A.M.

Post Meeting Note: These minutes were reviewed by the board members present at the meeting for edits and were approved as written.

April Powell

April Powell

Secretary

ATCH: 2022 Annual Meeting Presentation (located at CrookneckLake.com under CLID)