

Crookneck Lake Improvement District Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Crookneck Lake Improvement District (CLID) was held on July 29th, 2023, at the Scandia Valley Town Hall.

Dan Seanger, CLID Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M., introduced the Board of Directors, 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...Annual Meetings.

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 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" stating that the CLID derives its powers from its Order of Establishment and functions as a governmental organization, whereas the LCIA derives its powers from its Constitution and Bylaws and functions as a non-profit organization chartered by the MN Secretary of States Office.

Seanger then turned to a review of the final 2022 late summer Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey, which focused on identifying Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). Hybrid milfoil, and Zebra Mussels (ZM). This survey was performed after last year's meeting and concluded the 2022 surveys. No EWM was found in the lake for treatment; however, the surveyor reported the presence of milfoil resembling "hybrid" milfoil along the far eastern shoreline and collected samples for genetic testing which tested as Northern watermilfoil. The dive survey did not find any ZM.

Next was a review of the "2023 Performance Work Plan" approved at the 2022 annual CLID meeting.

1. **SURVEY THE LAKE FOR INVASIVE SPECIES:** This year we were not required to contract for two surveys associated with Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). The spring survey identified and delineated three zones totaling 6.9 acres for treatment compared to 10.9 acres in 2022 and 11.9 acres during 2021. No viable Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was identified. The second survey, Summer AIS Survey, was designed to survey the entire lake for AIS and survey the CLP treated area for efficacy of treatment and impact on native species was not required. A similar survey will be conducted by the DNR this summer. A late summer survey is scheduled which will focus on EWM and any suspicious hybrid milfoil. Samples for genetic testing of

- suspicious plants characteristic of “hybrid” milfoil will be collected. A dive survey for ZM will also be conducted during this survey. 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 – 2022 have all been negative. During 2020 - 2022, 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, 6.9 acres of CLP was delineated and treated by aquatic herbicide. Once again, this year we were fortunate to secure a permit for the use of the herbicide Diquat, instead of Aquathol K, to treat CLP resulting in significant cost savings. Our intent is to treat any EWM identified during the late summer AIS survey. Suspect hybrid milfoil will be sampled for genetic testing and treated if results are positive.
 3. **MONITOR THE QUALITY OF THE LAKE WATER:** Crookneck Lake continues to be in a “Mesotrophic (healthy) Total Trophic State Index and is “improving with a 80% confidence” during 2022 down from 90% during 2021 and 95% in 2020. Total Phosphorus is “improving with 95% confidence” down from “99% confidence” in 2021, Secchi Depth are “improving with 99%” the same as 2021, Chlorophyll-a data shows “no significant trend exists”. 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, changing weather patterns or recreational activity across the lake? All speculation at this time although our confidence levels for several indicators are declining.
 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. We are following all with one exception. The county was not notified of the date of this meeting as they had elected not to attend the meeting during the previous three years.

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 current financial status was reviewed. This year’s beginning balance was \$90,905, and the estimated ending balance is \$88,274. Estimated expenses total \$12,972. The downtick in our ending balance is primarily due to an increase in admin expenses. Our ability to receive an AIS Grant from Morrison County, approval to use Diquat, an alternative herbicide for treating CLP continue to result in significant savings. A significant line item under admin expenses was realized this year for the Agreed Upon Procedures Review, a 5-year requirement, which cost \$5,805. The 2023 Treasurer’s Report will be published at the end of the year and 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 2024 Performance Plan (survey, treat, water quality studies, manage the CLID). John Marsh made the motion, seconded by Leo Dombrovski. Subject opened for discussion. No discussion ensued. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Seanger asked for a motion from floor to approve the 2024 Performance Plan “Proposed” Budget. Leo Dombrovski made the motion, Sheri Langer 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 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 2023 Performance Plan “Proposed” Budget has a nominal increase for each line item. A question was asked referencing the increase in Admin Costs. Dan explained it includes \$1,000 for an “Agreed-Upon Procedures” protocol review which is required every five years. The \$1,000 will not be expended during 2024 but over the next five years \$5,000 would accumulate to pay down the cost of the next review. The proposed treatment cost remains high in the event we are faced with a high-cost year similar to 2019. 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.

Seanger made a motion to authorize the annual CLID meeting to be held on any weekend during 2023, Don Johnson 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.

Seanger made a motion to designate the CrookneckLake.com web site as the official site for posting meeting notices, Rick Theisen seconded. During the discussion Seanger explained that there is a need for a site to post notices for meetings held other than the Annual Meeting. Motion passed by voice vote.

2024 Proposed Levy: Seanger stated that it is the responsibility of the Board to set the 2024 levy; however, Dan made the following motion at the direction of the board members present (John Monohan and April Powell absent) to hear from the floor any discussion referencing the 2024 levy. Is there a second from the floor. Seconded by Gordy Vierkant. 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 spring survey and milfoil history. He further stated he would be comfortable accepting the risk of setting the levy at a rate

to recapture an amount below the 2024 estimated expenses vs. the proposed 2024 proposed budget. 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 a stable levy of \$40, the same as 2023, down from \$60 during 2022. There being no further discussion, Dan closed the open session, and called on the three board members present for a motion for the 2024 levy. Don Johnson made the following motion, "The CLID Board will set the 2024 levy at \$40 which will be recommended to the Morrison County Board of Commissioners for approval", JJ Parker 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: John Parker certified the ballot results and announced the results: 20 votes were cast (2 by mail, 5 by email, and 13 at the meeting) via a secret ballot. Don Johnson (homestead/resident) received 20, April Powell (homestead/resident) received 20, and JJ Parker (non-homestead/non-resident) received 20 votes. Their terms on the CLID Board of Directors will run through the 2025 election.

Old Business

CrookneckLake.com web site: The web site has been revised and historical LCIA and CLID documents have been migrated.

5-Year Crookneck Lake Management Plan: The plan has been updated to reflect transition of legacy lake studies to the new, revised DNR models which place lakes into groups with "like characteristics" allowing for comparison of Crookneck Lake's scores to that of similar lakes. The plan also contains "Trigger Points/Call for Action" and a series of appendixes which serve as educational tutorials. The plan has been renamed the "Crookneck Lake Management Plan" and was approved by members of the CLID and LCIA boards. The plan is posted on the CrookneckLake.com web site.

Agreed-Upon Procedures Engagement: This is a requirement of the Office of the Secretary of State and the State Auditors Office which should be accomplished every five years. One item was identified which was recommended for clarification. Our Establishment Order states that "Directors may be reimbursed for actual expenses necessarily incurred in the performance of their duties in a manner provided by County employees". However, the CLID does not have an approved policy for the attendance of board members to travel to out of state meetings. The CLID members present at the annual meeting approved a policy for attendance of board of directors at meetings both in and out of state. The CLID will fund registration and travel expenses associated with attendance at meetings approved by the Board of Directors.

New Business

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

2024 AIS Treatment: The CLID Board intends to treat the lake during 2024 for identified areas of AIS permitted by the DNR for treatment with approved herbicides. If you wish to opt out and not allow treatment adjacent to your property notify a board member by April 30, 2024.

First call for next year's Board of Directors. At this time, projected 2024-2026 term board vacancies: one 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 May 30, 2023, the lake level was just under 2 ft above the Ordinary High Water (OHW) level. On July 21, 2023, the lake down to 1 ft 5 ½ inches above the OHW. Compared to last July we are down approximately 13 inches and 2 ft 5 inches from the record high during Oct 2019.

Wake/Prop Trust Studies: Don Johnson and Dan Seanger provided the following update. The St. Anthony Falls Lab (SAFL) has completed Phase I and Phase II of their studies into Wake Energy and Dynamics produced by 'high-prop thrust' boats is ongoing. Phase I focused on the wave energy developed and distance required to dispel it concluding a distance twice that of a watercraft. Phase II focuses on the angular downward thrust towards the bottom of the lake and wave dynamics of various watercraft. Currently, we continue to monitor their findings and participate in teleconference updates. Several associations have posed questions to the SAFL study group focused on the impact on AIS, water quality management (water clarity and shoreline erosion as it impacts water quality), shoreline conservation, fishery habitat, with particular interest on shallow lakes (less than 20 ft). Dan also reviewed Lake Minnetonka's regulatory limits on the use of these crafts within 300ft of the shoreline.

Seanger opened the meeting up for any additional new business. He thanked the LCIA for the coffee and donuts. Dan also announced that the LCIA Annual Business Meeting would convene after the conclusion of the CLID meeting and following the LCIA Business Meeting the CLID Board of Directors would hold a Planning Meeting. There being no additional new business, Don Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, JJ Parker seconded, approved unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 A.M.

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

Don Johnson

Don Johnson

Secretary

ATCH: 2023 Annual Meeting Presentation (located at CrookneckLake.com under CLID)