

Crookneck Lake Improvement District Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Crookneck Lake Improvement District (CLID) was held on July 26th, 2025, at the Scandia Valley Town Hall.

Dan Seanger, CLID Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:04 A.M., introduced the Board of Directors (all were in attendance with exception of April Powell), reviewed the agenda, and announced this was the first call to cast your ballots. Dan recognized April Powell for her sustained service on the CLID board noting this will be her final meeting as a board member. 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 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 an Order of Establishment issued by the Morrison County Board of Commissioners 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 State Office.

Seanger then turned to a review of the final 2024 late summer Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Survey of the lake with an emphasis on identifying Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), hybrid Northern Watermilfoil, and Zebra Mussels (ZM). This survey was conducted after last year's meeting. No EWM was found in the lake for treatment nor was any milfoil located with characteristics resembling "hybrid" milfoil. ZM were not identified. Sporadic dense patches of native southern naiad and native northern watermilfoil. In the past the southern naiad has grown to nuisance density over the western third of the lake but has not been as dense in the past 10 years. This increase in 2024 was likely due to the odd winter of 2023-2024, where the lake experienced shorter ice duration and lower snowfall than in most years. This may have allowed southern naiad to persist over the winter rather than dying back) low snow cover would have allowed more light to get through the ice).

Next, status of the "2025 Performance Work Plan" approved at the 2024 annual CLID meeting was reviewed.

1. SURVEY THE LAKE FOR INVASIVE SPECIES: This year we contracted to have two surveys performed. The first was performed one day prior to the Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) treatment which verified the treatment zone previously approved by the DNR and surveyed for any additional CLP. This survey will be used for the 2026 permit application for treating 10.1 acres. A late summer survey is scheduled which

- will survey the lake for Aquatic Invasive Species with a 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 – 2024 have all been negative. During 2020 - 2024, professional dock services which remove over 30 docks across the lake, together with property owners have not identified any ZM.
2. **TREAT INVASIVE SPECIES:** The permitting process changed this year for us. Since we have been treating a similar area for the past 5 years the treatment zones were overlayed to establish this year’s zone. In addition, a new herbicide was recommended which remains in the area for a longer period of time and perhaps would increase the efficacy of the herbicide. We received a permit to treat 8.1 acres with the herbicide Flumioxazin (\$612/acre) vs. Diquat (\$116/acre). The zone was treated on May 6th. Our intent is to treat any EWM identified during the late summer AIS survey. Suspect hybrid milfoil will be sampled for genetic testing and the area treated if results are positive.
 3. **MONITOR THE QUALITY OF THE LAKE WATER:** Statistical analysis is based on data from 2006-2024 with 2 years missing. Crookneck Lake continues to be in a “Mesotrophic (healthy) Total Trophic State Index and is “improving with a 95% confidence”, up from “90% confidence”. No significant statistical trend to report for Total Phosphorus, Secchi Depth, and Chlorophyll-a data. It’s noted the presence of ZMs would distort Secchi Depth trends which continue to improve. Both the surveyor and numerous individuals have commented on the clarity of the water over the past several years. So far this year the clarity has continued. Is this the result of ZMs, changing weather patterns or recreational activity across the lake? All speculation at this time.
 4. **MANAGEMENT OF THE CLID:** Management protocols utilized by the CLID to fulfill mandates found in the Establishment Order and state statutes were reviewed. All have been met.

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 \$92,538, and the estimated ending balance is \$91,495. Estimated expenses total \$13,193. Our ability to receive an AIS Grant from Morrison County for \$6,750 offset our expenses while the use of the herbicide Flumioxazin (\$612/acre) was significantly higher than Diquat (\$116/acre) in past years. The Treasurer’s Report is published at the end of the year and posted on “CrookneckLake.com” under “CLID”.

2026 Proposed Performance Plan, 2026 Proposed Performance Plan Budget and 2026 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 September.

Proposed 2026 Performance Plan and Proposed Performance Plan Budget: Seanger summarized 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 2026 Performance Plan (survey, treat, water quality studies, manage the CLID) which mirrors previous years. Dennis McGrath 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 2026 Performance Plan “Proposed” Budget. Dennis McGrath made the motion, Leo Dombrovski seconded. Dan began the discussion of the 2026 Performance Plan Budget in detail by reviewing actual and projected cost for budget years 2023 – 2025. He then reviewed the board’s proposed budget for 2026. He began with a review of the column titled “2026 Projected Cost” which he described as the “best faith estimate” of what the board predicts next year’s expenses will be. Next, he explained the higher cost associated with the column titled “2026 Proposed Budget”, a worst case scenario, concluding that the board is requesting the “2026 Proposed Budget” be approved so as not to tie the hands of the board should unforeseen potential expenses present as occurred during 2019 and 2020 while recognizing we predict our expenses will be closer to “2026 Projected Cost” budget which should be used during levy discussion. After a short discussion on funding streams and flexibility of the board to be able to react to unknown variable costs the “2026 Proposed Budget” was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2026 Annual Meeting: Dan Seanger made a motion to authorize the annual CLID meeting to be held on any weekend during 2026, Leo Dombrovski 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.

2026 Proposed Levy: Seanger stated that it is the responsibility of the Board to set the 2026 levy. Dan made a motion to receive public comments and/or discussion referencing the 2026 levy from the audience. The motion was seconded by Don Johnson. Board members provided their opinions based on their past experience. Their thoughts included future grant availability, alternative herbicides, cost of herbicides, CLP permitting processes (historical treatment zones vs. spring survey), milfoil history, and the great unknown any future infestation. Members present continue to desire levy consistency from year to year. Also, the general consensus can be summed up as a trust in the board to manage the CLID’s performance plan and its financial obligations and standing, consistently demonstrated over time. There being no further discussion, Dan closed the open session and called on the board members for a motion for the 2026 levy. Don Johnson made the following motion, “The CLID Board will set the 2026 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 voice vote of the board members present.

Election of Board of Directors: John Parker certified the ballot results and announced the results: 11 votes were cast (3 by mail, 4 by email/text, and 4 at the meeting) via a secret ballot. Jan Burley (homestead/resident) received 10, Don Johnson (homestead/resident) received 11, John Parker (homestead/resident) received 1 write-in, and JJ Parker (non-homestead/non-resident) received 11 votes. Their terms on the CLID Board of Directors will run through the 2027 election.

Information/Updates

Crookneck Lake Water Level: The lake continues to recede from its 2019 flood levels. On 20 June 2025, the lake level was ~10.7" above the OHW level compared to ~18.8" above the OWW level on 21 June 2024, representing a decline of ~8.1" year over year. Members present felt the level was about right or could be a little higher referencing weeds are nearing the surface of the water, particularly in the western third of the lake. Last year large areas of southern naiads were referenced during the late summer AIS survey across this area. The density of these nuisance weeds has not been present for at least the last ten years.

Wake/Prop Trust Studies: St. Anthony Falls Lab (SAFL) together with the U of MN have not published results of their Phase II study which focuses on the angular downward thrust towards the bottom of the lake as well as the wave dynamics of various watercraft. 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).

Old Business: None

New Business

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

2026 AIS Treatment: The CLID Board intends to treat the lake during 2026 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, 2026.

First call for next year's Board of Directors. At this time, projected 2026-2028 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.

As a reminder, the CrookneckLake.com web site is the official site for posting meeting (Board/Special) meetings.

Starry stonewort search: As part of our MC AIS Grant "education and community awareness of AIS" are factors which are incorporated into the grant as opposed to just surveys and treatment. Starry stonewort is an aquatic invasive species which is difficult to control and once it advances

beyond an introductory stage it can have significant impacts on the overall ecology of the lake. Starry stonewort is being identified at an increasing rate across the mid-west. Volunteers with paddle boats, canoes or kayaks are requested to search along the shallow areas of the lakeshore, focusing on the west bay. The proposed search dates are Aug 2nd and 3rd. Informational materials will be provided. POCs are Leo Dombrovski, Don Johnson, and Dan Seanger.

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 be convened after the conclusion of the CLID meeting and following the LCIA Business Meeting the CLID Board of Directors would hold a Planning Meeting, open to the public. There being no additional new business, Seanger made a motion to adjourn the meeting, JJ Parker seconded, approved unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 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

Secretary

ATCH: 2025 Annual Meeting Presentation (located at CrookneckLake.com under CLID)