

Crookneck Lake Improvement District 2026 Annual Meeting Minutes

The annual meeting of the Crookneck Lake Improvement District (CLID) was held on July 25th, 2026, at the Scandia Valley Town Hall.

Dan Seanger, CLID Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM, introduced the Board of Directors (John Monahan, JJ Parker, and Dan Seanger were in attendance), reviewed the agenda, and announced this was the first call to cast your ballots. This years' meeting 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 by the board prior to the CLID's Annual Report to the Morrison County Board of Commissioners during September. 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 Office of the MN Secretary of State. Furthermore, the CLID is made up of all property owners who are equally taxed via an annual levy (special assessment) whereas the LCIA is a volunteer membership of lake residents.

Seanger then turned to a review of the final 2025 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.

2025 Starry Stonewort (SS) Search: During the summer volunteers searched the shallows of Crookneck Lake for SS as part of our Morrison County AIS Grant. The results of the survey were negative and were subsequently confirmed by our contracted surveyor who identified no SS during the late AIS survey.

Next, status of the "2026 Performance Work Plan" approved at the 2025 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 after 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 2027 permit application for treating 13.2 acres, up from 10.1 acres this year. 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 – 2025 have all been negative. During 2020 - 2025, professional dock services which remove over 35 docks across the lake, together with property owners have not identified any ZM.
2. TREAT INVASIVE SPECIES: This year’s permit was based on the 2025 CLP Spring survey. This year the same herbicide, Flumioxazin, was used since it remains in the area for a longer period of time promoting the efficacy of the herbicide. We received a permit to treat a 10.1-acre zone which was treated on May 12th. 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 2006-2025 with 2 years missing. Crookneck Lake continues to be in a “Mesotrophic (healthy) Total Trophic State Index and is “improving with a 90% confidence”, down from “95% confidence”. No significant statistical tend to report for Total Phosphorus, Secchi Depth is improving with 99.9% confidence and Chlorophyll-a is declining with 80% confidence. 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 been slightly less during May and June. Is this the result of an undetected population of ZMs, changing weather patterns, or declining water levels?
 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 \$90,611, and the estimated ending balance is \$85,961. Estimated expenses total \$15,150. Our ability to receive an AIS Grant from Morrison County for \$5,100 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”.

2027 Proposed Performance Plan, 2027 Proposed Performance Plan Budget and 2027 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 are requested to approve them by motion during our annual meeting with them during September.

Proposed 2027 Performance Plan and Proposed 2027 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 the floor to approve the 2027 Performance Plan (survey, treat, water quality studies, manage the CLID) which mirrors previous years. Steve Larson 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 2027 Performance Plan “Proposed” Budget. Dennis McGrath made the motion, Terry Stumbo seconded. Dan began the discussion of the 2027 Performance Plan Budget in detail by reviewing actual and projected cost for budget years 2024 – 2026. He then reviewed the board’s proposed budget for 2027. He began with a review of the column titled “2027 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 “2027 Proposed Budget”, a worst-case scenario, concluding that the board is requesting the “2027 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 the “2027 Projected Cost” budget which will be used during the levy discussion. After a short discussion on funding streams and flexibility of the board to be able to react to unknown variable costs the “2027 Proposed Budget” was approved by unanimous voice vote.

2027 Annual Meeting: Steve Larson made a motion to authorize the annual CLID meeting to be held on any weekend during 2027, John Marsh 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 July or August as indicated in our Establishment Order. Motion passed by voice vote.

2027 Proposed Levy: Seanger stated that it is the responsibility of the Board to set the 2027 levy. Dan Seanger made a motion to receive public comments and/or discussion referencing the 2027 levy from the audience prior to the Board setting the proposed levy. The motion was seconded by JJ Parker. 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 noted our cash balance continues to recede as projected during previous meetings and voiced a desire for 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 from the members or Board, Dan closed the open comments session and called on the board members for a motion for the 2027 levy. JJ Parker made the following motion, “The CLID Board will set the 2027 levy at \$40 which will be recommended to the Morrison County Board of Commissioners for approval”, John Monahan 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: Leo Dombrovski certified the ballot results and announced the results: 13 votes were cast (6 by mail and 7 at the meeting) via a secret ballot. Dan Seanger (homestead/resident) received 13 and John Monahan (non-homestead/non-resident) received 13 votes. Their terms on the CLID Board of Directors will run through the 2028 election.

Information/Updates

AIS Watch Card Distribution: As part of our Morrison County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant, “education and community awareness of AIS” are factors which are incorporated into the grant as opposed to just surveys and treatment. The results of a random survey found a lack of basic knowledge on two AIS which have been found in our lake, Banded Mystery Snails and Zebra Mussels. Mystery snails are listed as an AIS that are found across many lakes and cause little damage. ZM are found in both Lake Alexander and FishTrap Lake and can cause significant damage. One ZM pair was found at the Crookneck Lake access during Oct 2018. Control of the spread of ZM from one lake to another is focused on “controlling hitchhikers”. As a result of the limited knowledge of these AIS species, it was decided a “back to the basics” campaign was warranted. The CLID purchased ID Watch Cards, the size of an ID card, from the MN DNR which contains basic reference information to include photos for both species which were distributed with our spring mailing.

Crookneck Lake Water Level: The lake continues to recede from its 2019 flood levels. On 30 June 2026, the lake level was ~4.56” above the OHW level compared to ~17.7” above the OWW level on 2 July 2025, representing a decline of ~13.14” year over year. Members present felt the level is too low, preferring last year’s lake level sighting high weed growth.

Wake/Prop Trust Studies: On July 29, 2025, the St. Anthony Falls Lab (SAFL) published their Phase Two Study: *Recreational boat hydrodynamics and their impacts on the lakebed and water column*. The SAFL recommendations based on this research are:

1. When operating in planning mode powerboats should stay in depths of 10 ft or greater to prevent impacts to the lakebed.
2. When operating in *sustained displacement mode* (ie. Slow cruising), recreational powerboats should stay in depths of 10 ft or greater to prevent impacts to the lakebed.
3. For most recreational boat users, traveling in waters less than 10 ft deep is unavoidable. In these scenarios it is recommended to go as slow as possible to minimize the magnitude of the bow and stern pressure waves.
4. Wakeboats should operate in 20 ft of water or greater when in semi-displacement (surfing) mode to minimize impacts on the lakebed.
5. All boats have the potential to damage aquatic vegetation. The depth recommendations provided above are specified relative to the lakebed but could also be interpreted as relative to the top of the submerged vegetation. In general, boats should avoid areas of the lake with aquatic vegetation to minimize damage.

NOTE: There were some surprising findings. While much discussion around the lakes has focused on “prop wash,” the study identified three distinct hydrodynamic phenomena that can animate lake beds and uproot aquatic plants: 1) bow and stern pressure waves, 2) transvers

gravity waves, and 3) propeller wash. (Definition: The bow and stern pressure waves are the primary phenomena initiating the movement of lakebed sediments, while the traverse waves and propeller wash are the phenomena that lift sediments into the water column.

Old Business: None

New Business

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

2027 AIS Treatment: The CLID Board intends to treat the lake during 2027 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, 2027.

First call for next year's Board of Directors. At this time, projected 2027-2029 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.

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

Seanger opened the meeting up for any additional new business. He 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, which is open to the public. There being no additional new business, JJ Parker made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Dan Seanger seconded, approved unanimously by voice vote. The meeting was adjourned at 9:49 AM.

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

John Monahan
Secretary

ATCH: 2026 Annual Meeting Presentation (located at CrookneckLake.com under CLID)