

**Minutes of Karth Lake Improvement District Board
Regular Meeting 6:30 PM, Tuesday, April 11, 2023
Approved July 11, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting convened at: 6:30 PM.

Present:

Board Members: Aisha Elmquist, Chair; Renée Marino, Secretary; Gary Gerding; Linda Hansohn; Susan Johnson

Staff Liaison: David Swearingen, Public Works Director

Visitors and Karth Lake Improvement District members: Kent Stennes, Jim Elliott Jr.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: One item to discuss rain gardens was added to the agenda by David Swearingen. With that amendment, the agenda was approved as written.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting on April 11, 2023 were approved as written.

3. BOARD MEMBER ELECTIONS: David Swearingen reported that there was no response to the letter the City of Arden Hills had mailed to KLID members in February asking for interest in become a candidate for board membership. Tony Peleska, whose term was expiring, had relayed to Susan Johnson that he would step down if someone new were interested in becoming a board member. If not, Tony agreed to serve another term. Visitor and KLID member (i.e., Karth Lake shoreline property owner) Kent Stennes was asked to become a candidate for Tony's seat. Kent agreed to do so. The results were as follows. All votes were unanimous:

Kent Stennes: Term Expiration April 2026

Linda Hansohn: Term Expiration April 2026

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND SECRETARY: Aisha Elmquist was unanimously elected as Chair, Renee Marino was unanimously elected as Secretary. Terms are through April 2024.

5. PUBLIC INQUIRIES: None.

6. OLD BUSINESS

**6.1. Karth Lake water level modeling and management process progress report.
Renée Marino**

6.1.1 Background: Hypothesis: a revision to the pump management policy can reduce water level bounce (i.e., range of high and low levels), which can improve lake quality and its environment while appropriately mitigating risk of damage to shoreline properties.

Discussion: Renée shared a chart showing the first year of lake level data collected under the DNR program and using the DNR-calibrated gauge. Renée requested and received approval for the DNR to change the gauge location in a month or so to make it easier for volunteers to view from the shore. The new location had been approved by David Swearingen. Renée also shared the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) statement of work for the Houston

Engineering hydrologist's lake level modeling tool development. That tool is expected to be ready within a month or two. David is interested in the level of the bottom of the lake for sediment analysis as a part of managing the street sewer system. In contrast, this project is focused on the lake surface level. The KLIDB is also concerned about growth in the lake's bottom level due to sediment infill from street sewers and shoreline erosion. These two topics may merge in the future.

6.2. Plan for 2023 removal of excess lake weeds and debris. Susan Johnson

6.2.1 Background: Holtz has scheduled another lake weed removal day in August 2023 for lake property owners interested in participating. This is classified as a voluntary effort and not an official board action. However, the board is aware of and supportive of this effort.

Discussion: No new developments. Tabled until July meeting.

6.3. Plan for 2023 control of invasive purple loosestrife. Renée Marino

6.3.1 Background: After the Purple Loosestrife infestation event in 2022, it will be important to monitor and mitigate new growth in the near future, since seeds from the plants removed in 2022 will most likely continue to germinate for several years going forward.

Discussion: Renée shared a DNR chart for identifying and treating Purple Loosestrife. Kent Stennes noted that the Wisconsin lake on which he was a lake improvement district board member had had significant Purple Loosestrife populations. They were successful in treating some plants by cutting and applying chemicals under a permit from Wisconsin's DNR and others by introducing beetles. Those methods are shown on the DNR chart. Renée and Jim plan to search for plant sightings with their canoe again this year. Susan Johnson offered to go door-to-door to notify residents with plants on their shorelines. Kent Stennes agreed to help lead this effort.

6.4. Possibility of initiating a new study to identify status and refresh list of BMPs for future management of Karth Lake: David Swearingen

6.4.1 Background: The most recent Karth Lake study and BMP identification was performed in 2009. The board would like to identify a plan to be included in a follow-up assessment of Karth Lake's current health and opportunities for improvement (BMPs). David Swearingen described current and future grant opportunities that the City of Arden Hills will pursue and extended to include Karth Lake.

Discussion: David found that requesting that Karth Lake be included in RCWD's resiliency study can be done through RCWD's Matt Kocian and Houston Engineering's Bret Zimmerman. David plans to write grant proposals for this at the end of 2023. David also discussed drainage pond sediment growth and management analysis that his team will be contracting for under 2024 PMP (pavement replacement) plans. When the west side of Karth Lake undergoes its PMP in 2026, he hopes to use this 2024 work to help get funding to study Karth Lake's sediment growth and management. This item is on hold for now.

6.5. Lakeshore owner outreach and education. Kathy Johnson and Board.

6.5.1 Background: The KLIDB has reached out to KLID members in the past with flyers, events and door-knocking to increase awareness of what the KLIDB does, provide information to assist members in managing their shoreline and to recruit new board members. Several lakeshore properties have or are soon expected to have new owners that have not benefited from past communications and an update on the lake's current status to continuing owners would be helpful.

Discussion: Kathy Johnson was absent so some of this discussion was tabled. David suggested the board could plan an event to discuss rain garden maintenance - see new business topic on rain gardens. David Swearingen also said a new full time communications director, Luke, would be starting within a week. Luke can update the website and post communications to social media.

7. NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Report of water quality results for 2022 and volunteer sampling plan for 2023. Gary Gerding.

7.1.1 Background: The Metropolitan Council has released their summary water quality report for 2022 and detailed report for 2021. Both are available at this link: <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Water-Quality-Management/Lake-Monitoring-Analysis.aspx>. Karth Lake's overall health grade dropped from B in 2021 to C in 2022. It was a B from 2011 to 2021 with the exception of C in 2016 and 2020.

Discussion: The Karth Lake specific report is not yet available so that portion of this topic is tabled until the next meeting. The volunteers for water sampling this year will be Andrew Elmquist, Renée Marino and Jim Elliott.

7.2 Maintenance of Nursery Hill rain gardens: David Swearingen.

7.2.1 Background: According to the city's rain garden agreement with KLID, the KLID had agreed to maintain the gardens including weeding and replacing dead plants.

Discussion: Linda Hansohn and Gary Gerding acknowledged that agreement, however rain garden maintenance is not currently an active board project. Susan Johnson does and plans to continue to do weeding in the rain gardens, as well as in the Art Larson Memorial Garden in Cummings Park. David suggested that the Arden Hills Foundation (contact Arlene Mitchell) could be a source of funding to replace dead plants. David also said the Arden Hills Park Trails and Recreation Committee (PTRC) (contact Marie Hinton, chair) is willing to organize volunteers to maintain rain gardens so that the board could reach out to them and that Kerri Seemann of the PTRC is a good resource for this. David also suggested that rain garden maintenance could be an organized event under the communications plan discussed previously.

7.2 Buckthorn and diseased tree removal in Cummings Park: David Swearingen.

Discussion: David announced that the city will be removing buckthorn in Cummings Park this summer. He will let us know when that will happen in the

hopes we could organize volunteers to assist. The city will also be removing diseased trees near trails that pose a health safety risk, but will be leaving dying trees in deep woods to let nature take its course.

7. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

8. ADJOURN