



June 28, 2021

Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District (LSLID) Members,

We hope that this letter to our Lake Improvement District (LID) property owners finds you all healthy and enjoying your time at the lake. As we look forward to summer, we remain concerned for high water levels and our flooded neighbors. While the dry spring has reduced the water level slightly, the MN DNR provided an official water elevation reading on June 11, 2021, of 1277.20 identifying that the lake remains high, at 2.10 feet above the ordinary high-water level. A chart of elevation readings can be found on page 4 of this letter. We know that many of the properties around the lake still suffer from having water in or surrounding their homes. We continue to move forward to work on a permanent long-term solution. See below for detail information.

The purpose of this letter is to advise all Lake Shamineau Property Owners of the following:

- Announce that nominations for two Board of Director seats are open. Instructions for submitting nominations are below. Please note that nominations will be due and **must be received by July 14, 2021.**
- Provide the meeting time and location of the **Annual Meeting, which will be held on Saturday, August 28, 2021, at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held online.** The LID will again be using Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS) from Eden Prairie, MN to administer the Budget and Director voting process.
- Provide an update on recent Lake Improvement District (LID) activities.
- Provide an announcement to Property Owners of a **High-Water Project Informational Meeting that will be held online on Thursday, August 5, 2021, beginning at 6 PM.** To receive a meeting invitation, send an email prior to the meeting date to Fred Comb at fred@homeinspectionsofmn.com.

Nomination information:

- There are two Board of Director seats open for election in 2021. A list of responsibilities below highlights some of the duties of the five Directors. Incumbents for the open seats are Bob Koll (permanent) and Ardis Sandstrom (permanent). The newly elected directors will take office 4 weeks after elected, for a two-year term.
- Both open seats require that the nominee be a permanent resident. Permanent residency requires that your lake address be your primary residence. All nominees must be a property owner as defined by the Establishment Order for the Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District (see the LID website for the Establishment Order).
- You may nominate yourself or another Lake Shamineau property owner that meets the requirements.
- For each nomination, submit the name of the nominee, confirmation that they are a permanent resident, their mailing address, their email address, and their phone number. We will verify that the nominee meets all required residency and property ownership requirements. We will also contact each nominee for background information to send out with the ballots.
- **Submit nomination information no later than July 14, 2021, to: LSLID, PO Box 394, Motley MN 56466 OR send an email to LSLIDBD@gmail.com.**

Following is a list of some of the responsibilities of the 5 member LSLID Board of Directors. Please note that the positions are volunteer positions.

- Attend and present at LSLID Board meetings, at Morrison County Board Meetings, and at various other meetings with the DNR, Soil and Water, other counties, Engineering Firms, etc.
- Coordinate communications (website, newsletter, mailings to property owners, etc.)
- Prepare for and present at the Annual Meeting including handouts, presentations, registrations, voting, etc.
- Coordinate LID projects (AIS, Ambassador, High-Water, etc.)

List of Board of Director responsibilities, cont.

- Coordinate with hired contractors for projects.
- Answer emails and phone calls.
- Take notes and report on meetings.
- Track financial information including accounting for expenses.
- Coordinate with Morrison County for determining assessment information.
- Complete applications, required documentation and track information for grant funding from the DNR.
- Be familiar with email, Outlook, Word, and Excel.

2021 Voting Process:

The Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District (LSLID) will be using Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS) from Eden Prairie, MN to administer the Budget and Director voting process. During the first week of August, SBS will be sending a separate mailing to you with the Voting Instructions and Voting Ballot, the Candidate Information Sheet, the 2021 Budget Sheet, a letter from the LSLID Board of Directors, and a return envelope. Note that the mailing from SBS will be the only mailing that you will receive regarding the voting process. Following is additional voting information:

- For the mailing, SBS will be using the Morrison County mailing list of eligible voters.
- You will be able to either return your vote directly to SBS using the paper ballot and enclosed envelope, or you will be able to alternatively vote online.
- There will be no in-person voting available.
- Instructions for online voting will be included in the mailing.
- SBS will be providing contact information for questions regarding the voting process.
- SBS will provide the tabulation of the voting.

Following is an update on recent LID activities:

1. **AIS:** The LID received the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Partnership Grant from Morrison County in the amounts of \$3,500 for Vegetation Surveys, \$1,500 for Sign Repair, \$10,000 for the Ambassador program, and \$1,843 for Eurasian Watermilfoil treatment. The LID also received notice from the State of MN that we will receive a 2021 AIS Control Grant for treatment of Eurasian watermilfoil in the amount of \$3,270.

With this funding, the Ambassador program has been expanded to have 4 ambassadors this year. There are ambassadors at both the East and West landings on the weekends and holidays. The AIS surveys and treatment plans will be conducted as in previous years. In addition, sign repair has been made at each landing.

2. **Communications:** A mailing was sent to property owners in April 2021 and several electronic newsletters have been sent to subscribers to provide an update on activities.
 - Several LID Board of Director meetings have been held. Meetings are announced on the website, held at a local location or online, are open to the public, and notes are posted on the website.
 - The website is our official source of information and meeting announcements, and includes information on all Board and LID meetings, engineering reports, financial information, and information of interest.
3. **High Water Project:** The goal of the high-water project is to determine a solution to the high-water problem that is the most feasible, cost-effective, and timely, and will minimize ongoing maintenance and future operating costs. You may recall that in August 2020 the LID Membership voted with 74% approval to “Establish Project to Construct High-Water Outlet” at an estimated cost of \$3,350,000. With the membership approval of this project, the LID Board has worked to move forward on a permanent long-term solution.

The High-Water Outlet Project Plan includes construction of a lake outlet structure and pumping station adjacent to the shoreline at the west end of the lake. From the pumping station the water will proceed westerly along the Aztec Road and continue along Highway 10 to the south side of County Road 203. Flowage will then continue through a recently cleaned drainage ditch that passes through US Highway 10 before flowing west into Todd County and eventually reaching Fish Trap Creek, which becomes part of Todd County Ditch 41 at the properties adjacent to the railroad bridge and continues to the Long Prairie River. This route was chosen to accommodate landowners on the route. A map of the water flowage route has been included in this mailing.

Project features include:

- The project will include a maximum pumping rate of 10 cubic feet per second (cfs).
- The project will include pumping approximately 9 months per year.
- The project will lower the lake level down to the Ordinary High-Water Level (OHWL).
- The project includes a mechanical filter to prevent infiltration of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) per MN-DNR guidelines and approval.
- With the above pumping rate and time periods, pumping will primarily occur for 3 to 4 years.
- Future pumping, after the initial period, would only be needed if the lake level increases.
- As a permitting condition, an operating and maintenance plan will be developed to include guidelines to balance the need to lower the lake while minimizing the impact on downstream property owners.

The following High-Water Project tasks have been completed:

- The LID entered into an agreement with the DNR effective November 9, 2020, for grant funds in the amount of \$52,000 that have been used to partially offset costs for Houston Engineering services.
- There have been discussions with landowners along the flowage route to determine how their land will be affected and to accommodate their requests. All the landowners west of Highway 10 along the flowage route have signed agreements to provide easements.
- A formal request for the petition to utilize Ditch 41 in Todd County has been submitted. The Todd County Board accepted the petition, and they held an Informational Meeting on June 1, 2021, which allowed the LID Board to provide information on the High-Water Project. The High-Water project has received over 50 signatures from Todd County landowners to show their support of the project. We will keep you up to date on progress with the petition request.
- Bi-monthly meetings with the local DNR have been held to keep them informed of the project and to provide detailed project information, to seek input and to inquire regarding technical issues.
- Houston Engineering has completed many technical tasks including soil borings, wetland delineation, surveys, electrical design, drafting of an operations plan, completing route and design details for landowners, and providing right of way descriptions.

Next project steps include:

- Houston Engineering will be working to develop construction plans to include designs of key project features including hydraulic features, AIS filtration, forcemain pipe and outlet, drainage system and lake inlet. Houston will also explore cost savings and will provide an updated cost and documentation report.
- Completion of the petition process with Todd County for the use of Todd County Ditch 41.
- Seeking approval and permits from key agencies such as the DNR, Soil and Water agencies, Corp of Engineers, Morrison County, MN DOT, etc.
- Preparation and issuance of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW).
- Other tasks include completion of the Operations Plan, continued outreach with landowners, agencies and public, and conducting a 429 Hearing to begin the bonding and financing process.

Upon completion of all the above tasks, the project will be ready for the completion of the final detailed design plans, developing bid and contract documents, issuing bids, and selecting the contractor for construction. The final timeline for construction will depend on the timing of the approval of the Todd County petition and completion of agency permitting.

4. **Floodplain Mapping:** Morrison County is taking the lead on the mapping project and if you have questions, contact Amy Kowalzek at Morrison County. The LID recently received information that the Floodplain mapping will be delayed. Following is the updated schedule with the anticipated key dates:
 - December 2021 – Preliminary new maps issued.
 - January 2022 – Local officials meeting.
 - February 2022 – Public Open house.
 - April/May 2022 through July/Aug 2022 – 90-day appeal process.
 - Sept/Oct 2022 – “Letter of Final Determination” sent to communities (maps will be effective in 6 months).
 - March/April 2023 – New maps effective.

- Other Information:** Plan to attend the High-Water Project Informational Meeting that will be held online on Thursday, August 5, 2021, beginning at 6 PM. To receive a meeting invitation, send an email prior to the meeting date to Fred Comb at fred@homeinspectionsofmn.com.

Look for a mailing during the first week of August from SBS that will include: Voting Instructions and Voting Ballot, the Candidate Information Sheet, the 2021 Budget Sheet, a letter from the LSLID Board of Directors, and a return envelope.

Be sure to visit the LSLID website for updates and other documents and information. Send your email address to LSLIDBD@gmail.com to subscribe to our electronic newsletter. Be sure that your mailing address is up to date with the Morrison County Auditor's Office as we use the County property information for our mailings.

Thank you for your support,

Rick Rosar, Bob Koll, Fred Comb, Ardis Sandstrom, and Tim Rice

Lake Shamineau Lake Improvement District Board of Directors

Cindy Kevern

Administrator

Email: LSLIDBD@gmail.com | **Website:** <https://minnesotawaters.org/lakeshamineau/lid/>

Attachment: Route Map of High-Water Project

Lake Shamineau			
Elevation Readings (data from MN DNR)			
Date	Elevation	Feet Above	
		OHW	Notable Events
9/6/1962	1270.55	-4.55	<i>Lowest Recorded Reading</i>
4/24/2017	1276.09	0.99	
7/11/2017	1275.92	0.82	
8/26/2017	1276.28	1.18	Positive Vote for High-Water Project
10/14/2017	1276.38	1.28	
5/13/2018	1276.51	1.41	
7/1/2018	1276.87	1.77	
8/23/2018	1276.37	1.27	Positive Vote for High-Water Project
10/5/2018	1276.09	0.99	
5/21/2019	1276.84	1.74	
7/1/2019	1277.13	2.03	
8/31/2019	1276.82	1.72	Positive Vote for High-Water Project
10/6/2019	1277.52	2.42	
5/26/2020	1278.08	2.98	<i>Highest Recorded Lake Level</i>
7/21/2020	1277.96	2.86	
8/30/2020	1277.76	2.66	Positive Vote for High-Water Project
9/20/2020	1277.52	2.42	
4/14/2021	1277.55	2.45	
5/19/2021	1277.44	2.34	
6/11/2021	1277.20	2.10	
OHW = Ordinary High Water			
The OHW Level for Lake Shamineau is 1275.10			