

ELID

Annual Meeting Minutes

July 12, 2025

Board Members of Attendance:

Kelly Hepper, Chairperson
Stephanie Enderle, Vice-Chairperson
Colleen Ziebol, Treasurer
Dean Johnson, Secretary
Gene Curtis
Mike Peterson

Board Members Absent:

Jeff Olson

Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order
2. Annual Meeting Agenda Approval
3. Introduction of Board Members & Announcements
4. Introduction of OTC District 3 Commissioner
5. Guest Speaker – Jeff Vansteenburgh
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Election of Directors
8. Update of Culvert Replacement
9. Update Water Sampling & Shoreline Management
10. Proposed Budget 2026 & Vote
11. Election Results
12. Adjournment

ELID Members in Attendance: There were 40 parcel members that registered/signed in (out of 190 members). All were offered a name tag at check-in. Paper ballots and voting cards were handed out at the registration desk. Four (4) mail-in ballots were received and counted as part of the election for the two(2) new Board members.

Meeting Notice: In addition to the meeting notice being sent to each member, a notice was published in the Battle Lake Review newspaper twice (July 2nd & 9th) prior to the annual meeting.

Meeting PowerPoint Presentation: The Board of Directors prepared a PowerPoint presentation guide which organized and outlined the Annual Meeting discussion and topics.

Meeting Minutes:

1. Call to Order. Kelly Hepper called the meeting to order at 10:00 pm at Eagle Lake Lutheran Church on Saturday, July 12, 2025.
2. Annual Meeting Agenda Approval. The agenda (as noted above) was reviewed and there were no exceptions noted. Motion was made to “approve the agenda” and seconded. A voice vote was taken and the **“Agenda” was unanimously APPROVED.**
3. Introduction of Board Members & Announcements.
 - a. Kelly Hepper welcomed members to the 4th ANNUAL MEETING of the Eagle Lake Improvement District (ELID) and introduced the current Board of Directors.
 - b. Ballot judges will be Mike Peterson and Stephanie Enderle.
 - c. Mailed out with the annual meeting notice were the “candidate statements” for the Board of Directors.
 - d. We will forgo reading of the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes if there is no objection. There were no objections to NOT reading last year’s meeting minutes.
4. Introduction of OTC District 3 Commissioner. Kurt Mortenson, County Commissioner, greeted the membership and made mention of MN State governor’s budget cuts for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention funding. This did directly impact Otter Tail County. The State cut funding for AIS by 50%. Last year the County received \$460,000 for AIS and this year it will be one-half that amount.
5. Guest Speaker – Jeff Vansteenburgh. Jeff is the OTC Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) Board Environmental Director. He has extensive background working with water quality and fisheries. Jeff gave a slide presentation and reviewed typical lake quality issues and specifically addressed Eagle Lake water sampling and lake clarity.

Items discussed include:

- a. One of the elements of Water Quality Reports is building a strong database. With the monthly sampling that Eagle Lake is currently doing, and has accumulated over the years, it has a great historical database (28 years). Every monthly sample is a snapshot in time of water quality.
- b. Water quality sampling for Eagle Lake (and other County lakes) is taken May through September. Samples are taken in approximately the same location in the lake each time and on a specific date of the month (regardless of weather conditions). RMB Labs in Detroit Lakes performs the analysis.
- c. Eagle Lake historical data puts the lake in the “Moderately Clear Mesotrophic.”
- d. Noted that studies have shown that zebra mussels have a negative impact on walleye fish “size” (12 -14%). Zebra mussels reduce lake levels of zooplankton, an important food source for young walleye. Zebra mussels function as filters, reducing the amount of algae in the water, which is a food source for zooplankton.
- e. Starry Stonewort is an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and cannot be eliminated once in your lake. It is a noxious, matting algae posing a danger to lake property values and the

quality of the lake. Lake Koronis, located near Paynesville Minnesota, has been combating the infestation of starry stonewort since 2015. This AIS is very costly to manage. COLA has a presentation on “starry stonewort” at the Otter Tail County Community Center (City of Ottertail) on July 17th, 7:00 pm. All lake property owners are welcome to attend.

- f. He encouraged continued lake sampling/water analysis and vigilance in the watch for any invasive weed species (as treatment can be costly).

- 6. Treasurer’s Report. Colleen Ziebol presented the End of Year 2024 and Year-To-Date (YTD) 2025 financial reports. The 2024 end-of-year balance ended up at \$21,225.19. The YTD 2025 (January through June) has a current balance of \$26,976.19. There was a call for questions regarding the reports:

- a. Will the \$50 fee be every year? Response – that is proposed for 2026 to build a balance of about \$10,000 for any unanticipated initiatives/issues or emergencies. That fee amount yields \$10,600 from the County annually.

A motion was made to “accept the two financial reports” and seconded. A voice vote was taken, and the **“2024 & 2025 financial reports” were unanimously ACCEPTED.**

- 7. Election of Directors. Kelly Hepper opened nominations from the floor to fill two (2) board seat vacancies for the ELID. One (1) full time resident seat and one (1) seasonal seat. Dean Johnson and Mike Peterson have reached the maximum 2 term limits and will be coming off the Board. Kelly thanked the 2 departing Board members for their service. Those elected today will serve a three-year term. The Board of Directors consists of seven members. There are four full time residents and three seasonal residents.

- a. Call for nominations. Craig Andrews (full-time resident) plus Dean Kluss (seasonal resident) were nominated from the floor and seconded. There were no additional nominations from the floor. It was noted that candidate statements were previously included in the Annual Meeting Notice mailing.
 - b. Kelly Hepper made a second call for any other nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were made.
 - c. Call was made for a motion to “close nominations.” A motion was made and seconded. A voice vote was taken to **“close nominations” and was unanimously APPROVED.**
 - d. Candidate Dean Kluss was offered an opportunity to come forward and address the membership to review his bio. Dean Kluss stated his commitment to serve on the Board. Craig Andrews was unable to attend today’s meeting.
 - e. Members are to cast a vote for one (1) full time resident candidate and one (1) seasonal resident. **Election results at conclusion of meeting**
 - f. Paper Ballots, which were handed out at registration, were collected by the Election Judges for counting.

- 8. Update of Culvert Replacement. Dean Johnson presented the project update. The 1974 section of the culvert pipe being removed is 18” diameter, galvanized corrugated steel (size limited by the DNR), 50 years old and at its life expectancy. The new pipe will be the same size and material as what is removed (as the DNR would only allow a smaller 15” diameter pipe if it was plastic HDPE pipe. It is the Board’s intent to enter into agreements with Ness Backhoe & Excavating for the construction; and Moore Engineering to document the completed pipe installation. The Board will also apply for and secure permits from the DNR and County. The project cost,

including engineering and permits, is estimated at \$18,500. It is anticipated that the work will be accomplished in September or October (low lake water level season).

The four (4) foot diameter lake bottom grate is a critical element of the lake water outlet system. Dean acknowledged the volunteer assistance of Rick Peterson (SCUBA diver) for recently cleaning the grate..

9. Update Water Sampling & Shoreline Management. Budgeted for this year was sampling of the two watershed pipes which flow water into Eagle Lake year-round. Dean Johnson indicated that samples were taken and the analysis/conclusions are being developed. These specific two (2) pipe samplings are also proposed for 2026 and included in the proposed budget for next year.

It is also proposed that in 2026 the ELID take over all the lake water sampling/testing (five times per summer) that is currently being accomplished through ELLA. This is budgeted in the 2026 Proposed Budget. So far this year, lake clarity readings are May 18 @ 21', June 15th @ 12', June 29th @ 26', and July 2nd @ 32'.

Additional initiatives planned and budgeted for 2026 include performing a comprehensive weed survey (including any invasive weed species). This will identify what currently exists in the lake and will be a benchmark for monitoring any future changes. Subsequent years may only need to be monitored for aquatic invasive species.

Other future initiatives which may be considered include a prescreen over the lake bottom outlet grate, volunteer grate cleaners, zebra mussel cleaning of the concrete section of the water outlet system. Contact a Board member if you have suggestions relative to water quality initiatives by the ELID.

Stephanie Enderle presented suggestions what individual members can do to maintain our water quality and clarity. This included being responsible for your boat wake. Large wakes produced by some watercraft can have a negative effect on water quality and shoreline. Maintain a 200 foot from shore "no wake zone". Consider naturalizing your shoreline with native plants.

10. Proposed Budget 2026 & Vote. Colleen Ziebol presented the Proposed 2026 Budget. It includes operating expenses, water testing (for 2 watershed pipes draining into lake), a comprehensive weed survey, joining COLA (which includes lake water sampling) and repaying the ELLA "start-up" funds. It also includes insurance for the ELID Board. **The proposed "fee" for 2026 is \$50.** There was a call for questions regarding the reports:
 - a. Why insurance? Response – insurance need to protect the ELID Board and will be a recurring expense.

A motion was made to "accept the 2026 Budget" and seconded. A "card count" vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously (43 card votes to "accept" the motion with 0 card votes against). **The 2026 budget was approved.**

2. Election Results. Election Results. The Inspectors of the Election (Stephanie Enderle and Mike Peterson) announced the results of the election for 2 board vacancies. The paper ballot voting results are as follows:
 - a. Fulltime resident – **Craig Andrews @ 52 votes.....elected to 3-year term.**
 - b. Seasonal resident – **Dean Kluss @ 49 votes.....elected to 3-year term.**
11. Adjournment. Citing no further business, a motion was made “to adjourn” this meeting and seconded. A voice vote was called for and the motion to “adjourn” was unanimously **APPROVED.**

Meeting was adjourned at 11:19 am.

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