

Lake Keesus Management District
Annual Meeting Minutes
October 8, 2024

Opening

The Annual meeting of the Lake Keesus Management District was called to order at 6:11 p.m. on October 8, 2024, at the Merton Town Hall by LKMD Chairman Dan Willems.

Confirmation of Postings

Chairman Engelking confirmed that the Notice of the meeting, along with the Agenda, was posted at Town Hall, North Lake Library, and Boat Launch on September 24, 2024, and mailings were sent on September 21, 2024. The LKMD Email list was notified on September 25, 2024.

Present

Dan Willems/Chair; Pete Schumacher/Treasurer; Cara Engelking, Secretary

Dick Morris

Approval of Annual Minutes

- Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes as posted. Motion made by Jean Schlidt, seconded by Rick Zimbric. Motion carried.

Audit Report

- The district has not had an audit for the past 4 years. Efforts to outsource the audit have not been successful, as the bids received have been very expensive.
- A former lake volunteer has agreed to restart the audit process and will put together a proposal.
- More updates will be shared as the audit process progresses.

Election of Commissioner

- Dan Willems has been a commissioner for 3 years and is running for re-election.
- The vote was unanimous in favor of Dan, with Ken Belter making a motion and Rick Zimbric seconding the motion.
- Voting slips were distributed, with a total of 36 slips given out.
- 33 votes were cast in favor of Dan Willems, and 3 votes were left blank.

Committee Reports

- Jeff Vanderkin provided an update on the weed harvesting equipment. The cutter blades and oil have been changed, and mice were removed from the harvester. Both the harvester and shore station were power-washed, and the batteries were removed from the truck and harvester to be charged. The harvester is tarped where the workers sit, but the rest of it is not tarped, and the engine wasn't covered due to mice living there. The harvester's canopy needs to be replaced, and the hydraulics will need to be checked next year. This harvester will be used all of next year.
- Large Wake Committee: Everyone is invited to the special Large Wake meeting, which will be held a week from today. An agenda was included in the mailing. Mark Davis and Linda Ziemer will co-chair all future meetings following next Tuesday's meeting. Future meetings will be announced via email and posted on the LKMD website. Everyone is

invited to these committee meetings. Please note, there will be no vote at next week's meeting.

- Fishing Committee: Mary Schlump reported on behalf of Ed Schlump. The DNR recently stocked 2,700 walleyes in Lake Keesus. The survival rate tends to be higher for larger fish. However, the DNR reports that there is little to no natural reproduction of walleyes in the lake, with walleye eggs not hatching. Additionally, 4,500 perch were stocked by the LKMD and the Rod and Gun Club. It's estimated that about 10% of those perch will survive the first year, and half of those will grow to a good size. If you're interested in joining the committee, please sign up with Ed. The DNR will be conducting a fish shock survey next week to assess fish size and population in the lake.

Harvesting Equipment

- Last year, we allocated up to \$122,000 to purchase new equipment, with the expectation of receiving a grant that would cover half the cost of a new harvester. The original quote for the harvester was \$309,225. Judy Reinders completed the grant application and presented it to the LKMD. We were awarded \$154,612. After signing the necessary paperwork, we received a check from the DNR for \$77,000 (half of the grant amount). Aquarius has informed us that it takes about a year from placing the order to receiving the new harvester. A meeting is scheduled in November at Aquarius to discuss the new equipment.
- The cost of the new equipment is \$310,000, with half of that amount covered by the grant. Our existing equipment is estimated to be worth between \$60,000 and \$80,000, which we plan to sell. After the sale, we will need to pay between \$80,000 and \$90,000 from the allocated funds. Aquarius has assisted with selling equipment in the past and will also help us with this process.

Harvester Pier

- The current pier used to access the harvesting equipment is an old floating pier from the camp. We are considering replacing it. Summerset suggested a used pier that may not be suitable. The quote for the new harvesting equipment includes a walkway on the new conveyor, though we're unsure how it will look or how accessible it will be. Instead of moving forward with a new pier at this time, we will wait until we receive more information about the new harvester. Aquarius may also have suggestions regarding the new equipment and its compatibility with the pier.
- Motion by Laura Milbrath to put a hold on the purchase of a pier for the harvester. Seconded by Jeff Vanderkin.
- Vote: All were in favor, none opposed. Motion Carried.

Approval of the 2025 Tax Levy

- Motion by Ken Belter to approve the 2025 Tax Levy. Seconded by Bob Plautz.
- The motion was approved unanimously, with no votes against.
- Tax levy set at \$50. Motion Carried.

Approval of the 2025 Budget

- Motion made by Pat Zimbric to approve the Budget. Seconded by Tom Milbrath.
- The motion was approved unanimously, with no votes against. Motion Carried.

Adjournment

Motion made by Rick Zimbric to adjourn. Seconded by Nina Schlidt. Motion Carried. Meetings adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Cara Engelking, LKMD Secretary

Approved by: