

CIRCLE LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, April 9, 2026 at 6:30 pm
 Forest Town Hall

Board members present: Dean Sunderlin, Cheryl Bahnsen, Carl Bahnsen, Bill Houston, Dawn Cherwinka, and Ryan Nugent

	Sept 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Jun 2026	Jul 2026	Annual 2026
Bahnsen, Cheryl	x	x	x	x		x	x	x				
Bahnsen, Carl	x	x	x	x		x	x	x				
Houston, William		x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Jirik, Jeff	x	x	x	x	x		x					
Klokow, Denise	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					
Sunderlin, Dean	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x				
Johnson, Stefanie	x	x	x	x	x	x						
Nugent, Ryan	x		x	x	x	x	x	x				
Dawn Cherwinka							x	x				

Call to Order

Dean called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Attendance

Dean conducted roll call. Dean, Ryan, Dawn, Carl, Cheryl, and Bill were present.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda was provided ahead of the meeting. Cheryl motioned to approve the agenda with the addition. Bill 2nd. Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The March meeting minutes were read. Cheryl motioned to approve the minutes. Bill 2nd. Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

Treasurer Report

Cheryl walked through the treasurer's report, which was provided ahead of the meeting.

Approval to pay Bills

Carl motioned to pay the 3 bills below. Dean 2nd. Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

- \$139.58 - Crane for pontoon boat, reimbursement to Carl.
- \$25.76 - Cleats for pontoon boat, reimbursement to Carl.
- \$435.00 - Warwick Industrial for aerator (2) electrical quick-connects.

Committee Reports

Administration

Insurance items:

1. Property insurance request to MCIT for property and property value coverage.
2. MCIT Risk Management Assessment for 2027 premiums - Form submitted.
3. Boat and motor are currently insured.

Public notice for herbicide treatment provided to the Faribault Daily News.

Pontoon title has been received.

Carl motioned to amend Article 7, sections 1-3 of the bylaws as presented. Dawn 2nd. Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

Finance

The CLID was awarded a \$15,000 grant from DNR for AIS.

Rice County Environmental Services advised that the CLID will receive \$5000 for 2026, but no grant in 2027.

Discussion of pursuing past sponsors (foundations, race sponsors) for additional gifts, and to ask if/how they would like to be recognized. Bill will verify the rules for donating through the CLA (501(c)3) versus the CLID (nonprofit unit of county government).

In discussions at the Lakes Conference in March, Board members were advised that previous interpretations that carp could not be returned to waterways are incorrect. Therefore, the CLID will not submit a letter (as moved at the February meeting) to the DNR's proposed regulations on handling carp.

Lake Management/Projects

Aeration

ISG has recently been out on the lake collecting bathymetry data. They could be done next week.

The three aeration systems will be deployed once the water temperature exceeds 55 degrees.

Water samples need to be acquired at designated points around the lake at least 1x/month (Dawn to volunteer), and soon after high water events. Bill to provide MCPA water quality volunteering information in the next CLID newsletter.

Notes on pontoon boat and equipment logistics:

The boat does not only provide access for aerator maintenance in the water, but also a platform for heavy lifting and transport of equipment. Therefore, additional resources are necessary:

- A mooring area or boat slip for daily/weekly accessibility.
- A boat trailer allowing transport of equipment to/from the lake to maintenance and storage locations.

Weeds

Application of weed herbicide is dependent on water temperature. In 2025 application was around the first week in May.

For 2026 the maximum herbicide application area (per the DNR) is 125 acres. The actual area treated could be less depending on the results of the delineation survey of the proposed area(s) that verifies weed presence. The 2026 DNR approved treatment acreage for Circle Lake should be known by the May CLID meeting.

Publications/Communications

Newsletter 2026 v.1.4 is expected to be released the week of 4/13.

Unfinished Business

Denise continues to organize CLID files to prepare them for uploading to the cloud.

Cheryl has made financial documentation indexed and searchable.

All documents have at least one Board member owner. Owners will maintain document retention responsibilities.

New Business

A tandem axle scissor trailer is considered the most stable, cost effective option for the CLID pontoon boat.

Carl motioned to purchase a boat trailer up to a maximum cost of \$4100. Bill 2nd. Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

Announcements

Wildlife Management Areas Dedication

October 9, 2026 is a ceremony to dedicate two new wildlife management areas at Circle Lake; the island and the wetland to the northwest. Media tour of late at 3:00 pm, dedication at 4:30 pm. Governor may attend.

October 10, 2026 Governor will visit Circle Lake on the pheasant hunting opener.

Dean is on the planning committee. The CLID will solicit boats for the lake tour, and provide lake history for the dedications. Dean will explore other activities and avenues for CLID visibility.

Trnka Property Clean-up

CLID members assisted with collection of trash on private property, left during the abandonment of the original, single aerator location.

Adjournment

Cheryl motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 pm. Carl 2nd. Approved unanimously. Motion carries.

