



A REVIEW OF THE LAST 12 MONTHS

PAYING DOWN THE DEBT ASSOCIATED WITH CREATING THE LID

The LID owes Bruce Sellers, the attorney that represented us during the LID formation, \$23,461.75. Bruce was willing to delay payment for his work to keep us from being buried in start-up costs during our first few years. We will make our first payment, **\$10,000**, too Bruce this year and pay the balance in 2022.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT ISG. ISG is the environmental engineering firm we hired to help us through the process of forming the LID. Like Bruce, ISG has deferred payment on their bill. We own ISG \$5604.04 and will have that paid off by the end of the year. Again, this is for the work they did for us to get the LID approved.

2021 Projects

2021 INVASIVE WEED HARVEST

The lake had a bumper crop of weeds this year, and we mechanically harvested 36 acres of them. We were awarded a \$5,000 grant from Rice County and \$5,500 from the Circle Lake Association for that work and would like to thank both organizations for the support. The LID paid **\$4,150** towards this work. In addition to the 36 acres harvested, we also coordinated with members who wanted their lakeshore weeds cut to have that done. Lakeshore weed cutting was paid for by the 43 property owners requesting it. There was no cost to the LID for this work other than signage purchased to show the weed cutter which properties wanted their weeds cut. Carl Bahnsen, one of the LID Board members, was the lead on this project, and we would like to recognize him for his excellent work. It was a challenging year for the weed harvester, and Carl was instrumental in keeping their equipment running.

2021 LAKE MONITORING/DATA COLLECTION/SURVEY PLAN.

CLID's GOALS and OBJECTIVES

Improve the water quality to the point that Circle Lake is removed from the MPCA's Impaired waters list

To achieve that goal, the lake will need

- a TP Total Phosphorus load of < 60 micrograms/liter
- a Chlorophyll (a) <20 micrograms/liter
- a year-round Secchi disk reading of > 1 meter

The latest data we have on the lake dates back **to July 2015**. That data needs to be updated. To that end, we have contracted with Minnesota State Mankato to develop and implement a monitoring/data collection/survey plan for the lake running from April-October this year. This is a multi-faceted program to give us a well-rounded view of the lake's condition and insights into what is driving its condition. We are fortunate to have Chad Whittkop, a Professor at Minnesota State Mankato and a CLID member working on this. Chad has donated his time to put the projects together and see to their execution. Thank you, Chad. Jeff Jirik and Keith Kluzak are the two CLID Board members working with Chad on these projects. Thank you, Jeff and Keith. When the monitoring/survey plan report is completed it will be posted on the District's website www.clidmn.com.

BUOYS HAVE BEEN PLACED IN THE LAKE TO IDENTIFY HAZARDS

The District has placing buoys in the lake identifying where there are hazards to navigation. (Rocks that are close to the surface, and very shallow water) One of the hazards we marked was with a buoy that has been loaned to us for the season by the Rice County Sherriff's office. The District has placed four (4) more buoys. We want to thank Sherriff Dunn for not only the loan of a buoy this year but for handling the permitting, placement in the spring, and removal in the fall of all our buoys. Thank you.

CULVER TRAIL

In 2020 members of the District requested a grant to help with the cost of an erosion control project by Culver Trail. The project would mitigate the problem of water overtopping Culver Trail and washing soil into the lake due to heavy rainstorms. In cooperation with the Rice County Soil and Water District (SWCD), which is paying 75% of the cost of this project, and the landowners affected by this runoff, the CLID is providing a \$4500 grant to help cover the cost of this project. This project was completed earlier this summer, and we will pay out on this grant as soon as we review the documents with the members involved.

RESULTS OF THE ITEMS VOTED ON BY THE MEMBERSHIP AT THE 2021
ANNUAL MEETING

1. 2022 Budget (Approved)
2. Invasive Weed Control (cost > \$5000) (Approved)
3. Payment to Bruce Sellers in 2022, \$13,461.75 (Approved)
4. Elected 3 District Members to the Board of Directors
 - Jeff Jirik
 - William Houston
 - Denise Klokow

2022

The 2022 BUDGET

The CLID Members approved a \$300 per property owner assessment for 2022. That assessment will generate the \$50,960 figure shown on the income side of the budget.

We have been assured that a \$5000 grant will be available for in-lake weed control in 2022. So that is being shown on the income side too.

On the expense side of the budget are five items I want to address.

1. The first is the **\$13,461.75** to Bruce Sellers. As I mentioned earlier, Bruce was our attorney and represented us during the LID formation. The **\$13,461.75** is the balance we owe him for his work, and we will pay that off in 2022. With our 2022 payment to Bruce, we will have eliminated **100%** of our start-up cost.
2. We have also budgeted **\$2,500** for consulting work we feel we will need in 2022.
3. We have budgeted **\$10,000** for weed control/harvesting.
4. The Inter, Monitor Systems, and Lab Analysis are in the budget to continue collecting data on the lake's condition during 2022.
5. The Working Capital/Cash reserve item on the budget is there as the LID needs to continue accumulating money over the next few years to have the resources to cover projects, matching funds, or the costs associated with grant awards.

I would expect the \$300 per property owner assessment requested for this year will remain the same for the foreseeable future.

Projects for 2022

INVASIVE WEED CONTROL

As we look at managing lake weeds in 2022, we are becoming more informed on the use of chemicals to control lake weeds. Therefore, we expect that herbicide application will be part of the mix for our 2022 weed management program.

LAKE MONITORING AND WATER SAMPLING WILL CONTINUE IN 2022.

POSSIBLE PROJECTS OVER THE NEXT 5 YEARS

Any other project that we undertake in 2022 has yet to be determined. We won't have a report and an evaluation of the data collected in 2021 until the end of the year. With the data we are collecting, we will better understand the lakes' current status and where we should focus our efforts. What we decide to do in the future will be data-driven so we can get the biggest bang for the buck.

Items on our five-year plan will/might include:

- Invasive Weeds control
- Reducing the nutrient load entering the lake
- Reducing the nutrient load in the lake
- Lowering the sediment load entering the lake
- Controlling the level of the lake
- Carp population control
- Native Plant restoration
- Dredging the lake

As I said earlier a lot of this will depend on where the data points us. We will also need cooperative land owners, and the process will be greatly accelerated if we can obtain additional funding/grants.

We will continue developing relationships with the various organizations and government agencies that work in this area and provide grants for lake improvement/water quality work.

The seven-member CLID Board is a hard-working, dedicated group of individuals who volunteer their time and energy to work on CLID issues. Their talents are wide-ranging. I am incredibly grateful for all they do.

We appreciate your support.

Sincerely,

Dean Sunderlin

Circle Lake Improvement District - Chair

The CLID Board of Directors:

Dean Sunderlin Chair	Term Ends in 2022
Brian Panettiere Vice-Chair	Term Ends in 2022
Cheryl Bahnsen Treasurer	Term Ends in 2023
Carl Bahnsen	Term Ends in 2022
Jeff Jirik	Reelected in August 2021 Term ends in 2024
William Houston	Elected in August 2021 Term Ends in 2024
Denise Klokow	Elected in August 2021 Term Ends in 2024
Mandi Morrissey	Term Ended in August 2021
Keith Kluzak	Term Ended in August 2021