

LAKE IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS

OVERVIEW

1. Lake Improvement Districts (LID)

- a. Local unit of government that allows for greater local involvement of lake management strategies
- b. Has the ability to assess properties within its boundaries, but has no taxing authority of its own

2. Purpose of LID's

- a. Preserve and protect lakes of the state
- b. Increase and enhance recreational use, aesthetics, and quality of lake for public use
- c. Control water levels, water quality, aquatic invasive species
- d. Obtain desired goals and outcomes that are currently not capable due to funding restrictions

ESTABLISHMENT

3. Methods

- a. Resolution of intent by County Board
- b. Petition to County Board
- c. Petition to Commissioner of Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

4. Petition to County Board

- a. Need for LID to promote public welfare
- b. Benefits of LID/ Goals of the LID
- c. Boundaries of LID
- d. Requested number of Board of Directors (5-9)
- e. Financing services
- f. DNR Advisory Report
- g. Signed by majority of property owners of proposed LID
- h. Filed with county auditor
- i. Within 30 days, County Board must act on the LID petition by holding a Public Hearing

5. DNR Advisory Report

- a. General information on existing conditions of lake
- b. Explanation of the lakes issues/problems
- c. Goals, desired outcomes, and needs for the LID
- d. Statement on working with other local groups or state agencies
- e. Proposed boundaries of LID
- f. Benefits to properties within the LID
- g. Management strategies, projects, and future plans intended by the LID to promote public welfare

6. LID Boundaries

- a. Statue 103B: "The district boundaries shall be encouraged to be as consistent as possible with natural hydrologic boundaries of the lakes."
- b. Boundary shall include a sufficient area of the lake's watershed for implementation of solutions to the identified issues/problems of lake
 - i. Water level, water quality-Influenced by lakes watershed
 - ii. Aesthetics, aquatic invasive species-Influenced by lakeshore residents

LID INFLUENCES

7. LID Authorities

- a. County Board delegates authority to each LID, typically upon review of LID's Annual Report and requests
- b. Authority is based on LID's goals, existing problems, and public benefits
- c. LID's may only implement projects and practices on the lake only if that lake has a Public Water Access

8. Board of Directors

- a. The LID's Board of Directors are appointed by the County Board after the LID is established
- b. Number, qualifications, terms of office, and election method shall be provided to County Board upon establishment of LID
- c. Future Board of Directors are elected at Annual Meeting
- d. Board of Directors can receive compensation, if determined at Annual Meeting
- e. Powers of Board of Directors are still limited by governing agent/County Board
- f. Board of Directors must be members of the LID with a majority being permanent residents

9. Financing

- a. The LID must pass its budget recommendation through the County Board for approval
- b. Financing of LID improvement projects, services, etc. through county by:
 - i. Assessments to benefited properties
 - ii. Impose service charges
 - iii. Issue general obligation bonds
 - iv. Levy an ad valorem tax
 - v. Impose any combination of the above
- c. LID's are eligible to be the recipient of grants from state and federal agencies
- d. Many cost share opportunities available through watershed groups, Soil and Watershed Conservation District, other local groups

DISTRICT REQUIREMENTS

10. Annual meeting of LID

- a. Must be during July or August
- b. Invitations must be sent to all property owners within the district, DNR, County Board, any other agency that is involved on projects
- c. Election of Board of Directors
- d. Financial report/budget requests
- e. Overview of improvement projects

11. Insurance

- a. General liability insurance is required for LIDs, as the LID assumes all legal responsibilities for any activity, project, or practice undertaken by the LID

12. Annual Report

- a. Intended projects/management programs
- b. Status of past or current projects
- c. Financial reports/budget requests
- d. Other business, monitoring report, future plans, etc.
- e. Must be submitted to local governing unit, DNR, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

- 13. Districts** are encouraged to work with local agencies, watershed groups, DNR, MPCA, etc. on developing long term management strategies and outline specific goals

TERMINATION OF LID

14. Methods

- a. Referendum of the Petition can be voted upon by the County Board if 26 percent of property owners within the LID sign a referendum petition
- b. Petition of termination can be submitted to the County Board if the majority of property owners in the LID sign
- c. County Board/ governing unit can terminate the LID if it is deemed that the LID no longer serves as a benefit to the public welfare