



LAKELIDALID.COM

P.O. Box 343

Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

## MISSION STATEMENT

To preserve and protect Lida Lakes and to increase and enhance the use and enjoyment of the lakes. It is in the property owners and public interest that a lake improvement program is established to: preserve the natural character of the lakes and their shoreline environment where feasible and practical; improve the quality of water in the lakes; provide for reasonable assurance of water in the lakes, where feasible and practicable; and to assure protection of the lakes from detrimental effects of human activities and certain natural processes.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Hilber | Chair | [eyemaj@gmail.com](mailto:eyemaj@gmail.com)

Brian Graftaas | Vice Chair | [graftaas@gmail.com](mailto:graftaas@gmail.com)

David Braton  
Secretary  
[braton41764@gmail.com](mailto:braton41764@gmail.com)

Zach Herrmann  
Treasurer  
[zherrmann1984@gmail.com](mailto:zherrmann1984@gmail.com)

Dee Dee Stephenson  
Director  
[ddstephenson5@gmail.com](mailto:ddstephenson5@gmail.com)

Sheldon Poss  
Director  
[sheldonposs61@gmail.com](mailto:sheldonposs61@gmail.com)

Mike Spangler  
Director  
[mikespangler41@gmail.com](mailto:mikespangler41@gmail.com)

Moriya Rufer  
Lake Coordinator  
[mrufer@houstoneng.com](mailto:mrufer@houstoneng.com)

## 2024 BOARD MEETINGS & ANNUAL MEETING

ALL MEETINGS ARE SCHEDULED FOR 9 AM AT THE LIDA TOWNSHIP BUILDING  
42206 230TH AVENUE, PELICAN RAPIDS, MN 56572

BOARD MEETING  
SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

BOARD MEETING  
SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2024

ANNUAL MEETING  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2024

## MESSAGE FROM DAVID HILBER, CHAIR LLID

Welcome to the second annual Lida Lakes Improvement District (LLID) newsletter. In our winter newsletter you will find great information on the work of your board, an introduction by our new Lake Coordinator Moriya Rufer, an introduction of new board member Dee Dee Stephenson, details on our 2024 initiatives, budget updates and more. In May of 2023 we found the smallest amounts yet of curly leaf pondweed (CLP) on South Lake Lida and for the first time were able to treat all of what we found. We also treated for the first time a small area of CLP found in Bagley Bay on North Lida. This fall the LLID stocked over \$10K of walleye fingerlings into our lakes, and this winter we partnered with "Keep It Clean MN" to reduce waste left on the lakes after ice fishing season. Moriya Rufer, scientist with Houston Engineering, started January 2024 as our new Lake Coordinator. She will personally be surveying and directing treatment of CLP in our lakes. We are doing all of this without any increase in assessment to Lida Lakes Property Owners. Finally, and most importantly, we urge property owners to think about serving on the board or committees in the future. You will find information on how you can be a part of the board in the newsletter along with vital information regarding the August Annual Meeting. So read on, enjoy, and let us know what you think.



Take the Short LLID Survey!  
Visit [lakelidalid.com](http://lakelidalid.com)  
and click Membership Survey under "Programs"

## 2024 LIDA LAKES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT INITIATIVES



- Keep It Clean MN campaign. The extremely mild winter temperatures raised havoc with winter ice fishing. Your LLID was prepared for typical winter weather and strong ice fishing on the lake by launching our "Keep It Clean-MN" campaign in early December. The campaign received extensive media coverage as Lida was the first in Otter Tail to take the initiative to keep our ice clean. The campaign included large signs on the public accesses, posters, press releases and geo-fencing the lake where individuals on the ice received messaging from LLID on keeping the lake clean of waste. The Board is working with area lakes to expand this campaign next year.
- Surveying and treatments are ongoing on Lida Lakes. Monitoring will continue in 2024.
- Hiring of a new Lake Coordinator. Moriya Rufer brings extensive talent to LLID. LLID plans to develop an extensive Lake Management Plan to assist LLID in future planning.
- The Fish Committee expanded and built a solid relationship with the DNR in an effort to improve fish populations.
- The Moonlight Bay runoff project is planned to start this spring. This is a joint effort with LLID, Soil and Water Conservation District, Maplewood Township and the property owners.



LLID would like to thank the owners of Erv's Landing for allowing us to post the "Keep Lida Clean" sign on their South Lida access.

## STEPHENSON NAMED TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dee Dee Stephenson has joined the LID Board as of 1/13/24. She was appointed by the board of directors to fill the resignation of full-time resident, Mimsi Weckwerth. Dee Dee is a native of Northwood, North Dakota. She earned a BBA in Marketing and a Law Degree from the University of North Dakota. She practiced law in Bismarck and Fargo-Moorhead for several years. She and her husband Cary have owned property on Lake Lida since 2000. They have resided full-time on Lake Lida since 2006 with their daughters, Anna and Viktoria.

## LAKE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE UPDATE - BRIAN GRAFTAAS



**Lake Coordinator:** As we reported at the Annual Meeting, Steve Henry left RMB Labs last spring, and RMB Labs decided not to replace him, so we were without a Lake Coordinator for much of last year. I'm happy to report that we hired Moriya Rufer, with Houston Engineering. She will manage the curly-leaf pondweed treatments, checking for other AIS, performing inlet testing, researching grants, and performing water analysis. Moriya is also the Lake Coordinator for PGOLID, and has a lot of experience in this field. We're very fortunate to have her on board.

**Clean Water Report:** A contractor was awarded the bid by the West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District in November, and we are hoping that work gets started on the Moonlight Bay project in the spring. This project will greatly decrease the amount of agricultural runoff that has been flowing into South Lida over the past several years. We are open to partnering with the Soil and Water Conservation District on other clean water projects if there is an opportunity to do so.

**Keep It Clean initiative:** The LLID was the first in Otter Tail County to sign up for the initiative (<https://keepitcleanmn.org>), which has the goal of educating ice fisherman about the growing problem of waste left on the ice. We placed signs on the access, put up posters at area bait shops and businesses, partnered with the owner of the Ice Hole Bar, and had a geo-fencing campaign, which uses banner ads to target ice fisherman on Lida. Unfortunately, the mild winter that we had drastically shortened the ice fishing season, but we did hear positive feedback from the anglers who did get out ice fishing this winter.

**Curly-leaf Pondweed:** The treatments that we have been doing on South Lida since 2019 have proven to be effective, and as a result, the area that we treated on South Lida in 2023 was only 25% of the area that we treated in previous years. We had never had to do treatment on North Lida before; however, we did find a patch in Bagley Bay in our 2022 survey, so we did apply treatment there. We're hopeful that this spring's survey will show that area is shrinking too.

## FISHING COMMITTEE REPORT - MIKE SPANGLER

The Minnesota DNR stocked 1,190,000 walleye fry (500/Littoral Acres) in North Lida and 178,000 walleye fry (500/Littoral Acres) in South Lida in the Spring of 2023. In addition, your LLID purchased and stocked 70 pounds of young of the year (8" to 10") walleye in North Lida in May and another 611 pounds of 6" to 9" fingerling walleye (270 pounds in North Lida and 341 pounds) in October. The MN DNR conducted a Fish Creel Survey which started 5/13/23 and will end sometime in March depending on ice conditions. Survey results should be available in August. The MN DNR will be doing a Spring Black Crappie and Bluegill Hoop Net Assessment and in August a Special Walleye Gillnet Assessment to help gather additional data on future walleye stocking plans. An amendment to the Walleye stocking plan may be proposed depending on the results of the August Special Walleye Gillnet Assessment. The amendment to the walleye stocking plan may include increasing walleye fry stocking in 2025 to 1000 fry per littoral acre on North (2,380,000 fry) and South (356,000) Lida. Lida DNR fry stocking is on an every-other-year basis. Additional stocking by LLID and/or associations is subject to DNR approval based on annual survey results.




## LLID MEETS WITH MN STATE SENATOR JORDAN RASMUSSEN

David Hilber, Chair and David Braton, Secretary LLID met with State Senator Rasmusson in December. They provided an overview of LLID that included a review of our organizational structure, current initiatives and efforts to preserve and protect Lida Lakes. Rasmusson is a strong supporter of the lakes and assisted in the DNR receiving state funding for fisheries.



## COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE - KATIE GALL



The purpose of the communications committee is to keep all members informed of LLID initiatives, board action, member meetings and more. It is also the primary contact with local media. The committee strives to keep our website and Facebook page relevant to property owners and is reviewing tools to improve communication to better serve members. We always welcome any and all feedback to provide the most accessible methods of communication. Please share your feedback with any of the board members, or feel free to reach out to me at [gall.katiem@gmail.com](mailto:gall.katiem@gmail.com). **Don't forget to like us on Facebook, at [Facebook.com/lakelidalid](https://www.facebook.com/lakelidalid)** 

# LIDA LAKES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

## MEET MORIYA RUFER, LLID LAKE COORDINATOR



I'm happy to introduce myself as the new Lake Coordinator! I live in Detroit Lakes and worked for RMB Lab as the Lakes Program Coordinator from 2007-2019, so I am very familiar with your lake monitoring and lake's water quality. Since 2019, I have been working for Houston Engineering as a Scientist. I wrote both the Watershed and Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) and One Watershed, One Plan for the Otter Tail Watershed (which contains Lake Lida) with watershed partners. In my role as Lake Coordinator, I will be coordinating curly-leaf pondweed surveying and treatment, writing educational articles, researching grant opportunities, and advising on lake monitoring. In my first month as Lake Coordinator, I analyzed all the historical water quality data on Lake Lida, which spans 1998-2023. Kudos to the volunteers who have collected this water quality data monthly every summer! Overall, the water quality is excellent, and significantly better than the state standard. Over the entire course of sampling, the collected data for both North and South Lida show improving trends in total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a (how green the lake is) alongside improving water clarity over the last 26 years. During the last decade there has been little significant change. The unintentional introduction of Zebra Mussels to Lake Lida in the past likely led to increased water clarity and decreased chlorophyll-a concentrations (algae) because Zebra Mussels filter algae out of the water as their food. However, the nutrients (phosphorus) that promote algae growth are still present in the lake. Luckily, phosphorus, the main driver of algae growth, has an improving trend as well in both North and South Lida. I look forward to working with you this year!

## 2024 BUDGET

(Note: Due to space limitations in the newsletter the budget descriptions have been condensed. Details are available on the website at [lakelidalid.com](http://lakelidalid.com))



### INCOME

Estimated Carry-Over	\$12,300.00
2024 LLID User Fee (\$50/Parcel)	\$41,800.00
<b>Income Subtotal</b>	<b>\$54,100.00</b>

### EXPENSES (ESTIMATED)

<u>Administrative</u> (Insurance, Website, Mailings, Legal Notices, Organizational Dues)	\$ (5,400.00)
<u>Clean Water Projects</u>	\$ (7,500.00)
<u>Recreation</u> (Fisheries, Support and Water Navigation)	\$ (10,000.00)
<u>Aquatic Invasive Species</u> (Survey, Treatment, Public Notices)	\$ (26,340.00)
<u>Planning and Research</u> (Water Quality Sampling and Testing, Water Quality Assessment/Modeling, Lake Management Plan Update, Lake Coordinator Assistance/Member Concerns)	\$ (3,750.00)
<u>Contingency Fund</u>	\$ (1,000.00)
<b>Expenses (Estimated) Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ (53,990.00)</b>

### **BALANCE**

**\$110.00**



Pictured: Zach Hermann  
Treasurer

## 2024 LLID ANNUAL MEETING - AGENDA ITEMS



The Board of Directors is seeking input from members of the LLID on the agenda for the 2024 Annual Meeting, to be held in August. As required by MN Statute 103B.571, the Annual Meeting of the LLID will include, at a minimum, the following items:

### **Election of Directors | Approval of the 2025 Budget | Approval or disapproval of projects having a cost in excess of \$5,000**

The LLID Board of Directors will also give an update on current financials and LLID activities, review submitted requests and finalize the agenda during the April 27, 2024 meeting. Inclusion and time allowed for submitted agenda items is not guaranteed and will be determined by the Board. Property Owners will receive a mailing prior to the Annual Meeting with Board candidates, 2025 Budget and Proposed Agenda. **If you have an item for the 2024 Annual Meeting, submit it by April 26, 2024 to: [lakelidalid@gmail.com](mailto:lakelidalid@gmail.com).**

### **LLID'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON YOU!**

Lida Lakes Improvement District is operated by property owners like you. Serving on the Board of Directors or Committees is important for the betterment of our lake. Three board positions will be up for election at the August 2024 annual meeting. Committees are also expanding. As required by MN Statute 103B.551, a majority of board members must be residents of the LLID. With a 7-member board, 4 board members are residents of the lake and 3 are seasonal property owners. This year, 2 resident board seats and 1 seasonal seat will be on the ballot. The LLID will provide ballots for mail-in voting a minimum of 8 weeks ahead of the Annual Meeting. We require all candidates, including those up for re-election, notify the Board of Directors prior to the April 27, 2024 meeting. A write-in option will be available for candidates that run after the deadline. If you are interested in serving on the Board of Directors and would like your name on the ballot, **email [lakelidalid@gmail.com](mailto:lakelidalid@gmail.com) by April 26, 2024**. Provide your name, lake address, permanent address, and brief statement (1 page max) describing yourself and purpose for wanting to serve the LLID.

