

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 3, 2025

Lida Lakes Improvement District elects Board Members and names Officers

LLID ANNUAL MEETING

At the Lake Lida Improvement District's annual meeting on Saturday, August 16, 2025, property owner members elected Roger Sundby and Marshall Johnson to 3-year terms on the seven-member Board of Directors. They replace retiring President David Hilber and Board Member Sheldon Poss who served on the board since the 2022 inception of LLID. Hilber was instrumental in the development of the Lake Improvement District. Hilber was and is still today, president of Lida Lake Property Owners Association. He was served as Chair of LLID the past four years. Hilber was active on the Lake Management Committee and Executive Committee. Poss was a member of the Communication Committee and worked on the "MN Keep It Clean" winter ice fishing initiative for Lida Lakes.

During the annual meeting the board, along with Lake Coordinator Moriya Rufer, updated property owners of LLID's 2025 work including treatment for Curley-Pond weed, walleye fish stocking, and the award of a state Comprehensive Lakeshed Assessment grant of \$57,000. The grant will enable LLID to gather data on land use, slope, dock density, septic tank history, oxygen of the lake, second tier property density, shoreline runoff, estimated phosphorus in the lake, and agricultural runoff. Lake Property owners approved a \$15 increase in the tax rate to a total of \$65 per parcel tax in 2026. This will provide an estimated \$55,000 income to enable LLID to fund walleye stocking, continued Curley-leaf Pond weed treatment along with other pertinent programs for the betterment of Lida Lakes.

Two guest speakers attended LLID's annual meeting. Aaron Larson, District Manager of West Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District outlined the successful Moonlight Bay Clean Water restoration project. This was a joint effort with LLID, Maplewood Township, the land owner and Conservation District.

DNR Area Supervisor Luke Schalekamp reviewed the DNR fish management plan for Lida Lakes. Lida Lakes historically was known for its strong natural reproduction of walleye. That changed once zebra mussel invaded the lake. For three years, starting in 2025, the DNR will increase walleye stocking efforts at a rate of 1000/littoral acres(2,380,000 fry) in North Lida and designation as a "Carry-over Walleye Lake". As a "Carry-Over" lake the DNR plans to stock up to 2,380 pounds of walleye yearlings or adult fish. South Lida is also designated a "Carry-Over Lake" with DNR plans to stock up to 712 pounds of adult walleye.

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

The Board of Directors elected Brian Graftaas, Chair; Dee Dee Stephenson, Vice Chair; David Braton, Secretary and Zach Herrmann, Treasurer for the 2026 fiscal year at their October 25th board meeting. Graftaas was appointed by the Otter Tail County Commission to serve on the initial board and was re-elected to a 3-year term in 2023. Stephenson was elected to the board in 2024 after serving out the 1-year term of former board member Mimsi Weckwerth. Braton and Herrmann will in their current roles on the Executive Committee as Secretary and Treasurer.

Fish Committee Chair Mike Spangler reported the DNR fish stocking included 8"-20" carry-over walleye. The DNR placed a total of 1,211 pounds of walleye in North Lida and 492 pounds of carry-over walleye in South Lida in 2025. In addition to the DNR stocking, the Lida Lakes Improvement District contracted Klug Fish Farms for 1,200 pounds of adult walleye for North Lida and 500 pounds for South Lida.

Progress on the Lake Management Study is taking shape as information is gathered. Property Owners are invited to provide their input by filling out a questionnaire that can be found at lakelidalid.com. The board plans to continue the "MN Keep It Clean" ice fishing education initiative along with other programs that preserve and protect the lakes to enhance the use and enjoyment of Lake Lida.