

MEET YOUR CANDIDATES FOR LIDA LAKES IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors have approved the following three individuals to be on the 2026 Ballot for the two board seats that will be open. Property Owners may vote for two candidates and mail the enclosed ballot. Ballots mailed must be in LLID’s Post Office Box by Friday, August 14, 2026 to be counted. Ballots may also be brought to the Annual Meeting on Saturday, August 15, 2026. Property Owners of multiple properties have received ballots as they have a vote for each property. Thank you to Beth, Mitch and Jeff for volunteering to serve on LLID Board of Directors.



MITCH RUUD

I am interested in the Seasonal Director position for a three-year term with the Lake Lida Improvement District. In the spring of 2017, my wife and I purchased a seasonal cabin at Oak Lodge CIC. As seasonal residents, we typically spend time at the lake from early May through early October, taking full advantage of everything the community and environment have to offer. We enjoy being on the water—kayaking, floating, swimming, and boating—and have developed a deep appreciation for the lake. I strongly believe in the mission of the LLID and see this as a meaningful opportunity to help protect and preserve the water resource we value so highly. I retired from Bell Bank in 2023 after a long career in Information Technology. My experience includes roles at Bell Bank, Microsoft, and Great Plains Software. I also hold degrees in both Computer Science and Marketing from the University of North Dakota. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be honored to contribute to the continued stewardship of the Lake Lida community.



BETH STRINDEN KADOUN

I am very interested in serving on the Lake Lida Improvement District board. I have been spending every summer at Lake Lida on San Dee Cove Beach since I was a baby and have now moved here full time with my husband after my retirement in 2025. I strongly believe in the mission of the LID and would like to help preserve and protect our beautiful lake for our current enjoyment as well as future generations. I retired from the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce as Vice President for Tax and Fiscal policy and lobbied at the MN state capitol to advance a strong business climate. I have a Banking and Finance undergraduate degree from University of North Dakota and a law degree from William Mitchell School of Law in St. Paul, MN. Thank you for your consideration and support. I would love to help continue to advance the strong work of the board on improving and protecting the lake and enhance our ability to enjoy this wonderful natural environment.



JEFF SCHOENACK

I would like to throw my name in the hat for the resident membership spot in the LLID. I've lived on South Lida full time since 2016 and a seasonal resident since 1990. I was a co beach captain with Mike Spangler for a period of time and would like to help continue the work of preserving and expanding North / South Lida. Thank you for your consideration.

YOUR BALLOT IS ENCLOSED

Property Owners receive one ballot for each separately owned property. Only listed property owners can vote for two of the three candidates on the ballot. Property Owners must attend either in person or by electronic means to vote for the 2027 Budget. Ballots need to be received by mail by Friday, August 14, 2026 to be counted in the 2026 election. The LLID is not responsible for ballots damaged or lost in transit. Property Owners can bring their ballot to the Annual Meeting where they will be collected and counted.

ANNUAL MEETING: Saturday, August 15, 2026 9 AM

IN PERSON

Lida Township Hall
42206 230th Avenue
Pelican Rapids, MN

ONLINE (TEAMS)

Join the meeting now
Meeting ID: 226 194 995 2387
Teams Password: eM7B84nF

PHONE (AUDIO ONLY)

+1 323 849 4874 880352619#
Phone Conf ID: 880 352 619#



P.O. Box 343
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572

Notice of 2026 LLID Annual Meeting

**Lida Lakes Improvement District
Annual Meeting Notice
9 AM Saturday, August 15, 2026**

The Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for members of the LLID (*Property Owners around Lida Lakes*) to participate and provide input and hear how your LLID is working to maintain and improve the quality of this great resource. In this newsletter and official notification of the Annual Meeting is the Agenda, Proposed 2027 Budget, an absentee ballot for election of Directors, a preview of the Comprehensive Lakeshed Assessment, along with other vital information on Lida Lake LID. Please join us Saturday, August 15th!

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA HIGHLIGHTS

- I. Election of Directors
- II. 2027 Budget Review and Vote
- III. Final Report on Comprehensive Lakeshed Assessment by Lake Coordinator Hannah Passolt
- IV. Fish Stocking and Fish Update by Luke Schalekamp of MN DNR
- V. LLID Committee Reports

Key Matters at this year's annual meeting include:

- **Two new Board Members will be elected to replace outgoing Board Members Brian Graftaas and David Braton.**
 - **The yearlong Lakeshed Assessment that will be presented is vital for our future!**
 - **Surveys show treatment of Curly-leaf pondweed has been impactful!**
 - **The DNR stocking and LLID walleye stocking will be reviewed and show the importance of our efforts!**
- It is important for Property Owners to be present! Please join us on August 15th!**

MESSAGE FROM LLID CHAIR - BRIAN GRAFTAAS



As we enjoy summer on the lakes, the Lida Lakes Improvement District (LLID) is focused on protecting water quality, supporting healthy fisheries, and planning for the long-term health of our lakes.

- One of our major initiatives is the Comprehensive Lakeshed Assessment, funded by a \$57,000 grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The assessment is helping identify nutrient sources and other risks to Lida’s water quality, giving LLID a stronger foundation for prioritizing future improvement projects.
- Curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) management remains an important part of our aquatic invasive species work. A June post-treatment survey showed the treatment was effective and found new CLP growth in areas that had not been treated before. CLP cannot be eliminated from Lida, but continued management can help keep it at manageable levels.
- We also continue to invest in the lake’s fishery. In 2025, LLID stocked 1,200 pounds of fingerling walleye in North Lida and 500 pounds in South Lida. Additional DNR stocking brought the 2025 total to 3,147 pounds, or approximately 15,000 walleyes. We are beginning to see the benefit through reports of anglers catching smaller walleye. Because DNR studies have shown that walleye are not naturally reproducing due to zebra mussels, these fish are likely from recent stocking efforts. We plan to continue stocking this fall. The Fishing Committee’s donation program through the LLPOA also supports future stocking, with 2025 contributions totaling \$1,800. To donate: <https://donorbox.org/lake-lida-fisheries-donation>.

We want to share an important transition in our lake coordination support. Moriya Rufer has left Houston Engineering, and we are grateful for her excellent work on behalf of LLID. Moriya has been a knowledgeable, responsive, and steady partner in supporting our projects and lake management activities. We thank her for her contributions and wish her the very best. We are also pleased to welcome Hannah Passolt as our new lake coordinator. Hannah has assisted Moriya over the past few years and is already familiar with LLID’s activities, priorities, and ongoing projects. We are excited to continue working with her and appreciate the continuity and experience she brings to the role.

Hannah will present the results of our lakeshed assessment at the annual meeting on August 15th. Lake Lida is in great shape today, but protecting it for the future will take all of us. Please join us to learn what the recently completed Lake Lida Water Quality Study revealed about water quality, phosphorus sources, shoreline conditions, and septic systems around the lake. The study also outlines practical, voluntary steps to reduce algae, improve water clarity, and preserve the lake for future generations. Whether you are interested in fishing, boating, wildlife, or protecting your property value, you will leave with a better understanding of the lake and how we can work together to keep it healthy and beautiful.

This year marks the end of my second term on the LLID board. I am proud of what we have accomplished together over the past five years and grateful for everyone who has contributed time, energy, and ideas to support Lake Lida. Under our by-laws, David Braton and I are not eligible to run again, and LLID is welcoming new board members. We have strong candidates on the ballot for the open positions, but if you care about protecting water quality, maintaining a strong fishery, and preserving the character of our lakes, I hope you will consider serving in the future. Your involvement can make a meaningful and lasting difference for Lake Lida today and for future generations.

The Board of Directors reviewed the 2027 Budget at the June meeting and approved the 2027 Budget for recommendation to the Property Owners who will vote on the budget at the Annual Meeting.

INCOME

Estimated Carry-Over.....	\$6,167.13
LLID User Fee (\$65/Parcel).....	\$54,340.00
INCOME SUBTOTAL	\$60,507.13

EXPENSES

Adminstrative

Insurance	\$(1,600.00)
Website	\$(750.00)
PO Box	\$(90.00)
Mailings.....	\$(900.00)
Annual Meeting Notice.....	\$(1,600.00)
Organizational Dues.....	\$(1,500.00)
Administrative Total.....	\$(6,440.00)

Recreation

Lake Lida Fisheries Support.....	\$(17,000.00)
Clean Ice Initiative.....	\$(1,000.00)
Water Navigation Management	
Recreation Total	\$(18,000.00)

Aquatic Invasive Species

Investigations to Support Treatment	\$(6,000.00)
Aquatic Invasive Species Treatment	\$(20,000.00)
Public Notice.....	\$(340.000)
Aquatic Invasive Species Total	\$(26,340.00)

Planning and Research

Water Quality Sampling	\$(150.00)
Inflow Water Sampling and Testing	\$(1,100.00)
Lake Coordinator Assistance	\$(1,000.00)
Investigate Member Concerns	\$(1,500.00)
Planning and Research Total	\$(3,750.00)

Contingency Fund	\$(300.00)
EXPENSES SUBTOTAL	\$(54,830.00)
ESTIMATED YEAR-END CARRY-OVER	\$5,677.13

Lida Lakes Website Now Has A Fresh New Look

Over the past year the Communications Committee has worked with our contracted web designer Tony Flippance to improve the functionality and use of Lakelidalid.com, the official site for your Lake Improvement District. The site has a fresh new look and gives property owners information on the work of your LID plus vital information that is helpful. Details include Board Action, Lake Projects, Lake Management Reports, Photos and more. The mobile application has also been enhanced! Lakelidalid.com is your official resource for all things LIDA LAKES!

Comprehensive Lake study report presented by Lake Coordinator Hannah Passolt at 2026 LLID Annual Meeting



Please help us welcome, Hannah Passolt our new Lake Coordinator. Passolt is a graduate of NDSU with a degree in Fisheries, Wildlife, Ecology & Behavior, Zoology and a Masters in Environmental and Conservation Science. Hannah has been an Environmental Scientist with Houston Engineering for the last 9+ years and is familiar with Lida and surrounding lakes. Hannah will present the findings from the Water Quality Study awarded to LLID last year. This report will include the area and depth of study, findings and what the LLID and property owners can do to continue efforts to improve lake quality. This Comprehensive Study will provide a road map for the present and future of Lida Lakes.

Passolt will also share our surveying and treatment of Curly-leaf pondweed in 2026 and treatment outlook in 2027. Passolt and our former Lake Coordinator Moria Rufer are key assets of your LID to the health of our lake and well-being for future generations.



DNR AREA SUPERVISOR LUKE SCHALEKAMP SPECIAL GUEST AND SPEAKER AT ANNUAL MEETING

Back by popular demand! Luke Schalekamp joined us last year and property owners asked if he could once again join us for a 2026 Fishing Update. Schalekamp will provide an update on the DNR Fisheries Management Plan and share efforts to improve fishing on Lida Lakes. Historically, Lida was a strong naturally producing lake for walleyes that changed with the introduction of zebra mussel. The MN DNR has made substantial efforts to improve walleye fishing through increased stocking of fingerlings and carry-over walleye. Lida Lakes Improvement District has also increased walleye stocking over the years and works closely with the DNR to improve fishing on the lakes.