

Chair:

Aisha Elmquist (2024)

Secretary:

Renee Marino (2024)

Board Members:

Vacant seat (2024)

Susan Johnson (2025)

Gary Gerding (2025)

Linda Hansohn (2026)

Kent Stennes (2026)

Staff Liaison:

David Swearingen



**Karth Lake Improvement
District Board**

REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday

September 26, 2023

1245 W. Highway 96
Arden Hills, MN 55112
651.792.7800
www.cityofardenhills.org

Agenda

Board Meeting Convenes at 6:30 PM

The public may access this meeting remotely by joining via Zoom.
To join the Zoom Meeting, click this link (or copy and paste it into a new browser):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85402318624>

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

1. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of the previous meeting July 11, 2023

3. PUBLIC INQUIRIES

4. OLD BUSINESS

4.1. Process to fill Board Seat from Kathy Johnson’s resignation. Board

4.1.1 Background: The term of this seat is until elections in April 2024. The board may appoint a candidate to fill that seat until then.

Action: Discuss process and consider candidate(s).

4.2. Karth Lake water level modeling and management process progress report. Renée Marino

4.2.1 Background: Hypothesis: a revision to the pump management policy can reduce water level bounce (i.e., range of high and low levels), which can improve lake quality and its environment while appropriately mitigating risk of damage to shoreline properties.

Action: Provide updates.

4.3. Plan for 2023 removal of excess lake weeds and debris. Susan Johnson

4.3.1 Background: Holtz scheduled another lake weed removal day in August 2023 for lake property owners interested in participating. This is classified as a voluntary effort and not an official board action. However, the board is aware of and supportive of this effort.

Action: Provide updates.

4.4. Plan for 2023 control of invasive purple loosestrife. Kent Stennes, Renée Marino, Susan Johnson

4.4.1 Background: After the Purple Loosestrife infestation event in 2022, the KLID Purple Loosestrife Task Force agreed to survey for new plants and notify the City of Arden Hills, as well as notify homeowners and offer to assist in plant removal. Such monitoring may be necessary for several years until if it appears to have been eradicated.

Action: Provide updates.

4.5. Lakeshore owner outreach and education. Kathy Johnson and Board.

4.5.1 Background: The KLIDB has reached out to KLID members in the past with flyers, events and door-knocking to increase awareness of what the KLIDB does, provide information to assist members in managing their shoreline and to recruit new board members. Several lakeshore properties have or are soon expected to have new owners that have not benefited from past communications and an update on the lake’s current status to continuing owners would be helpful.

Action: Provide updates, if any.

4.6. Bylaws review and possible modification. Susan Johnson

4.6.1 Background: A preliminary review of the bylaws questions who is a member of KLID, how elections should be run going forward and who can vote.

Action: Provide updates, if any.

4.7. Open meeting laws update. Susan Johnson

4.7.1 Background: Susan reached out to David Perrault for guidance on process for involving board between meetings for urgent issues that arise between meetings.

Action: Provide updates, if any.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 None identified

6. NEXT MEETING

7. ADJOURN

**Draft Minutes for Karth Lake Improvement District Board
Regular Meeting 6:30 PM, Tuesday, July 11, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting convened at: 6:30 PM.

Present:

Board Members: Aisha Elmquist, Chair; Renée Marino, Secretary; Gary Gerding; Linda Hansohn; Susan Johnson

Staff Liaison: David Swearingen, Public Works Director

Visitors and Karth Lake Improvement District members: Jim Elliott Jr.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda was approved with one addition: Just before this meeting, Kathy Johnson had provided notice of resignation from the board via email during her temporary move out of state. Add new business to fill her open position.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the previous meeting on April 11, 2023 were approved with one correction: Holt correct to Holtz.

3. PUBLIC INQUIRIES: None.

4. OLD BUSINESS**4.1. Karth Lake water level modeling and management process progress report.****Renée Marino**

4.1.1 Background: Hypothesis: a revision to the pump management policy can reduce water level bounce (i.e., range of high and low levels), which can improve lake quality and its environment while appropriately mitigating risk of damage to shoreline properties.

Discussion: The DNR has moved its gauge to an easier location to access on the Cummings Park shoreline. This should make it easier for other volunteers to take turns taking a photo of the gauge and emailing it to Renee for submittal to the DNR. The goal is to take a photo every Saturday during the year when the gauge is out of the ice. Linda agreed to take a reading and be on call as needed.

A hydrology model of Karth Lake was completed and made available by the Rice Creek Watershed District and Houston Engineering in June 2023. Those wishing to receive a copy of this software must sign a software license agreement. The City of Arden Hills and Renee Marino have done so. Since the KLIDB has no authority to bind its members to a legal contract, individuals that desire access will need to sign on their own behalf. Renee will initially take the lead in working with the model and sharing findings with others.

Renee shared a chart of very early results of that model compared to the DNR gauge readings since 2022. It so far appears to track the rate of decline in lake level when there is no rain, but it over-predicts the lake level rise for rain events. One challenge is to determine a source of daily rainfall that reflects local precipitation. Linda suggested that the crowdsourced data at ambientweather.net could be used. She has a rain gauge device that automatically uploads rain

amounts to this site. Other devices are nearby. Renee has so far used data from a similar volunteer-populated site, cocorahs.org.

Action: Renee will continue to work with the model and follow up with RCWD and Houston Engineering when ready.

4.2. Plan for 2023 removal of excess lake weeds and debris. Susan Johnson

4.2.1 Background: Holt has scheduled another lake weed removal day in August 2023 for lake property owners interested in participating. This is classified as a voluntary effort and not an official board action. However, the board is aware of and supportive of this effort.

Discussion: Holtz to begin on week of August 7th.

Action: Susan will contact homeowners.

4.3. Plan for 2023 control of invasive purple loosestrife. Kent Stennes and Renée Marino

4.3.1 Background: After the Purple Loosestrife infestation event in 2022, it will be important to monitor and mitigate new growth in the near future, since seeds from the plants removed in 2022 will most likely continue to germinate for several years going forward.

Discussion: It was suggested that the SEEK smart phone app could be used to help identify plants.

Procedures were discussed on how to respond to sightings going forward. It was suggested that a Purple Loosestrife Strike Force should be formed to address this issue: If plants are seen, Strike Force members should contact David Swearingen who will, in turn, authorize volunteers to help identify plants, notify home owners and assist with removal of the plants. Kent Stennes, Renee Marino and Susan Johnson agreed to be a part of this Strike Force. Jim Elliott will also assist.

Action: Renee and Jim agreed to survey the shore for Purple Loosestrife, share with Kent and Susan and update David Swearingen and the board by email with any sightings and proposed action.

4.4. Lakeshore owner outreach and education. Kathy Johnson and Board.

4.4.1 Background: The KLIDB has reached out to KLID members in the past with flyers, events and door-knocking to increase awareness of what the KLIDB does, provide information to assist members in managing their shoreline and to recruit new board members. Several lakeshore properties have or are soon expected to have new owners that have not benefited from past communications and an update on the lake's current status to continuing owners would be helpful.

Discussion: Because of Kathy Johnson's resignation from the board, other members discussed how they could step in and contribute to this effort. Susan

Johnson suggested she could host a “We Love Our Lake” party sometime in the future, however, Susan is currently focused on organizing the neighborhood National Night Out party on August 1st.

The board noted that some of the website details needed to be refreshed.

Action: Renee to send current website text to board for their suggested changes and then submit revised text to City of Arden Hills’ Communications Director.

4.5. Report of water quality results for 2022. Gary Gerding.

4.5.1 Background: The Metropolitan Council has released their summary water quality report for 2022 and detailed report for 2021. Both are available at this link: <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Services/Water-Quality-Management/Lake-Monitoring-Analysis.aspx>. Karth Lake’s overall health grade dropped from B in 2021 to C in 2022. It was a B from 2011 to 2021 with the exception of C in 2016 and 2020.

Discussion: Gary presented and there was a general discussion of the results.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Bylaws review and possible modification. Susan Johnson

Discussion: Susan Johnson offered to review the KLID bylaws to determine if any there is any conflict between procedures and the bylaws as written. Her comments so far:

- (a) There is no definition within the bylaws as to who is a member of the Karth Lake Improvement District. Renee recalled reading from the archives that a Lake Improvement District is a defined term under Minnesota state laws and regulations.
- (b) Elements of process of how elections are held and who can vote is not defined and/or the current practice is not consistent with the bylaws.

Action: Further study and discussion is needed on this topic.

5.2 Open meeting laws update. Susan Johnson

Clarification is sought regarding the proper procedure to address how to handle urgent issues that arise between KLID board meetings so as to not violate open meeting laws. An example is the Purple Loosestrife sightings and response of 2022. Since that occurred in August of 2022 and required urgent attention, could the response be considered to be a board action? Monitoring for Purple Loosestrife had been an active board item and the City of Arden Hills had supported response by providing a link from the KLID webpage to their own webpage and DNR resources on how to respond to a sighting. However, there is question about the appropriate procedure to communicate updates to the board and work together to respond to new developments in a timely fashion.

Discussion: Susan Johnson contacted City of Arden Hills' City Administrator David Perrault to request guidance on how the KLIDB can address urgent issues that arise between meetings.

Action: Susan to follow up and report back on findings.

5.3 Process to fill Board Seat from Kathy Johnson's resignation

The seat can be filled at a board meeting by a vote if there is a candidate present.

7. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

8. ADJOURN