

Chair:

Aisha Elmquist (2023)

Secretary:

Renee Marino (2023)

Board Members:

Linda Hansohn (2023)

Tony Peleska (2023)

Kathy Johnson (2024)

Susan Johnson (2025)

Gary Gerding (2025)

Staff Liaison:

David Swearingen



**Karth Lake Improvement
District Board
REGULAR MEETING**

**Tuesday
October 11, 2022**

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

Agenda

Board Meeting Convenes at 6:30 PM

This meeting can be accessed 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/85748913484>

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4. PUBLIC INQUIRIES

5. OLD BUSINESS

5.1 Remediation of BMP #1 Site, Meeting with Kyle Axtell of Rice Creek Watershed: Kathy Johnson and Board

5.1.1 Background: In 2021 the city completed installation of a storm drain at the BMP #1 site that transports the runoff from parking lots and roads south of Karth Lake down a drain pipe that goes under the Cummings Park walking path. This eliminates the source of silt into Karth Lake from the former above-ground flow. That project did not address the flow of water from the walking path to the lake.

Action from 4/12/22 Meeting: Sue Johnson agreed to capture video of the water flow in Downstream BMP #1. Kathy Johnson agreed to set up a meeting at the BMP #1 site with Kyle Axtell from RCWD and any board members that could attend for his thoughts on Downstream BMP #1 mitigation.

5.2 Add Grit Chambers to storm drains that empty into Karth Lake and do not have Grit Chambers now. Next Steps: Show map of existing storm drains and grit chambers that empty into Karth Lake. David Swearingen

5.2.1 Background: This item was mostly resolved on 4/12/22 except David said he would obtain a map of the storm drains and grit chambers to share.

5.3 Karth Lake water level modeling and management process progress report. Renee Marino

5.3.1 Background: Renee Marino's 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 from 4/12/22 Meeting: Renee to coordinate launching the modeling effort with Rice Creek Watershed and work with the DNR to get a lake gauge installed and begin taking measurements. Measurements are now posted here: www.dnr.state.mn.us/lakefind/showlevel.html?downum=62007200

5.4 Plan for 2022 removal of excess lake weeds and debris and control of invasive purple loosestrife. Update: Susan Johnson, Renee Marino and Kathy Johnson

5.4.1 Background: Susan agreed to again manage lake weed removal efforts in 2022. Susan agreed to coordinate on notifying lakeshore owners about Purple Loosestrife and Renee agreed to work with the City of Arden Hills to post information on the city's website. There were 21 locations on Karth Lake with Purple Loosestrife in 2022. Because this could not wait until after the October meeting to address, the board was notified by email in August of the combined efforts of Susan, Renee, Kathy and others to address this issue.

5.5 Open Meeting Policy: Susan Johnson, Steve Scott

5.5.1 Background: The City of Arden Hills' position as of the April 2022 meeting was that, going forward, all KLID board meeting should be in-person only and not offer a remote attendance option. The board was concerned that such a policy could prevent board members and the public with immuno-compromised health status from attending. Susan Johnson offered to prepare a brief written summary of open meeting laws and their relevance to KLID board meetings. She will provide that write-up to Steve Scott before the next board meeting.

5.6 Sediment Growth: David Swearingen

5.6.1 Background: Board members noted that sediment levels around street sewer outlets into Karth Lake have risen in at least the past two decades. While past KLID board and City of Arden Hills efforts should have reduced the rate of new sediment inflow, David noted that the City of Shoreview and Ramsey County manage drainage into Karth Lake from Lexington. To begin addressing these sources, David agreed to share a map of that drainage system at the next meeting.

5.7 Tour for new attendees: Steve Scott

5.7.1 Background: At his request, the new City Council Liaison, Steve Scott, was given a tour of Karth Lake. We welcome his observations and follow-up questions to the board.

6. NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Planning process for replacing retaining wall on Karth Lake. David Swearingen

6.1.1 Background: The City of Arden Hills' budget for next year includes funding to replace the Karth Lake retaining wall at the pump site. Kyle Axtell told board members in May 2022 that there would be many options to the design of such a retaining wall. The KLID board would like to understand the city's plans for the design process and assure that the KLIDB and the public has input within that process.

6.2 Boston Scientific Lexington Parking Expansion. David Swearingen, Steve Scott

6.2.1 Background: In August 2022, Boston Scientific removed trees along its Lexington boundary and is expanding its parking lots into areas where there were previously trees. Some of the affected area is within the Karth Lake watershed. David Swearingen responded to an inquiry about this work to say that Boston Scientific received approval for that work in 2019 and that it addressed impacts upon the affected watersheds. The KLID board would like a description of this project and likely impacts from the City of Arden Hills.

6.3 Possibility of initiating a new study to identify status and refresh list of BMPs for future management of Karth Lake. KLIDB and David Swearingen

6.3.1 Background: The most recent Karth Lake study and BMP identification was performed in 2009. It would be helpful to get an update reflecting the current state of the lake.

7. NEXT MEETING

8. ADJOURN

**Minutes of Karth Lake Improvement District Board
Regular Meeting 6:30 PM, Tuesday, October 26, 2021
Approved April 12, 2022**

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting convened at: 6:30 PM.

Present:

Board Members: Tony Peleska, Chair; Gary Gerding, Secretary; Aisha Elmquist (via Zoom); Linda Hansohn (via Zoom); Susan Johnson (via Zoom); Renee Marino

Staff Liaisons: David Swearingen, Interim Public Works Director; David Grant, Mayor.

Resident: Jim Elliott

Absent: Kathy Johnson; Kyle Axtell, Water Resource Specialist / Project Manager, Rice Creek Watershed District.

1. Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as written.

2. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting: The minutes of the previous meeting on July 13, 2021, were approved as written

3. Public Inquiries: None

4. Old Business

4.1 Remediation of BMP #1 Site

4.1.1. Progress Report - David Swearingen

David said the drain installation project has been completed and that grass has already begun to grow on the displaced soil that covers the drainpipe.

Discussion:

Debris: Susan Johnson said there were some old tires near the upper grit chamber. Jim Elliott noted that there was also a tire in the pond area and ladder in the lake.

Action: David S. said the city will clear this debris.

No-Trespassing sign needed: Susan J. said we still need a No-Trespassing Sign to warn the public not to cross the land bridge from Cummings Park to the residential area to the north. Renee M. noted that the sign was agreed to and authorized in the July 14, 2009, KLIDB Meeting.

Action: David S. and Mayor Grant will review this history and decide what to do.

4.2. Add Grit Chambers to storm drains that empty into Karth Lake and do not have Grit Chambers now. Next Steps: Plan to identify them; Identify likely dates for adding Grit Chambers.

4.2.2. Grit Chamber Status Update - David Swearingen: There is only one storm drain inlet to Karth Lake that does not have a grit chamber: the one on Karth Lake Circle. This will be corrected when that road is repaved in about 2026.

Action: David S. will provide the board with a map of the locations of existing grit chambers for storm drains that feed Karth Lake.

4.3. Proposed changes in lake level control process. Background: At the last meeting Renee Marino proposed we stop the pump before we reach the target level to allow for evaporation and avoid the very low levels that a drought could cause.

4.3.1. Define current process: when is the pump turned on and off? What is the pump capacity? **David Swearingen:** DNR set the target high level at 936 feet and the target low level at 934 feet. David will give Renee pump specifications to determine its capacity in various conditions including lake level.

4.3.2. Karth Lake water level modeling process: Renee Marino's 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: Gary G. will ask Matt Kocian and others at the RCWD to work with Renee M. on the modeling project.

4.4. Was the pump used at all in 2021? No, according to David S.

4.5. Results of removal of excess weeds and debris for 2021– Susan Johnson

23 residents contributed and had weeds and debris removed from the lake adjacent to their property.

164 bags of weeds removed from lake.

Susan also removed garbage and logs from the lake.

Thanks Susan!

5. New Business

5.1. The City Council recently rezoned Little Johanna from a Recreational Development Lake to a General Development Lake (see ORDINANCE NO. 2021-007). (Karth Lake is classified as a General Development Lake.) What is the significance, advantages, disadvantages, etc. of each of these classifications?

David Swearingen: The main difference is that a General Development Lake has a greater housing density.

5.2. Discovery of a few specimens of purple loosestrife, an invasive plant, on the Karth Lake shores and preliminary plan to remove them. – Susan Johnson

Susan found a single plant on their property. Tony reported that it is growing on his neighbor's property. Gary emphasized that we need to aggressively eradicate this invasive plant before it takes over the lake. Here is some information that Gary gleaned from the MN Dept. of Agriculture and DNR. See:

<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/noxiouslist/purpleloosestrife>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/purpleloosestrife/control.html>

Purple loosestrife is **found throughout Minnesota**. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources estimates that infestations have been recorded in 77 of Minnesota's 87 counties, covering 58,000 acres of lake, river, and wetland habitats.

Purple loosestrife negatively affects both wildlife and agriculture. **It displaces and replaces native flora and fauna, eliminating food, nesting, and shelter for wildlife.** Purple loosestrife forms a single species stand that no bird, mammal, or fish depends upon, and germinates faster than many native wetland species.

Purple loosestrife can be **cut or pulled without a permit in Minnesota**. It is important to dispose of the plants away from the water. Allow the plants to dry out, then burn if possible. Pulling purple loosestrife by hand is easiest when plants are young (up to two years) or in sand.

Flower:



Plant



Infestation:



6. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 6:30 PM at City Hall.

7. Adjourn

**Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Gerding**