

# 2019 - 2020

## LNID Trustee Report to Members

Last year at the AGM, a new board of trustees were elected, most of whom may be relatively unknown to most of you. Glenda Stewart-Smith, the LNID chair is on her third year on the board and has been a property owner for about eight years. Sandie Wilson is a long-time resident and is completing her second year on the board and we are joined this past year by Reinhard Maier, a property owner on Eastview Road for the past few years. This past year has been an interesting one for your trustees. We have had a steep learning curve as we have faced the challenges of dealing with both the public and behind-the-scenes challenges of keeping the LNID running smoothly. Our thanks goes out to Pam Mann, George Windsor and, of course, Coral Brown for their help and support.

### Background:

There are only 2 Land Improvement Districts in BC, but we are included in Provincial regulations with Irrigation Districts (IDs) that provide water to 3 or more on one intake, such as a Community Well. The LNID is governed under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs & Housing (MoMAH). The LNID has specific regulations that must be followed and all Bylaws (operating taxes, meeting procedures) must be approved. We are a form of Government with direct access to taxation, but with a mandate for works/land improvement described as “drainage” in the 100 year old Water Act which still is our guide under the 2016 Water Sustainability Act.

We have held eleven meetings from June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2020.

At the May 19th, 2019 AGM members passed resolutions:

- J1. “That the LNID convert to a Service Area (SA) of the RDOS with recommendations from Don Dobson – letter of intent”*
- 2. “That the RDOS identify the scope and the cost of the conversion and with the intent of having a LNID vote once costs are determined”*

Much of our work up to December 2019 has been on bringing these resolutions to fruition. We have met with Don Dobson (a hydrologist) for his input and recommendations and with Subrina Monteith (our RDOS Director) around these resolutions and at the December 19th, 2019 meeting, RDOS passed a resolution to explore the costs and implications of having LNID converted into a service area. The current plan is for RDOS to look at this in their 3rd quarter, but with the shutdowns due to the Covid-19 virus it is possible the timeline will be pushed back. There are many possible outcomes to the conversion study - it is possible that RDOS may decline to take us on, the cost to LNID members may be high or it may be an ideal solution for us. **The important thing to remember is that before any decision is made, LNID members will be consulted and there will be a vote on the process.**

We were incredibly fortunate last summer (summer of 2019) with regards to flooding. No surface water entered Twin Lake last spring and as a result it was not necessary to take any action to mitigate flooding. The only factor contributing to this was a low (78%) snowpack. The two culverts, at the top lake and at DL 1469 were not blocked to stop water and resulted in **lower surface water** levels. This spring, water is entering the lake and is nearing high water mark but the fact that lake levels were so low from the previous year means we are reasonably confident flooding will not take place. It is likely we will not need to pump any water from the lake, but if necessary we may decide to go ahead with pumping in the fall to provide some room for next spring's water flow.

At issue is the funding for the gravitational pipe that has been recommended in the Twin Lake study as a replacement for the pump. At a cost of 1.3 million dollars it currently remains beyond our financial capability and we will still be relying on the

use of the pump should flooding occur. Improvement Districts (IDs), of which Lower Nipit (Twin Lake )Land Improvement is one, are not eligible for Government Infrastructure Grants, but they can apply for Conservation Project Grants or perhaps Gas Tax Grants when approved by the Regional District (RD). This lack of access to provincial funding has been resisted by the 211 Improvement Districts, without success. Decreased access to funding has been an initiative to decrease IDs so that IDs will come under the RDs created in 1966. **We do need RDOS support for funding of the gravitational pipe.** If you have not already taken the time to download and read the study, we strongly urge you to do so.

Love Your Lake is a shoreline evaluation program developed by Watersheds Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Federation (CWF), and conducted for any shoreline community across the country by local organizations. They will be evaluating our lake this spring/summer and providing each property owner with a report on the health of their individual shoreline. **These reports are confidential and will only be seen by the property owner.**

Trustees are exploring the installation lake level monitoring equipment which will provide real-time feedback on lake levels and lake health. Currently the LNID facebook page updates & posts lake levels. The data logger cost is covered by money from a former RDOS Director's grant. More information on this will be shared with members as it comes available.

We have also focussed on increasing communication with members. To date, two newsletters have been sent out and an LNID website is nearing completion. The website will contain information including the budget, LNID board meeting minutes, upcoming events, water reports, Twin Lake history and more.

Currently we have had no further direction from the BC Government on when we will be able to hold our AGM. As soon as information is available, we will share it with you and in the meantime please feel free to email us at [lnidcttee@gmail.com](mailto:lnidcttee@gmail.com).

Respectfully Submitted by the May 2019 – May 2020 Board of the Lower Nipit (Twin Lake) Land Improvement District. Trustees: Glenda Stewart-Smith, Sandie Wilson, Reinhard Maier, Director: Coral Brown, Treasurer: Pam Mann and Secretary: George Windsor