

Creating a Lake Improvement District



What is a Lake Improvement District?

- A Lake Improvement District (LID) is taxing district formed around a lake in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, sections [103B.501-103B.581](#). A lake improvement district is a local unit of government established by resolution of appropriate county boards and/or city governing bodies, or by the commissioner, for the implementation of defined lake management projects and for the assessment of the costs thereof. The overall goal of establishment of the LID program is to preserve and protect the lakes of the state and to increase and enhance the use and enjoyment of the lakes.

Below is a summary of the requirements for creating a LID (from statute and rule)

LID Requirements if created by Petition (103B.521)

- Name and purpose of the LID
- Necessity of the district to promote public health or welfare and which management programs will be undertaken
- Benefits to property from the establishment of the LID
- Boundaries of the LID (including a map)
- The number of directors proposed (from 5 to 9)
- Request for establishing the district as proposed
- Notice must be provided to commissioner, town board, citizens
- The petition is reviewed by the public and the Commissioner of Natural Resources (and they prepare advisory report)
- County Board must hold a public hearing with 30 days and then make a decision within 30 days of the public hearing
- If County Board has disapproved a petition, a petition may be submitted to the Commissioner of Natural Resources

Petition Requirements

- Petition must be signed by a majority of the property owners within the proposed LID, 50% + 1 (must include county/city land)
- Petition must be filed with the county auditor and addressed to the board, auditor must verify signatures
- Petition must follow [MN Rules Chapter 8205](#)
 - ◊ Maximum of 10 signatures per page, preferably only one property per signature page
 - ◊ One property is one vote and one signature. Properties with multiple owners may all sign the petition but will only count as one signature towards the majority vote.
 - ◊ All petitions must be identical
 - ◊ No writing on petition other than the signatures
 - ◊ Petitions must all be signed within one year of each other

Types of lake improvements allowed (MN Rule 6115.0950)

- ◊ Studying the sources of and solutions to lake problems;
- ◊ Preserving and improving water quality by means of water and related land management, excluding land use zoning authority; and in-lake water treatment;
- ◊ Sedimentation and siltation control;
- ◊ Shoreline erosion control;
- ◊ Aquatic nuisance control;
- ◊ Preserving and improving fish and wildlife habitat;
- ◊ Preserving and improving recreational potential;
- ◊ Any other purposes approved by the county board pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103B.551 & 103G.605.