

LAKE HELEN – Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
2nd 2017 Quarterly Commissioners' Meeting
Sat May 13, 2017 at Lake Helen County Park Shelter

The Lake Helen P&R District Commissioners' meeting was called to order by Chairperson, Melissa Ferg, at 1pm.

Commissioners Present: Melissa Ferg, Robin Novak-Nelson, Bill Pingel, Fred Stoeger
Commissioners Absent: John Hopfensperger
Guests Present: Cory Nelson, Keith & Tyne Hoffman, Steve & Lynn Cook

REGULAR REPORTS:

➤ **MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING:**

Robin made a motion to accept the minutes from the last Commissioners' meeting. Fred seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

➤ **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Robin Novak-Nelson provided the Treasurer's Report. The account balances are:

\$5,714.60 in Savings

\$ 909.72 in Checking

Fred made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously

○ **Bank account signers**

Robin noted that since Kathy Grill has retired as Bookkeeper, we did to remove her as an authorized check signer and add a replacement. (Robin and Melissa are current signers.)

After a short discussion, it was agreed to hold off until after the Annual Meeting when a new Commissioner will be elected.

OLD BUSINESS:

➤ **INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL SESSION:**

- Eurasian Water Milfoil: Fred stated that there was a great turnout this morning for the Invasive species training session let by Chris of Golden Sands. A few people went into the water and removed more than 50 EWM plants from the northwest corner of the lake. A follow-up session will be planned. Golden Sands was able to obtain a grant from the state to cover the work they are doing with us, so we won't have any cost to us this year.
- Japanese Knotweed: Fred stated that he, Bill, and Chris from Golden Sands took a look at the Japanese Knotweed infestation at 3002 & 3004 East Lake Helen Drive. Chris recommended tackling the removal in August when the plants start to prepare for winter.
- Someone will need to notify the property owners at 3202 and 3204 E Lake Helen Drive about the plans for the JKW removal. **[FOLLOW-UP]**

➤ **LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN SESSION:**

- Bill stated that there was also a good turnout at this morning's "blue ribbon committee" meeting to review and update the current Lake Management Plan. The major points were reviewed and updated.

Bill stated that he will type and distribute the changes and hopes to setup another session later this summer. Ultimately changes to the plan need to be approved by the Commissioners and then the LHP&R District at an Annual Meeting. **[Bill FOLLOW-UP]**

➤ **CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATER – BOAT LANDING:**

○ **Camera:**

Fred stated that he and Cory plan will install the video camera at the boat landing this month. Fred installed posts in October for the notification signs. **[Fred FOLLOW-UP]**

○ **Boat Landing Monitoring:**

Fred noted, that monitoring was discussed with Golden Sands and at the Lake Management Plan meeting. We need someone to take the lead.

Fred will check with Golden Sands to see if there is grant money available to hire someone to monitor the boat landing at key times. He will also bring the need for a leader up at the annual meeting. **[Fred FOLLOW-UP]**

➤ **WELCOME PACKET FOR NEW OWNERS:**

Robin stated that the Welcome Packet/Binders are ready. She will bring them to the Annual Meeting for pickup by people who purchased property in the last few years.

[ROBIN-Annual Meeting distribution]

➤ **PROPERTY OWNER LISTING:**

Bill stated that he will put together a Lake District property owners listing for distribution at the Annual Meeting. He will only include the property owners' names and their Lake Helen address. .

[BILL-Annual Meeting distribution]

➤ **LAKE WALK – LITTLE FREE LIBRARY PROJECT:**

- Fred noted that he can purchase one of the "Little Free Library" box and pole for around \$240 and that the Portage County Parks Department will give us one of their benches at no charge. The group discussed the best placement and agreed that it should be on the roadside adjacent to the park. Fred will follow-up on the placement and work with Mary Ann Weisbrod on stocking it with books. **[Fred FOLLOW-UP]**

NEW BUSINESS:

➤ **HIGHWAY 49 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROJECT**

Melissa state that we were contacted by Ray Oksuita. asking if the LHP&R District would like to participate in the Highway 49 "Adopt-a-Highway" litter pick up project. This requires having a group clean up a two-mile section of the highway twice a year. Melissa recommended not participating at this time, noting that we've had so much trouble getting volunteers for key projects like monitoring the boat landing. The group unanimously agreed.

➤ **ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATION (Sat June 3rd)**

- Meeting Notice: Bill distributed a proposed Annual Meeting Notice and Agenda for review. The group agreed to remove the Highway 49 project, the Property Owner Listing, and the Welcome Packet from the agenda. The last two will be available for distribution only.
- Property Tax: The group agreed to move forward with the proposed tax as approved at the last meeting and to include a ½ mill 2016 property tax for LHP&R District properties. This will be included on the Annual Meeting notice and reviewed at the Annual Meeting.
- Treasurer's Report: Robin distributed a report to reflect the actual spending as of April 30th and a new budget for the year beginning May 1st. Bill noted that \$4312 was received from the first property tax installment in 2015. The notice will be changed to include \$4400 in property tax income and \$100 in boat landing fees income. The group agreed to move ahead with the rest of the budget as recommended by Robin.
- Election: John Hopfensberger's term of office ends in May and he won't be running for re-election. Everyone was encouraged to talk to other property owners about running. Keith & Tyne noted that one of them may be willing to run.
- Annual Picnic: Robin stated that the annual picnic will be on July 29th this year.
- Meeting location: Robin noted that she was able to reserve the CWEC conference room for the annual meeting.

ADJOURNEMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 2pm by Fred. Melissa seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Pingel, Secretary

Note: "[FOLLOW-UP]" - indicates an action item that needs action. These items will be on the agenda for the next meeting.