

LAKE HELEN PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
2020 ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY AUGUST 15, 2020
AT THE LAKE HELEN COUNTY PARK SHELTER AREA

The Lake Helen P&R District Annual Meeting was called to order by President Bill Pingel at 8:30 am.

Commissioners Present: Tyne Hoffman, Bill Pingel, Glen Bersie, Tom Gerlikovski, and Robin Novak-Nelson

Commissioners Absent: None

Attendees: 36 property owners from 27 properties signed in.

Guests Present: Glen Boedecker, Mike Guth voting as a representative of property owners Pat and Don Guth; Tracy Arnold of Portage County Planning & Zoning, and Chris Hamerla of Golden Sands.

Before the meeting was started Attendees were asked to sign in and update any personal information. Due to COVID-19 Keith Hoffman and Barb Bersie signed the Attendees in.

INVASIVE SPECIES REPORTS: Due to Chris Hamerla having prior arrangements, we touched on this topic right away.

- Chris Hamerla from Golden Sands and Tom Gerlikovski (Commissioner), touched base on the success of the Eurasian Water Milfoil treatment and the process of treating the lake.
- It was discussed that we will need all hands-on deck throughout the coming years to monitor and help pull any EWM that you see when it starts to regrow. If you cannot reach it due to depth it should be pinpointed or put on a map of location and a commissioner should be contacted.
- Chris Hamerla touched base on the zebra mussel and the population explosion that is happening. Tyne Hoffman provided images of the underside of her pedal boat for Attendees to look at. Chris also brought some live zebra mussels in various sizes / stages.
- It was stressed the importance of cleaning your boats and emptying live wells before you enter a new body of water.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

➤ **MINUTES FROM THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING**

- Bill Pingel stated the meeting minutes were available online. Cory Nelson made a motion to dispense of the reading of the minutes. Mike Ubl Seconded. All in Favor

➤ **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Bill Pingel noted a new format that is recommended for Lake Districts to use.
- Robin Novak-Nelson and Bill Pingel walked through last year's spending and Checking & Saving account balances. All budget information was sent out to Property Owners via mail prior to our Annual Meeting.
 - ✓ Total Checking Account balance \$532.79
 - ✓ Total Savings Account Balance \$10,844.22
 - ✓ \$370.00 worth of donations from Anonymous and Hunt Em' & Hook Em'
 - ✓ Boat Launch Donation Box \$752.74
 - ✓ \$9,866.84 TOTAL INCOME MAY 1, 2019 – APRIL 30, 2020
 - ✓ \$13,128.00 TOTAL EXPENSES MAY 1, 2019 – APRIL 30, 2020
- Mike Ubl made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Cory Nelson Seconded. All in favor.

➤ **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

Robin Novak-Nelson reviewed the Audit Committee's report. John Delie, John Reck, and Jim Dunsirn. completed their Audit on the past 12 months of checks, receipts, and all account balances. Due to prior engagements none of them were not at the meeting.

➤ **REVIEW OF PAST YEAR**

- Robin Novak-Nelson addressed the passing of some fellow friends / Property Owners, Del Anderson and Joe Weisbrod, in the last year, expressing appreciation for their contributions to our Lake District
- Glen Bersie recognized all Volunteers; to list some of them: Librarian, Water Quality Control, Invasive Species volunteers, etc.; and thanked them for their contributions.

➤ **LAKE MANAGEMENT:**

- **EURASIAN MILFOIL-** This topic was covered at the beginning of the meeting by Chris Hamerla & Tom Gerlikovski
- **CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATER-** Tom Gerlikovski reviewed the CBCW activity. Amanda Brezinski completed 200 hours of Boat Launch Monitoring and educated some visitors when launching boats. DUE TO COVID-19 she was not allowed to help clean boats.
- **JAPANESE KNOTWEED-** Glen Bersie stated that one property only had one plant being treated. Possibly a few smaller ones starting but will continue to monitor with the property owner. The other property had heavier growth and will continue to be treated.

➤ **2020 – 2021 BUDGET REVIEW**

- Bill Pingel reviewed the Proposed Budget which included a continuance of the 1/2mil tax rate and includes non-lapsable fund to finance invasive species control costs
 - ✓ \$23,568.93 PROPOSED BUDGET INCOME MAY 1, 2020 – APRIL 30, 2021
(Includes cash balance carried over from at the end of April)
 - ✓ \$23,568.93 PROPOSED BUDGET EXPENSES MAY 1, 2020 – APRIL 30, 2021
(Includes \$7000 in the Non-Lapsable fund for Invasive Species Control)
- Fred Stoeger made a motion to approve the budget and continue the 1/2mil tax rate and the non-lapsable fund. Pat Witkowski Seconded. All in favor

➤ **NOMINATION & ELECTION:**

- Glen Bersie's term was up for re-election. The Chairman requested additional nominations from the floor. None were submitted. Glen was re-elected as a commissioner with 36 votes. Cory Nelson, Keith Hoffman and Mike Ubl counted / collected ballots.

➤ **2019 LHP&R DISTRICT FAMILY PICNIC:**

- Bill noted that due to COVID-19 the Commissioners decided that the family picnic should be cancelled for this year.

OTHER BUSINESS

➤ **CULVERT:**

Raymond Oksuta the Town of Alban Chairman went over the Town's budget and projects that are underway. The Lake Helen Road was raised and right now is currently gravel. The paving of the road should start before the end of October 2020. Due to the Town of Alban eating up their budget, an asphalt company has to be found that will do the work based upon a loan, in which they will be paid for work done in January 2021.

➤ **WATER QUALITY TESTING:** Bill Pingel and Tracy Arnold, Portage County representative, reviewed the results from the water quality testing. Nothing concerning has been found in the water out in deeper depths, or by the culvert entrance to the lake.

➤ **BOATER SAFETY AND REMINDERS:** Tyne Hoffman reviewed boater safety whether it's a personal watercraft, motorboat, kayaks, row boats, etc. Many concerns were discussed by Property Owners and Commissioners'. Dirt bikes and ATV's were also a concern.

➤ **FISH STOCKING COMMITTEE:** Fred Stoeger leads this committee and reviewed that stocking was last done in 2010, 2012, and 2015. He plans to have another meeting soon; no date set.

➤ **HEALTHY LAKES:** Tracy Arnold from Portage County Planning and Zoning spoke of a DNR Grant up to \$1,000.00 for planting native plants along shorelines and on properties to provide a buffer. If interested or need more information contact her at 715-346-1334 or arnoldt@co.portage.wi.us

- Tracy also discussed the dangers of Wild Parsnip and how to identify it. Right now one plant has been identified on the corner of Highway 49 and Lake Helen. Wild Parsnip resembles Dill with yellow flowers. This plant will cause dangerous chemical like burns to the skin. Portage County is working hard on removing this plant and disposing of it.
- Follow Portage County Lakes & Rivers on Facebook for more updates and information.

- **OTHER NEW BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**

The microphone was passed around so all attendees got a chance to ask any questions / concerns they might have or add additional input or ideas. Attendee s were asked to state their names before asking questions.

Beth Ubl made a motion to adjourn at 10:15am. Jerry Durkee Seconded. All in favor (of course.)