

LAKE HELEN PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
2021 ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY JUNE 5, 2021 8:30 AM
AT LAKE HELEN COUNTY PARK SHELTER

The Lake Helen P&R District Annual Meeting was called to order at 8:33am by Chairman Bill Pingel.
Commissioners Present: Bill Pingel, Glen Bersie, Tom Gerlikovski, and Robin Novak-Nelson
Commissioners Absent: Tyne Hoffman & Mildred Neville (appointed)
Attendees: 41 property owners from 29 properties (112 mailings sent out to property owners)
Guests: Carol Whitney (Ubl guest 3108), Mike Guth (Pat & Don Guth's guest), Chris Hamerla, Sam Coates, Kendra Kundinger (Golden Sands Representatives)

Before the meeting was started Attendees were asked to sign in and update any personal information. Barb Bersie, Lisa Briquetet, and Rick Wittman greeted property owners and helped them to sign in.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

• **MINUTES FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL MEETING**

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

• **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Glen Bersie reviewed Checking, Savings, and Non-lapsable Fund Account Balances as of April 30, 2021
- Checking \$1,486.50
- Savings \$4,110.57
- Non-lapsable Fund \$7,000.00
- TOTAL \$12,597.07
- Total past year income for the Boat Launch \$1009.26
- Mike Ubl made a motion to approve Treasurer's Report. Fred Stoeger Seconded. All in favor.

• **AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

- John Delie reviewed the Audit Committee's Report of the last 12 months of checks, receipts, and all account balances. The Audit Committee was John Delie, John Reck, and Jim Dunsirn
- Mike Ubl made a motion to approve Audit Committee's Report. Fred Stoeger Seconded. All in favor.

• **REVIEW OF PAST YEAR**

- Glen Bersie recognized our volunteers from the past year: Little Library: Maryann Weisbrod; July 4th Run/Walk: Desai Family; July 4th Boat Parade: Gerri Sannes; Aerators: Cory Nelson, Fred & Ben Stoeger, Keith & Tyne Hoffman, Dylan Abler, Mike Ubl, Ray Oksuita, Tom Gerlikovski, Joe Trzebiatowski, and Glen Bersie; Water Quality Control: Bill Pingel; Fish Committee: Fred Stoeger, Keith Hoffman, Mark Lynaugh, Wayne Muenzel, Mark & Kyle Brandenburg, and Mike Ubl.
- \$1,000.00 Donation was made by Mary Ann Weisbrod in memory of her late husband Joseph Weisbrod.

• **LAKE MANAGEMENT:**

○ **EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL**

- Bill Pingel noted that we applied for and were approved for a three year Grant of \$34,833. 70% of our expenses will be reimbursed by the DNR
- Tom Gerlikovski discussed the Eurasian Water Milfoil treatment that took place in 2020.
- Chris Hamerla from Golden Sands reviewed the current condition noting that he found 4 locations in the West Bay area with EWM. He discussed that early detection is key. A seminar will be held after the meeting to help property owners learn to identify E.W.M. and how to correctly remove it. Kendra (Chris' assistant,) will assist Chris in the seminar
- Chris suggested property owners use GPS to pinpoint any E.W.M. found. Do not pull; then contact a Commissioner or Chris Hamerla.

○ **ZEBRA MUSSELS**

- Chris Hamerla noted that the zebra mussel population is exploding and can cause many other issues including but not limited to ruining boat motors and jet ski motors left in the

water (lift props/boats out of water if possible); Z.M. are filters so they will filter the water allowing more sunlight to reach deeper depths which then promotes plant growth and algae. They are located throughout the entire lake and start off microscopic in size.

- If you find any Z.M. you can remove them and place on land in a flower bed.
- **CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATER**
 - Tom Gerlikovski stated that Sam Coates has returned to our landing as our Boat Launch Monitor for this summer. He will educate boaters on the importance of draining boats before launch. The goal is to prevent invasive species from entering the lake, including EWM and Zebra Mussels that are microscopic.
- **JAPANESE KNOTWEED**
 - Glen Bersie discussed the progress being made. He treated 3 plants that week.
- **2021-2022 BUDGET REVIEW**
 - Glen Bersie walked through the new format and proposed income of \$12,887.32; and expenses totaling \$19,388.89.
 - The Commissioners are recommending No tax assessment for the Lake District this coming year.
 - Cory Nelson made a motion to approve budget for the new year as mailed out and presented, including the Non-Lapsable Fund and No Tax Levy for 2021. Peg Muenzel Seconded. All in Favor
- **NOMINATIONS / ELECTIONS 3 YEAR TERMS**
 - It was reported that 41 property owners from 29 properties were in attendance.
 - Robin Novak-Nelson will not be running for Commissioner position. 9 years and RETIRED from the Board. Bill Pingel thanked Robin for her many years as a Commissioner.
 - Bill Pingel stated that Tyne Hoffman submitted her name for re-election.
 - Keith Hoffman was nominated by Cory Nelson. He was not present, but had stated his willingness to accept a nomination.
 - Mike Guth volunteered to have his name submitted for nomination. However Bill Pingel stated that elected Commissions must be a property owner; ~~No Votes~~
 - Secret ballots were cast and counted by Robin Nelson & Erica Stoeger. Tyne Hoffman received 41 votes. Keith Hoffman received 41 votes.

OTHER BUSINESS:

• FISH COMMITTEE

- Fred Stoeger presented some great information regarding Fish Habitat / Fish Sticks. A boat ride in May with Chris Hamerla, Tracy Arnold (Portage County), Tim Parks (DNR), and fellow Fish Committee and Property Owners took a stroll around the lake to identify properties for Fish Stick habitats. Tracy Arnold did some mapping of the lake.
- Tracy Arnold has \$1,000.00 Grants that property owners can apply for to help to improve our fish habitat.
- Fred noted that Fish Habitat needs to be improved before any restocking takes place.
- Fred Stoeger discussed Keith Hoffman's submission to the DNR ~~request~~ to change the panfish limits. ~~by species and~~ He also noted that the DNR will be changing the Northern Pike keeper size. Keith is working with the DNR Tim Parks currently.
- Fish Committee has two plans 1: improve fish structure and 2: Fish regulations
- Mark Brandenburg has requested that anyone who catches Northerns to let him know what you are catching.

• SOCIAL EVENTS

- No Picnic for 2021 but the Board of Commissioners stated that they would pay for drinks / snacks provided at the Run/Walk if receipts are provided.
- The Boat Parade is planned for Sunday July 4th at 4:30pm
- The 4th of July Run / Walk is planned to begin at 9am

- **WATER QUALITY TESTING:**
 - Bill Pingel reviewed the CLMN program for testing ~~discussed that the DNR will provide~~ water samples for clarity, temperature, & chemicals at no cost to the lake district. Water Samples taken at the culvert would be sent to UWSP for testing at a small cost.
- **BOATER SAFETY**
 - Bill Pingel spoke of concerns for safety caused by the increased boat traffic; Reminder 200' from shore for jet skis and 100' from dock for boats. Travel in a counter clock wise direction.
 - A property owner expressed concern about the swim beach buoys being too shallow and people are swimming outside the markers. Bill said he would contact County Parks about the concern. and ask them to check the placement of buoys; Boats must not travel within 100' of buoys at wake speed.
- **HEALTHY LAKES (Tracy Arnold, not present to present)**
 - Bill noted that the Healthy Lakes program has grant money available for Native Plantings; Two properties on Lake Helen have received approval to participate and will be rewarded \$1,000 each! Please reach out to Tracy Arnold if interested 715-346-1334 or arnoldt@co.portage.wi.us
 - New pages have been added to the Lake Helen District Web Site Page regarding Shoreline Zoning and Rain Gardens.
- **TOWN OF ALBAN**
 - Ray Oksuita, Town of Alban Chairman, reviewed the towns expenses and tax levy. He stated that it cost \$47,000 to pave Lake Helen Road entrance. \$70,000 to maintain 41 miles of roadside for 908 residents; Town of Alban now has an updated website.
 - Ray expressed appreciation to the Lake Commissioners and the residents for their efforts to make the lake area a great place.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Cory Nelson received a text from a land owner asking lake residents not to use the private road access across from Tom & Janeen Gerlikovski's residence. The field is being rented out to another farmer.
- Fred Stoeger passed out proposed fish stick location maps.
- Mike Guth wanted to remind all to slow down and be courteous.
- Steve Cook mentioned that all items be secured so they don't blow into the lake. A wire cable was found wrapped around the motor of the Fremont Marine boat.
- Jerry Durkee stated that a 2 person ice shanty is in the lake and he will let Tom Gerlikovski know for removal.
- Tom Gerlikovski's brother will be diving after the meeting to remove Eurasian Water Milfoil.

ADJOURNMENT

Cory Nelson made a motion to adjourn. Mike Ubl Seconded. All in Favor.
The meeting adjourned at 10am.