

**LAKE HELEN PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
2022 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Monday January 17, 2022 via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Tyne Hoffman, Keith Hoffman, Bill Pingel, Tom Gerlikovski, Glen Bersie, & Mildred Neville
Commissioners Absent: None
Guests: Tracy Arnold (Portage County Planning & Zoning), Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands), Adam Riese (property owner), and Fred Stoeger (Fish Committee)

REGULAR REPORTS:

MINUTES: Tom made a motion to approve the October 14, 2021 meeting minutes. Keith Seconded. All in favor.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Glen Bersie provided the treasurer's report and included a list of financial transactions that have taken place since the last meeting.

\$1,820.88 in Checking
\$4,310.03 Savings
\$10,038.85 Non-Lapsable invasive species fund

Total \$16,169.76

Keith made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Tom seconded. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

FISHING COMMITTEE:

Fish Sticks: Friday March 4, 2022 trees will be coming down to provide 6 fish sticks at 4 different properties. We will need volunteers to help out. Meet at Fred Stoeger's house, time to be determined. Fish sticks are three trees, different lengths, cabled together and will be set on the ice. When ice thaws they will fall through and set on lake bottom. This will provide some great fish habitat. Permits have been approved by the DNR and Tracy Arnold will be overseeing this project.

Next steps will be to get other property owners excited about this and double the amount of fish sticks for next year. It was recommended that we discuss fish sticks at the annual meeting.

AERATORS: Keith discussed how the measuring of Dissolved Oxygen was going. In the East side area the lake is 21 feet deep and the low dissolved oxygen levels started at 12' down and 10' down on the west side, much shallower on the west side. Average depth of Lake Helen is 8'. Fred Stoeger mentioned that a past resident Del Anderson said a fish kill happened years ago due to low oxygen. Adam Riese was requesting that we use science to study the oxygen levels instead of just "doing what we always do, and turn on aerators after the fishere." This request is partially due to the concern of unsafe ice and safety for his two kids, other people / children & pets. Chris Hamerla said to look into data collection rather than the "historics" of just turning them on. Glen stated that it costs roughly \$85 a month to run aerators, which could be a savings to us. Keith made a motion to monitor dissolved oxygen weekly and report it back to Scott

Provost with the DNR and then turn on aerators based up DNR's recommendation when the dissolved oxygen levels get too low. Glen Seconded. All in Favor.

BLUE GREEN ALGAE ISSUE:

Water Chemical Testing-DNR-Next Steps: Next step Keith will be attending a Special Town of Alban Meeting to discuss what the L.H.P.R.D. has been doing to improve water quality, shorelines, and what the water quality tests have revealed. Inserting a military grade "plug" into the culvert has been recommended. One that can be easily removed to let water flow if levels become too high. Keith will be working with Chairman Ray Oksuita and the Town of Alban.

Survey: 13-14 people responded to the survey regarding fertilizing

Shoreline Improvements: Ten property owners will be participating in the Native Plantings per Tracy Arnold. And six fish sticks projects coming up on four properties. (Fred Stoeger will be putting in 3, and the following are putting in one fish stick; Keith & Tyne Hoffman, Adam Forstner, and Dylan Ablar)

INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL:

CBCW 2022: Grant APPROVED per Tom.

EWM CONTROL & GRANT PROGRESS:

Progress/Current Situation: Tom will work with Chris Hamerla regarding scheduling dives in the dredged area before other native plants start to grow and the water clarity declines.

Grant Progress Report: Bill stated that he contacted the DNR about extending our grant one more year since we didn't have any expenses to submit in 2021. In light of the poor water clarity, no dives were able to be scheduled. The DNR stated that we will need to submit a formal request 6 months in advance of the grant deadline. Scott Provost stated that there should not be an issue in getting the extension.

Japanese Knotweed: Glen stated that no updates on the Japanese Knotweed other than before the snow fall, the plants seemed to be declining.

EWM Grant Volunteer Reimbursement: Forms will need to be filled out for time and equipment used.

2022 EWM Control Plans: Bill discussed that we should be providing property owners with an updated Newsletter and to also publish something in the Rosholt Record. Chris Hamerla can set up some training days to teach people how to identify EWM.

Ordinances: It was discussed as to what some of our options are when it comes to the directional boat travel (counter clockwise); 1) county ordinance, 2) Town of Alban, or 3) Lake District ordinance, but the question is how to make it enforceable. Keith has recommended larger signage and verbiage, similar to the Tree Lake signage.

Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention: Signups are open online. This year is in person. Keith and Bill will be presenting Friday April 8, 2022 regarding Healthy Lakes and Blue Green Algae and what Lake Helen has found after water quality testing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Lake Management Plan: The current Lake Helen P.R.D. Lake Management Plan was developed in 2011 per Tracy Arnold and needs to be updated for the purposes of receiving grant money. Goals for the lake should be updated every 5 years. You can find the Lake Management Plan on our webpage and online.

ANNUAL MEETING FOLLOWUP: Saturday June 4, 2022; Tyne will reserve the shelter and inquire with Mike Ubl about using his sound system again. (Update: Glen will be reserving the Park Shelter.) The group felt that the Park shelter location and sound system worked out well in 2021.

Other: It was noted that Richard Ferg is wanting to sub divide his land (farm field) on the East side into 7 lots. Follow-up with Town Chairman Ray is needed. If this goes through, they should fall into the "Lake District" for tax purposes.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING: March 7, 4:30pm via zoom ***Please note, the meeting has been rescheduled for March 10th 4:30pm via zoom**

ADJOURNEMENT: Meeting adjourned 6:15pm