

**LAKE HELEN PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT  
2022 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
Thursday March 10, 2022 via Zoom**

Commissioners Present: Bill Pingel, Keith Hoffman, Tyne Hoffman, Glen Bersie, Tom Gerlikovski, & Mildred Neville

Commissioners Absent: None

Guests: Tracy Arnold (Portage County Planning & Zoning) & Fred Stoeger (Fish Committee)

**REGULAR REPORTS:**

**MINUTES:** Glen made a motion to approve the minutes from December 6, 2021 meeting. Tom Seconded. All in favor.

Glen made a motion to approve meeting minutes from January 17, 2022 pending corrections & final draft. Keith Seconded. All in favor.

Glen made mention that a resident expressed that the meeting minutes were not being posted to website in a timely manner. Glen suggests that the minutes be posted on the website within two weeks pending Final Approval.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Glen Bersie provided the treasurers report and included a list of financial transactions that have taken place since last meeting. Electric bills were paid out and some interest money was gained on accounts.

\$1,633.20 in Checking  
\$5,310.36 Savings  
\$10,039.64 Non-Lapsable invasive species fund

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Total \$16,982.81

Keith made a motion to approve Treasurer's Report. Tom Seconded. All in favor.

**Budget Proposal:** Glen provided a copy of the proposed budget and reviewed the budget for 2022  
\*\*Commissioners' jumped ahead in agenda: **BOATING:** Tom made a motion to authorize spending up to \$1,500.00 on swim buoys to be used at the Lake Helen beach to define the swim area (making it safer and more clearly defined for boaters.) Keith Seconded. All in favor. Bill will contact Ryan Rose with the Portage County Parks Department regarding the purchase of the swim buoys.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**FISHING COMMITTEE:**

Fish Sticks: Fred advised the group that Keith did a fantastic job planning, scheduling, and organizing the day and it all went really well. Everyone involved should be recognized and Thanked for their time and support.

Keith stated that he couldn't have done it without Dylan Abler's help, they went through the planning phase together and Dylan was the main machine operator. Volunteers and the machines used were great; At least 15 volunteers (to be named and recognized at a later date); Dylan Abler ran the mini excavator, Jim Tomasovic brought his tractor, and at least 5 side by sides (UTV's) were used in moving and relocating trees / cabling trees. (Qty) 18 trees, measuring between 30' to 60' were used to make 6 fish stick complexes at four different properties. The primary tree used is at least 40' long and some are 70' long. Fish sticks were made with a mix of coniferous and deciduous trees. Fred Stoeger put 3 fish sticks in at his property. Keith & Tyne Hoffman, Dylan Abler, and Adam Forstner each put in one fish stick at their property.

The plans for 2022 are to encourage property owners to apply for the Fish Stick Grant and the goal is 6 more fish sticks. Keith advised that we should keep talking to our neighbors and encourage them. Fish sticks will be discussed at the Annual Meeting. Tracy Arnold has pictures of the final fish stick projects to be posted on our website.

### **AERATOR INSTALLATION:**

Keith and Tyne took weekly readings of the dissolved oxygen to help determine when the aerators should be turned. The "Safe Zone" was reached and DNR representative Scott Provost was not able to be reached. A decision was made with Keith and Glen that the aerators should be turned on. It was determined by Scott Provost that we were still within "safe zone" limits, but better to err on side of caution to avoid a fish kill. Four weeks were gained by not turning on the aerators saving some money. Glen stated earlier in the meeting that the monthly cost is \$85 per pump, \$235 to \$250 to run all pumps; (two pumps / 4 motors).

It was recommended that we do the same thing for next year and continue to measure the dissolved oxygen levels and continue gathering scientific data. Keith will follow-up and measure the D.O. levels. Clarification is needed as to whether running the pumps all year can prevent the lake from stratifying.

### **BLUE GREEN ALGAE ISSUE:**

Keith Reviewed how the Special Meeting with the Town of Alban had gone. That meeting was held on Saturday, February 12, 2022 called to order by Chairman Raymond Oksuita and minutes provided by Secretary Tracy Glodowski. Chairman Raymond Oksuita made a motion to plug the culvert located on the Lake Helen entrance road. The plug will be installed by Ray and Keith, and will be removed to allow water to flow if water reaches within 6" of the road height as to not damage the road. Ray will be working on fabricating something called a "Tin Whistle" which is used at cranberry marshes and acts as a dam.

Blocking the culvert that runs under Hwy 49 was taken out of the equation due to the elevation and no impact. Tom would like to take a "ditch laser" and measure the current elevation on Lake Helen Road, for informational purposes only.

Shoreline Improvements: Tracy Arnold followed up on the current projects. The grant was approved and March 15<sup>th</sup> plants can be ordered and will starting planting in June. Tracy has a total of 21 projects approved and 10 of those projects are being done on Lake Helen. Shoreline Improvements Program is gaining momentum / popularity and that property owners that are interested in doing Native Plantings should fill out the Pledge Form ASAP.

Soil Testing: Tyne is interested in doing a soil sample and mentioned that Mike Ubl had also mentioned he would be interested in doing one as well. Soil Sampling information should be provided on the Facebook page.

### Water Chemical Testing-DNR-Next Steps:

The DNR will be running diagnostic feasibility testing this summer.

Newsletter: Bill will be working on preparing a newsletter for all Lake Helen Property owners and Tyne will assist by posting to Facebook and keep the message out in front of people.

### **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL:**

CBCW 2022: Tom stated that Amy Thorson is currently interviewing new applicants for the Clean Boats Clean Water Monitoring position. It was suggested that the Lake Helen Commissioners gather additional questions together as to what we want the CBCW monitor to ask people launching boats and should be in a check list format and provide a comment section. Glen added that we should provide these forms and analyze our own data.

### EWM CONTROL & GRANT PROGRESS:

Progress/Current Situation: Per Tom, no grant money was spent in 2021 due to water clarity and the blue green algae. Tom recommended that we work with Andrew McFahern of Aquatic Plant Management. Divers Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH), would cost roughly \$2,600.00 per day and would require 4 divers. The dredge line seems to be the most problematic area to focus on. Without the suction harvesting, fragmentation is a problem due to low visibility. Recommended to wait until the EWM plants are sturdy and established before pulling otherwise they fall apart and fragment. Tom recommended \$5,200 for mapping and suction harvesting to occur in June before native plants start growing. Glen recommends \$8,700.00. Multiple quotes will be needed if over the DNR contracted amount of \$5,000.00 in three-year period. Bill & Tom to follow up. A PI survey is recommended every 5 years. Tom will follow-up with Chris Hamerla regarding adding that to the grant. Tom made a motion to authorize \$8,700.00 for Invasive Species Control this year; Subject to language of the Grant requirements. Glen seconded. All in Favor.

Japanese Knotweed: Non-applicable per Glen.

2022 EWM Control – DNR Grant: Bill reminded everyone log volunteer times and keep track of pontoon boat vs kayak / other boats from both last year and this year. He also recommended sending out information regarding training to identify EWM, creating a newsletter, sharing information to fb, and Rosholt Record. Chris Hamerla will provide training once again after the Annual Meeting.

Grant Progress Report: Bill stated that he still needs to send a grant progress report for 2021 to Scott Provost.

**BOATING:** Keith and Tyne will provide a quote on updated signage displaying important information regarding to Lake Helen: Wake times, Boating direction of counter clockwise, clean boats clean water. Information would be similar to what is at Tree Lake boat landing. Tyne mentioned if we reuse the 4'x8' sign currently at the boat landing it would save some money.

Swim buoys: As stated above, Bill will follow-up with Ryan Rose of the Portage County Parks Department. \*Please see section under the proposed budget regarding this information.

**2022 WISCONSIN LAKES & RIVERS CONVENTION:** Tyne & Keith are interested in attending a few sessions. Keith and Bill to represent Lake Helen District on Friday April 8th at 2:45pm. Tom made a motion to authorize covering the cost to attend the Lakes & Rivers Convention sessions. Keith seconded. All in favor.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN:** **\*\*Note jumped ahead in agenda due to Tracy Arnold needing to leave for another meeting.** Tracy mentioned the Portage County Lakes and Rivers Association meeting is at the end of the month and if signed up you will receive a zoom link to attend the meeting. The Lake Management Plan is good but needs some updating which is done every 5 years. Lake Helen is sitting in a good spot. Lake Leaders Institute is a program to attend but requires nominations. Tracy can nominate but it costs \$350.00 to attend, monies out of Lake District funds. Tracy stated it's a great learning experience and she just graduated from it. Glen stated this would need to be put in the budget if anyone interested.

**ANNUAL MEETING:** June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 8:30am at the Lake Helen County Park Shelter. Glen will reserve the shelter.

**ELECTION:** Bill Pingel & Tom Gerlikovski are up for election. Five commissioners are needed and one has to be a full-time resident. Bill stated that he is not planning on running and has offered that he can still help with the current EWM grant, newsletters, and the website.

**JUMP INTO SPRING:** Tyne & Keith Hoffman hosted the Second Annual Jump Into Spring. Karen Binash presented a check to donate towards the event for \$100 in memory of her late father Lee Weir and her late brother Mike Weir. Another \$270.00 cash donated by the Jump Into Spring Participants. Great fun was had by all.

Tyne mentioned that she also cashed in about 5 bags of aluminum cans that were provided by her and donated to her; that check was for \$19.83

A GRAND TOTAL of \$389.83 was donated the L.H.P.R.D. to be used towards Fish restocking / Fish management projects on the lake. Tyne wanted to thank everyone who came and participated and donated.

**OTHER:** Bill discussed the Richard Ferg property if subdivided and sold, noting the state statutes requirements for annexing land to a Lake District.

“The board of commissioners may initiate attachment proceedings by notifying the owners of the affected land and petitioning the county board. The county board proceeds with notice, hearing, and decision in the same manner used to establish the districts.”

Glen mentioned the property would need to be rezoned for recreation from agriculture.

**ANNUAL PICNIC:** Keith made a motion that Glen would check into available dates to host the picnic at the Lake Helen County Park Shelter. Dates to be determined at a later date, looking at the first week of August or last week of July. Tom Seconded. All in favor.

**SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:** April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 4:30 pm via zoom

**ADJOURNEMENT:** Keith made a motion to adjourn meeting at 6:28pm. Glen Seconded. All in favor.