



Meeting Minutes

Annual Meeting

Lake Helen Protection & Rehabilitation District

Date: 6/3/2023

Time: 8:30am

Location: Lake Helen Park Pavilion

Attendees:

Officers Present: Keith Hoffman (Chairman), Tyne Hoffman (Secretary), Glen Bersie (Treasurer), Kara Boghossian (Commissioner), Bill Pingel (Commissioner), Dave Peterson (County Appointed Commissioner)

Official Guests Present: Clayton Stormoen (Clean Boats Clean Waters), Colton Wolosek (Golden Sands Resource & Conservation Development)

Property Owners Present: 52 representing 37 properties

Other Guests Present: none

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Keith Hoffman, at 8:30am.

Regular Business

Minutes

Mike Ubl motioned to forgo review of 2022 annual meeting minutes and it was accepted unanimously. Mike Ubl motioned to approve the 2022 annual meeting minutes and it was accepted unanimously.

Treasurer’s Report

Glen Bersie shared the treasurers’ report.

Current Balances

Checking	\$2,580.59
Savings	\$2,767.63
Non Lapsable Fund EWM	\$8,622.89
TOTAL	\$13,971.11

John Delie reported that the audit committee had a clean audit and recommended acceptance of the treasurer’s report. Mike Ubl motioned to approve the treasurer’s report and it was accepted unanimously.

Keith Hoffman acknowledged and thanked those that have made donations and contributions over the past year.

Keith Hoffman presented that blue green algae blooms appeared June 2021 and returned in May 2022. When algae die in mass number, they release dangerous cytotoxins. Contributing factors of blooms are nutrient introduction – phosphorous and nitrogen, the polymictic nature of Lake Helen, and zebra mussel colonization. DNR water quality testing plan is in place to monitor nutrient levels and confirmed high nutrient source from wetland to the north. Weekly temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles continue and confirmed polymictic nature of the lake. Aerators were ran to prevent stratification. There is a 2024 DNR grant possibility. A permanent flow gate was installed to prevent nutrient introduction from the wetland to the north. DNR testing results show consistent decrease in the levels of nitrogen, phosphorous, and biological oxygen demand in the lake, so this is working. Eleven healthy lakes practices were installed:



nine native shoreline plantings to reduce nutrient runoff, one rock infiltration, and one diversion project to control runoff.

Keith Hoffman and Glen Bersie updated that Eurasian Watermilfoil is a major problem because it grows so fast and spreads so aggressively that it can reduce the amount of light in a lake and will shade out other native aquatic plants. Onterra LLC was contracted to survey, map, and provide a GPS base map. This supports diver assisted suction harvesting (DASH) and hand harvesting. Not out of control yet, but established urgency in removal efforts. Aquatic Plant Management was contracted to conduct two DASH services June and October 2022. EWM grant covered all cost. Volunteer labor and equipment donations are critical. \$2,841 labor and \$790 equipment in 2022. Aquatic Plant Management is contracted to conduct three DASH services June 8th, 9th, and July 9th. At least three hand pulling events are planned and volunteers are needed. Identification training session immediately following today's meeting provided by Golden Sands.

Glen Bersie presented that Clean Boats Clean Waters boat landing monitoring and education is to help prevent the spread of invasive species. Clayton Stormeon will be the watercraft inspector for Lake Helen. CBCW is critical for Lake Helen to be eligible for the EWM grant.

Glen Bersie shared that Japanese Knotweed grows aggressively and there are currently two locations around the lake. Do not mow or attempt to remove because it must be chemically treated at the base of the stalk. Report suspected plants to the lake commission.

Glen Bersie shared that there are two confirmed wild parsnip plants on Lake Helen roadside in 2022. Sap causes painful, severe burns and blisters. Do not mow or attempt to remove. Report suspected plants to lake commissioners.

2023-2024 Proposed Budget – Review including recommending tax assessment for 2023 of \$49.30 per \$100,000 of assessed value for a total of \$7,500.

Lisa Briquelet motioned to approve the budget including proposed tax levy for 2023 and it was accepted unanimously.

Sign-In Report

- Voters: 52
- Properties: 37

Guests: 0

Nomination and Election of one Commissioner for a three-year term. Glen Bersie completed his three year term and sought re-election. No other nominations. Election resulted in 52 votes in favor of Glen Bersie. Glen Bersie is elected as commissioner.

Keith Hoffman reviewed and discussed 2023 LHP&R District annual social events and the following were shared:

- Annual picnic: Saturday, August 5th noon-3pm
- Boat parade: Sunday, July 2nd at 4:30
- Family walk/run: July 4th at 9am

And invited everyone to join us on Facebook! Lake Helen Our Happy Place.

Kara Boghossian shared an update on the Lake management plan. There was a good response to the survey with 58 total responses. Results will help determine the direction and priorities of the Lake Helen management plan.

Keith Hoffman shared that new property owners' have welcome packets.

There is a 2024 DNR Grant possibility to cover the additional cost of electricity to run the aerators.

Old Business



Keith Hoffman shared the fish management team update. The team held meetings with the DNR fish biologist, golden sands, and Portage County initially focused on stocking. Biologists Tim Parks and Lucas Koenig changed the focus to a holistic approach to fish management to ensure any investment is money well spent. Habitat improvement to support natural reproduction for young fish. Regulation changes to support population levels and increase size structure. Agreed to pursue restocking efforts after the necessary changes have been implemented. Shared fishing regulation changes. March 4th 2022 volunteers installed six fish stick complexes on Lake Helen. Volunteers are needed for six additional fish stick complexes. Healthy lakes and rivers grants are available to cover expenses up to \$1,000 per project. Fish stocking is targeted for fall of 2023. To date \$3,196 raised through fundraising activities to support the fish stocking event. The goal is to have at least \$5,100.

Keith Hoffman discussed Roadway and Boater Safety.

Guest Speaker: Raymond Oksuitka, Town of Alban Chairman, provided a Town of Alban Update

New Business

Bill Pingel reviewed the Resolution that was sent in the mail to remove the bylaws, always follow Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin Statutes, and to create a new operational policy document. Bylaws often conflict with the governing laws in Wisconsin. Chapter 33 supersedes any bylaws by conflict. Requires 2/3 approval to pass. Mike Ubl motioned to eliminate the bylaws and put in place the new operation policy and it was approved unanimously.

Keith Hoffman asked for new committee volunteers. First for the EWM Management Committee to support the commissioners with EWM identification, removal, and other associated activities. Second for the Communication Committee to help with updating the website and improving communication with property owners. Mike Ubl and Jeremy DeForge volunteered for the communication committee.

Announcements

Tyne and Keith Hoffman resigning as Lake Commissioners due to moving out of state.

Adjournment

John Delie motioned to adjourn the meeting and it was accepted unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 10am.