

LAKE HELEN PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
2022 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
Wednesday April 13, 2022 4:30 pm
via Zoom

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

Commissioners Absent: None

Guests: Tracy Arnold (Portage County Planning & Zoning) & Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands)

REGULAR REPORTS:

MINUTES: Glen made a motion to approve the March 10, 2022. Keith Seconded. All in favor. **Note, Mildred abstained from the vote, due to only attending about 25 minutes of the last meeting. This is also Mildred's last meeting with our Lake District due to redistricting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Glen Bersie provided the Treasurer's Report and a list of financial transactions including the electric bill being paid since our last meeting.

Donations that have come in, include: Hunt Em' & Hook Em' \$100.00, 2nd Annual Jump Into Spring Event \$389.83 towards fish restocking (hosted by Tyne & Keith Hoffman)

An additional \$100.00 was donated by Ray Oksuita and Chris Knitter as contribution to the Jump Into Spring Event. This donation will be deposited soon.

\$1,023.20 Checking

\$5,700.44 Savings

\$10,040.09 Non-Lapsable invasive species fund

Total \$16,763.73

Motion made by Tom to approve the Treasurer's Report. Keith Seconded. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

2022 Wisconsin Lakes & Rivers Convention

The Commissioners discussed the conferences that they attended and shared what they learned that will be important to the L.H.P.R.D. in the future. Keith & Tyne attended the Commissioners Training and learned based upon Chapter 33 some voting was not being done based upon Chapter 33 rules. Glen attended a Treasurer's Conference takeaways were; at the annual meeting have a laptop, projector and screen for presenting the annual budget being prepared for possible changes to the proposed budget. Tax Exempt Certificate need to locate or get a replacement. Spending of \$2500.00 or more needs to be put out for bids. It was recommended to avoid a zero-dollar Tax Levy it is better to just lower for a year or two if excess funds build up. Bill discussed the importance of a Lake Management Plan and the value of it. He said it was recommended that Meeting Agendas should be made based up the goals that the Lake District has.

ANNUAL MEETING PRELIMINARY PLANNING

Annual Meeting is scheduled for June 4, 2022 at the Lake Helen County Park Shelter 8:30am. Tom and Bill's three-year terms are coming to an end and will not be running. Both discussed that they would help out in the future with whatever is needed. Commissioners' ran through some names that could be potential recruitments. A review of the Annual Meeting was run through. Glen & Tyne will work together to gather a list of Past year Acknowledgements. A discussion took place as to the content of the Annual Meeting Agenda. At least one member of the Audit Committee should be in attendance. Bill will prepare the mailings that go out to all property owners, that must be mailed out two weeks before the meeting.

2022 PROJECTS – Annual Meeting Topics

BLUE GREEN ALGAE ISSUE:

Culvert Plug: Keith followed-up on what he has learned regarding the purchase of a Flowgate and how it would work to hold the wetlands water back and keep those extra nutrients from flowing into the lake which could be a contributor of the Blue Green Algae Bloom of 2021. The Flowgate would cost roughly \$650.00. Keith will reach out to the Town of Alban and the DNR to see if they would like to split the cost with the L.H.P.R.D. Tom can provide a temporary test plug. The plug that Ray Oksuita was working on does not seem to be working properly.

BOAT LANDING MONITORING / PLANS:

Chris noted that Sam Coates (inspector for the last two years) is only available for ½ of the summer. He stated that help would be appreciated in spreading the news about the open position.

UPADATED BOAT LANDING SIGNAGE:

Keith provided a sample of a new sign design to put up at the boat landing. It would replace our current 4' x 8' Clean Boats Clean Water sign. This sign would include more important information regarding wake time, direction of boating, clean boats clean water, and other safety messages. Tyne will provide an estimate on the sign, and stated the old alumalite sign would be reused to make the new one. She guesstimated that the sign would cost roughly \$250.00. Commissioners discussed prepaying for the sign before April 30, 2022 and use the funds set aside in the Maintenance Budget. Glen made a motion to approve up to \$350.00 to update signage based upon Keith's layout and the final design layout coming from Bushman Electric, Crane, & Sign. Tom Seconded. All in Favor.

EWM CONTROL & GRANT REQUIREMENTS: Tom noted that DASH (Divers Assisted Suction Harvesting) will be implemented on the lake this year and Manual Pulling will be as needed. Bill provided the requirements for DNR grant reimbursement from contractors. This includes cost containment via multiple bids for any project over \$2,500.00. Also, a service agreement is required for work done over \$5,000.00. Both apply to totals over the entire grant period.

CITIZENS LAKE MONITORING NETWORK: Bill noted that he will continue to coordinate the DNR's CLMN project, to take clarity, temperature, and clarity samples monthly from the deep hole. He'd like to coordinate with Keith on the timing with his BGA testing. All of the CLMN testing costs are picked up by the DNR.

ELECTRICAL: Commissioners discussed what should be budgeted for electrical. It's been recommended by the DNR that the aerators remain running to see if it prevents the lake from stratifying, which can help prevent a BGA bloom. Keith will follow up with the DNR to get the final recommendation from them.

WATER QUALITY TESTING: Keith stated that the DNR will be paying for the water tests. Samples will be taken from the deep lake hole and from the wetlands. Unsure of how often or how many they will be doing.

BUOYS: \$1,500.00 has been earmarked for the purchase of buoys to be used at the Lake Helen beach for safety and to define the swimming area more clearly. Bill stated that he has not gotten exact pricing yet. It was suggested to see if the Town of Alban like to make a donation towards the buoys? Tyne discussed setting up donation cans around Rosholt to help pay for the buoys.

FISHING COMMITTEE: Tracy stated that she is supplying Healthy Lakes & Rivers sign to mark Fish Stick projects and Shoreline planting sites. Chris stated that the DNR process for citizens to vote on proposed fishing regulation changes is currently in the process and the deadline is tomorrow (April 14th) at 7pm. This affects the panfish regulation change that Keith proposed through the Citizen Resolution last year. It was suggested that Keith post the link on the Facebook page to get support for that change.

FAMILY PICNIC: Glen and Tyne will work together to plan the picnic set for August 6, 2022 at the Lake Helen County Park Shelter.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Keith has recommended that Tyne be the head of the Social Committee which in turn would be beneficial to drive more community involvement and excitement in the Lake District and the Commissioners efforts. Tyne will be seeking volunteers and creative people.

TAX LEVY: Preliminary Budget Proposal; Glen covered the preliminary budget. Discussion followed as to the proposed spending's and tax levy in the upcoming year. A review of the revision of the proposed budget will be held at our next meeting April 27th, 2022 for the final presentation at the annual meeting.

OTHER CURRENT TOPICS:

OTHER: Tracy will reach out to Mike Engelson Wisconsin Lakes Executive Director regarding questions to having raffles and receiving / requesting donations.

NEWSLETTER: Bill will prepare a newsletter that will be passed out door to door on or around May 14th or 15th.

NEW BUSINESS: No new Business topics were discussed.

SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING: April 27th, 2022 4:30pm and the focus will be to approve the annual meeting agenda. June 3rd, 2022 will be the Pre-Annual Meeting walk through.

ADJOURNMENT: Glen made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:24pm. Keith Seconded. All definitely in favor.

Minutes submitted by Tyne Hoffman