

LAKE HELEN PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT  
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

June 4, 2020  
Zoom Conference Call

The Lake Helen P&R District Commissioners' meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm  
Commissioners Present: Bill Pingel, Robin Novak-Nelson, Glen Bersie, Tom Gerlikovski, and Tyne Hoffman  
Commissioners Absent: None  
Guests: None

Due to the current public health concerns regarding COVID-19 and the executive orders issued by the Governor and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, government organizations are permitted to conduct public meetings remotely in order to comply with the Safer At Home Orders. Lake Helen Protection and Rehabilitation District met via Video / Telephone Conference on June 4, 2020.

➤ **MINUTES**

Tom made a motion to approve the April 8, 2020 meeting minutes. Robin Seconded. All in favor.  
Robin made a motion to approve the April 22, 2020 meeting minutes. Glen Seconded. All in favor.

➤ **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- Savings account balance \$10,844.50; Checking account balance \$532.79.
- As of June 3, 2020 the boat launch had brought in \$320.00 since last collected. To date \$752.74.
- Glen made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Tom Seconded. All in favor.

➤ **OLD BUSINESS**

➤ **LAKE MANAGEMENT – EWM TREATMENT**

- Tom Gerlikovski and his daughters Mekena and Kylyn; And then a fellow property owner Shawn Briquelet's two boys helped kayak around the lake and place the dock signs on docks. These signs were placed in a plastic sheeting to help make them a little bit safer from the elements. Tyne Hoffman placed 5 "Pesticide Warning" signs down around the park property in various places.
- The Eurasian Water Milfoil Treatment took place on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by Hamilton Harvey III; Schmidts Aquatics. It took approximately 2.5 hours. Glen Bersie, Tyne Hoffman, and Keith Hoffman were out on the lake watching the process and were able to inquire about the process. A total of 162 gallons of chemicals were placed in the water. Within 48-72 hours changes were being seen as the Eurasian Water Milfoil plants started to wilt and die off. By June 3<sup>rd</sup> huge improvements were seen as the EWM was slowly disappearing.
- Next steps: Bill recommended that Tom contact Chris Hamerla from Golden Sands to provide property owners with E.W.M. identification training.
- Tom stated that immediately after the chemical treatment all hands / eyes will be needed to identify and spot any remaining E.W.M. and hand pull plant if identified; per Tom.
- We reviewed the last few years regarding the E.W.M.; The last treatment was 2014 and the hand pulling process didn't become an active process until the year 2016. Which by that time it had started to come back and our efforts were lost. We need to do better this time as a group and a community and be more proactive.
- Tom recommended that in the future, that we hire a consulting firm to provide us with more expertise rather than just using an applicator.

➤ **ANNUAL MEETING**

- Robin made a suggestion that we post-pone our Annual Meeting until August due to the unknown of COVID-19 and proper guidelines. Robin contacted the Electric Co-Op and the CEO will not be making any decisions on the usage of the "meeting room" until after July 4, 2020. Tom made the proposal that we have it at the Lake Helen County Park, which has the space to socially distance. He made the motion that we schedule it for August 15, 2020, with a rain date

of August 22, 2020. The time to be determined and all guests bring your own chairs and umbrellas if needed. Robin Seconded. All in favor.

- Glen made a motion to cancel the “ANNUAL PICNIC” due to the COVID-19 uncertainties. Robin Seconded. All in favor.

### ➤ **BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

- Bill and Robin reviewed the budget that was approved at the last Annual Meeting period May 1, 2019 through April 30, 2020
- Bill noted that our authorization to spend money and write checks expired on April 30<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, we need to amend the budget to get us through to the Annual Meeting. He provided a list of the items that need to be paid prior to August 15<sup>th</sup>. Robin noted that the final tax levy payment of approximately \$2,000.00 is expected in August.
- Bill reviewed the options available for us to approve a short term amended budget, citing paragraphs from the “People of the Lakes” document for Lake Districts.
  - Hold a special meeting of all property owners to approve the amended budget. This would require sending a meeting notice out at least two weeks prior to the meeting.
  - Hold a Commissioners meeting with the amended budget approved by at least 2/3 of the Commissioners. This requires a 10 day notice.
  - In light of the few bills that need immediate payment, especially the one for Schmidt Aquatics for the EWM treatment that has already taken care of, and the fact that we have funds on hand to cover the expenses, Bill recommended the second option.
- Tom made a motion to hold special commissioners meeting to amend the budget to bridge the gap between the May 1<sup>st</sup> time frame to the Annual Meeting. The special commissioners will be held June 15, 2020 4pm at the Lake Helen County Park. Robin Seconded. All in favor.
- Bill agreed to publish the required notice that will be put up on the website and posted locally.
- Robin started the process to set up the Non-lapsable fund sub account off the District’s checking and savings account for the Eurasian Water Milfoil treatment.

### ➤ **NEW BUSINESS**

- Tyne noted that the “Second Annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Fun Run / Walk” hosted by Bob and Lisa Desai will take place on July 4, 2020 at 9am meeting at the Lake Helen County Park Shelter. The Desai family is accepting donations for the water, Gatorade, and snacks that they are providing. The theme is a Mickey Mouse theme.
- Tyne noted that the “Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade” will be held, line up near the beach and boat launch at 4:30pm.
- Bill stated that the DNR will pay for the “deep hole” water quality testing. Testing will be foregone near the culvert entrance to the lake since we didn’t find any water quality issues with last year’s testing.
- Glen stated that the Japanese Knotweed seems to be under control; six plants were found and treated at the Weisbrod family residence 3082 East Lake Helen Drive, on June 3, 2020. Approximately 15 plants were found at the 3002 / 3304 East Lake Helen Drive properties and treated by Glen with the chemical treatment that we have left from the last treatments.

### ➤ **OTHER NEW BUSINESS**

- Mildred Neville has been appointed by Portage County as Portage County Land & Water Conservation Commissioner Representative to all county lake groups. This position can vote at our Lake District Commissioner Meetings
- Next meeting is scheduled for June 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm

Glen made a motion to adjourn meeting at 5:20pm. Bill Seconded. All in favor