



**Agenda**

**Commissioners' Meeting - Lake Helen Protection & Rehabilitation District**

**Date:** February 22 2024  
**Time:** 12 noon – 1 pm  
**Location:** via Zoom

**Guests interested in being a part of the meeting should send an email to request the call-in information to [mail.lakehelen@gmail.com](mailto:mail.lakehelen@gmail.com)**

Commissioners Present: Bill Pingel, Glen Bersie  
Guests: Dave Peterson [petersod@co.portage.wi.gov](mailto:petersod@co.portage.wi.gov), Rick Wittmann, Tracy Arnold  
The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Bill Pingel at 12:02pm.

❖ **Regular Business**

- Minutes from last meeting (Kara)
  - Correction: fiscal quarter dates  
Since our fiscal year starts on May 1, it should read:
  - Must have one meeting each quarter:
    - Q1: May, June, July
    - Q2: Aug, Sept, Oct
    - Q3: Nov, Dec, Jan
    - Q4: Feb March, April
- Glen motioned to approve the 9.27.2023 meeting minutes. The motion was passed unanimously.

- Treasurer's Report (Glen)
- Current Balances as of February 16, 2024

Checking	\$1,611.82
Savings	\$3,078.39
Non Lapsable Fund EWM	\$11,104.89
<hr/>	
TOTAL	\$15,795.10

- Jeff Rasmussen motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Motion was passed unanimously.

❖ **Old Business**

- Winter Issues/Plans
  - Aerator Status (Glen)
    - To run the aerators we need the flags up according to Scott Provost. It isn't safe to go on the ice.
    - Decision: Running with no aerators this year.
  - Plans for new Fish sticks installation over the winter (Justin/Dylan & Tracy)
    - Ice conditions are not safe.
    - Grant is open until December 2025.
    - Permits are good for a year. Tracy asked for a 3 year extension. Permit good through December 2027 once it is approved.
    - Will hold off until next winter.
- Current Grants (Glen)
  - Current EWM Grant – 2023 year-end filing
  - Electrical Grant for aerator costs due to BGA – no longer an option per Scott Provost. There are grant opportunities for pumps if needed in the future.

- Communication Teams Update
  - Web site update (Bill)
    - Mike Ubl and Jeremy DeForge handling updates
    - Mobile view has been updated
    - Very responsive
    - Give clear communication (what and where)
  - Social Media, etc. (Kara)
    - Welcome binder/information plans.
  - Monitor email (mail.lakehelen@gmail.com)
    - Bill Pingel has access and will monitor it.
  
- Lake Management Plan Update (Kara & Tracy)
  - Tracy hasn't heard anything from the DNR.
  - Anything new or planned updates?
  
- ❖ **2024 Projects – initial thoughts about plans for this year**
  - EWM control plans (Justin & Jeff)
    - Review proposed plan sent out for review
    - Aquatic Plant Mgmt bid – **approval needed**

## 2024 Eurasian Watermilfoil Plan

### 1. EWM GPS Mapping

- It is likely to take place in early/mid-May (tentatively the weekend of 5/11 or 5/18)
  - APM (Aquatic Plant Management) asked to keep this as close to when they are coming to ensure we can see green – new growth (from the dormant winter plants or new plants sprouting)
- Targeting 6' or deeper water to find focus areas for APM to do their DASH and Hand Harvesting
  - The plan is to catalog EWM colonies based on their size (see the Legend and image **example** shown below)
  - Once finalized this will be entered into our Lake Helen Management Plan and used in our Surface Water Grant Application

### 2. Lake Helen Volunteers for Hand Picking

- I'm looking to organize via email and Facebook
- Right now these are tentative dates:
  - 1 day during the Memorial Day weekend likely Sun, 5/26
  - Sun, 6/2
  - Sat, 6/7 & Sun, 6/8
  - I'm hopeful we can find a few additional dates pending water clarity
- All of the data from these events will also be entered into our **Lake Helen Management Plan** and used in our Surface Water Grant Application

### 3. APM (Aquatic Plant Management)

- 1 day of DASH (for isolated high impact areas) tentatively scheduled for the week of 5/27
- 2 consecutive days of Hand Harvesting scheduling for the week of 6/3
  - As it gets closer we will be confirming the actual dates/time
- We will need volunteers to assist with scooping floating loose fragments. As it gets closer, I will send out information and volunteer requests via email and Facebook.
- All of the data from these events will also be entered into our **Lake Helen Management Plan** and used in our **Surface Water Grant Application**

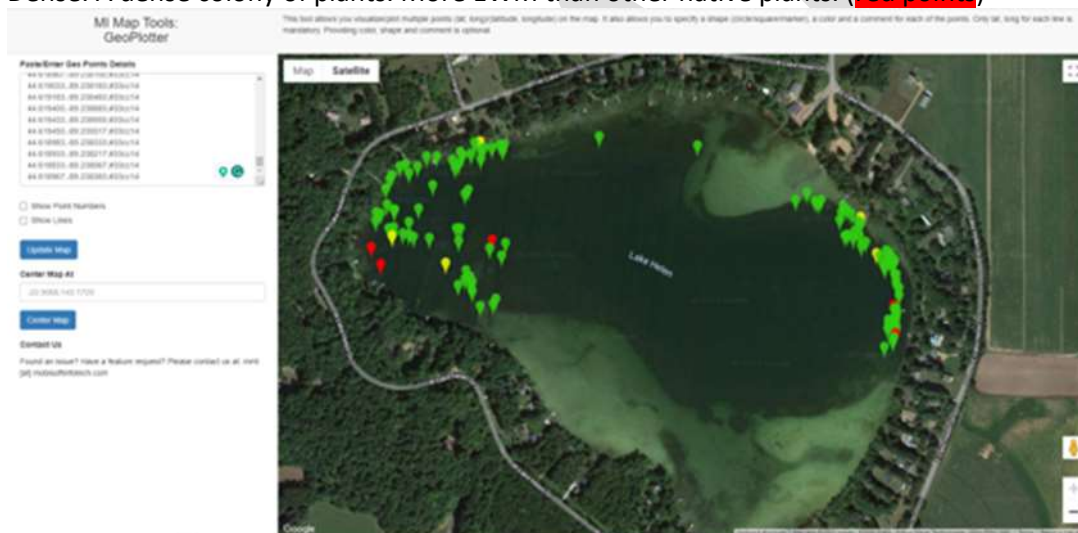
#### Additional notes:

- Budget - we are targeting \$9,200 this covers APM and hand-picking supplies for 2024
- Work on the EWM grant (Glen, Bill, and Justin) as the initial draft is due by Sept 15, 2023, with deadlines prior to that

#### EWM GPS Mapping by colony size **EXAMPLE:**

##### Legend

- Singles: Only a handful of plants (**green points**)
- Scattered: Highly scattered plants in the colony (**yellow points**)
- Dense: A dense colony of plants. More EWM than other native plants. (**red points**)



Not to exceed \$8,800 for APM

- Glen motioned. The motion was passed unanimously.

Up to \$9,200 total (includes hand supplies)

- Boat Landing monitoring/CBCW plans (Glen)
  - Budget adjustment –
  - \$6,202.86 (we have a \$4,000 grant)
  - Golden Sands \$2,202.86 out of pocket.
  - Glen Bersie motioned for \$2,300 to Golden Sands for Clean Boats and Clean Waters. The motion passed unanimously.

- Blue Green Algae (Glen)
  - ALUM Treatment possibility – hold off for now. Give the blocking of the flow gate some time to work.
  - Survey needed – potential cost?
  - Lake Redstone on the western side of the state is doing an ALUM treatment. We can contact them to learn how it goes. Mike Mittelstadt-Lake Redstone Protection District
  - Will run the aerators this year and keep the flow gate in.
  
- Fishing Committee (Fred & Justin)
  - Plans to monitor & measure success of last fall's stocking?
    - DNR does fish surveys every 4-6 years. Perch population is our next opportunity.
    - Additional fish study in a year or two? Justin to learn who pays for that.
    - Fishing committee to informally learn what the fisherman are saying.
  - Regulations: How to encourage catch and removal of northern pike?
  - Plans for new year (stocking, cost, fund raising)
  - This fall - Tim at Gollon Bait & Fish Farm  
Will sell up 1500-2000+ Perch.  
\$1.25 each  
3" to 5"  
Total 1,550 Perch \$1,875 delivered.
  - Glen motioned to spend up to \$2,038 for fish stocking. Motion passed unanimously.
  
- Healthy Lakes Grant (Tracy)
  - Native Plantings expected in 2024 – approved for the grant. Contract from DNR coming soon. Can't purchase plants until March 15, 2024. 25 plantings approved for the county.
  
- AIS Grant for 2025-2028 – preliminary application due in Sep (Justin)
  - Justin, Glen, and Bill met. Justin's next steps include laying out the grant for 2025-2028.
  - Form available in June.
  
- ❖ **New Business**
  - Replacement of damaged rock marker buoys – **approval needed**
  - Glen motioned not to exceed \$600. Money from contingency fund. To spend in this fiscal year. Motion passed unanimously.
  
  - Lakes Convention April 10-12th - highly recommended for all Commissioners – check agenda.  
<https://wisconsinwaterweek.org/home/lakes-and-rivers-convention/>
    - "New Lake District Commissioner Training" on Wed 9am-noon
    - "Lake Districts Chairs and Secretaries" on Wed 1-4pm
    - "Wake Boat Impacts on a Small Southeast Wisconsin Lake" on Thr 10:40am-noon
    - "MANAGING RECREATIONAL IMPACTS: Wake Boat Late Breaking News" on Thr 2:35-3:15pm
  
  - Picnic date: August 10<sup>th</sup>
  
  - Wisconsin Lakes December meeting - info to share (Glen)
    - BID Limit of \$2,000 to \$10,000

- Can have people get emails for notifications for the annual meeting but would need an organized list of emails.
- Act 62
  
- Email hack – (Bill)
  - All of the Commissioners email addresses have been removed from the Commissioners page on the lake district’s website. This was due to the fact that a number of us were getting spam email that was referencing Lake Helen.
  
- ❖ **Schedule next meeting**
  - Topics: Spring project planning – Detailed Annual Meeting planning (Sat June 1st)
  
- ❖ **Adjournment**
  - Glen motioned to adjourn and was unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 1:09PM.

DRAFT