

LAKE HELEN PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT  
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING  
February 10, 2021  
Zoom Conference Call

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 February 10, 2021.

The Lake Helen P&R District Commissioners' meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm  
Commissioners Present: Bill Pingel, Robin Novak-Nelson, Tom Gerlikovski, Glen Bersie, and Tyne Hoffman

Commissioners Absent: None      Guests: Fred Stoeger (Lake Helen Fish Committee) and Tracy Arnold (Portage County Planning & Zoning)

Appointed Commissioner Present: Mildred Neville (Portage County Land & Water Conservation Committee Representative, District 6 Supervisor)

➤ **MINUTES**

- Tom made a motion to approve the October 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Robin seconded. All in Favor.
- Glen made a motion to approve the October 26, 2020 meeting minutes. Robin seconded. All in favor

➤ **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- \$1,339.18 Checking Balance
- \$5,460.97 Savings Balance
- \$2,000.00 Non-lapsable Fund
- \$996.26 was the "TRUE" total boat launch deposit for the 2020 year. Much higher than expected.
- Glen will be transferring \$5,000.00 to the Non-lapsable fund after we receive more tax payments.
- \$15 fee waived; Money market account needed to maintain a \$1,000.00 balance.
- Glen made a motion to change money market to a regular savings account. Non Lapsable was originally set up as a checking account, by switching it over would mean more interest and would not need a minimum balance. Tom Seconded. All in Favor
- Glen and Tyne will draft a letter to the bank requesting the voted on change.
- Mildred requested a copy of the checking and savings report.
- Robin made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Tom Seconded. All in favor.

➤ **OLD BUSINESS**

- Aerator Installation: All went fairly quickly with no issues. Mike Ubl had coordinated GPS markings earlier in the fall. Thank you to Everyone that helped out and volunteered.
  - East side Aerator 214 Kilowatt, about 240 kilowatt difference \$30 higher; Cory & Robin Nelson to follow up
  - Each pump house has two pumps, Cory Nelson has been alternating one pump at each location
- Grant Applications: Tom announced that the Clean Boats Clean Water grant was non-competitive and we received it. Tom will work with Amy Thorston on boat launch monitoring. Bill walked through the Eurasian Water Milfoil grant application with changes that were suggested to be made last fall, with some guidance from Scott Provost. The E.W.M. grant will not be awarded until February.
  - Tracy Arnold stated that she can help with the GPS mapping of the E.W.M. if we are approved the Grant
  - Tom would like us to still have divers come in even if we are not approved to receive the grant. We need to stay on top of the Eurasian Water Milfoil
- Japanese Knotweed: Glen stated that it was too early in the season to inspect the J.K.W.

➤ **NEW BUSINESS**

- Wisconsin Lakes Annual Meeting (Wisconsin Water Week)
  - All sessions are via Zoom Virtual March 8 – March 12, 2021; see emails or go to website and sign up for any sessions that are of interest to you. \$20 per day for the whole day. Friday March 12<sup>th</sup> is a free session with Tracy Arnold on Lakes and Rivers. All are encouraged to attend if able.
  - Tom made a motion to authorize reimbursement to attend the Wisconsin Water Week, with a maximum of \$400.00 This would be open to any Lake Helen resident, not just committee members. Robin Seconded. All in Favor.
- ANNUAL MEETING: To Be Determined, usually the first week of June. We are waiting on more COVID-19 changes and suggestions. Assume the Annual Meeting will be held at the Co-Op if they are allowing public meetings.
- FISHEREE: Fred will be approaching the Rosholt Blizzard Busters requesting a donation to the Lake Helen Protection & Rehabilitation District. Tom had recommended that some residents join the club.
- FISHING COMMITTEE: Fred updated the group that if any fish stocking happens it will take place in the year 2022 with restrictions due to the depth of Lake Helen. Estimated at \$3,000.00 but this is not a hard number, too many variables and unknowns. We are in the early stages of this conversation.
  - Keith Hoffman has been researching a fish or predator that is native that can help to control the zebra mussel infestation. Pumpkin seeds is one fish that could possibly help. Keith has been communicating and working with Tim Parks DNR, on fish cribs, fish stocking, and other possible changes.
  - Tyne and Keith were asked to head the Fundraising / Donations if needed for future Fish Stocking / Lake Helen projects. Tyne and family have started collecting Aluminum cans, feel free to drop bagged cans off at the home. Tyne will be looking into placing a “can cage” down at the Lake Helen County Park. Permission from the Parks Department has already been granted. Possible ideas included Fred’s of making and selling a calendar \$1,535.00 and sell for \$3.15 each or asking Lake Helen Property Owners to donate a small amount of \$25.00. Mildred suggested doing a teaching even and teach people how to “canoe or Kayak” as a fund raising idea.
  - Bill would like to have a fish survey done. Tim Parks is working with the committee on this.
  - Per Tracy, a permit would be needed in order to create “Fish Sticks”.
- NEWSLETTER AND WEBSITE: Bill will work on Newsletter “if” we get the grant and he will also update the website.
  - Bill and Glen each pointed out that some of the Lake Helen web page is out of date and needs to be updated.
  - Bill stated that he would like to have some help with the Newsletter and with the Website. Help from other Commissioners or residents will be appreciated. Please let Bill know if you knew anyone who would like to help.

➤ **NEXT MEETING**

- Next meeting will be held at 5:30pm on March 31, 2021 Via Zoom

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

- Robin made a motion to adjourn at 7:07pm. Glen Seconded. Of course All in Favor.