

LAKE HELEN – Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
4th Quarterly Commissioners' Meeting

Held at 10:30am. on Saturday August 23, 2014
At the Lake Helen County Park Shelter

The Lake Helen P & R District organizational meeting was called to order by Chairman Melissa Ferg at 10:30am.

Commissioners Present: Mark Brandenburg, Lynn Cook, Melissa Ferg, Robin Novak-Nelson, and Bill Pingel

Commissioners Absent: None

Attendees: Kathie Grill, Del & Micki Anderson, Ann Hvizdak

MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING:

Mark Brandenburg made a motion to dispense reading the minutes from the last meeting and to accept them as written and distributed. Bill Pingel seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Treasurer's report was read by Lynn Cook. The following balances were reported:

\$ 221.54 Boat Launch

\$1,421.90 Checking Account (this includes the Boat Launch funds)

\$2,746.67 Savings Account

(\$900.00 for general funds and the balance collected and designated for fish stocking)

Bill Pingel made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Mark Brandenburg seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Confirmation of Lynn Cook's Term

According to the By-laws "the chair shall appoint an elector to fill any vacancies until the next Annual Meeting." It was agreed that Lynn's initial appointment is for one year, with the full term for that position expiring in May 2017.

- Letter Sent to Property Owners/ Annual Meeting Survey

Melissa Ferg created a letter that was sent to all of the LHPRD property owners in July. The letter provided an update on the chemical treatment that was done over the Memorial Day weekend along with the initial view of the results. In addition, the letter noted the poor attendance at the last Annual Meeting and the need for property owners to volunteer and to become involved. The letter also included a survey to get everyone's view on the best dates to hold the Annual Meeting in an effort to improve the attendance.

Bill noted that 112 surveys were sent out. 33 post cards were returned. \$131.11 was spent for stamps and mailing supplies.

Melissa reported that the majority of those who responded preferred holding the meeting on the first Saturday in June.

- Eurasian Water Milfoil Treatment Progress/Update

Melissa Ferg received an email from Scott Provost of the DNR that she reviewed. It read

"Well good news and bad news.... Out of 229 points surveyed and visual observations between points, we have found no EWM. I found one plant of milfoil but I think its northern – it has weird growth patterns due to the treatment. The bad news is a lot of other plants got killed too. I'll know more after I run statistics on the pre/post data AND review residue data. Big thanks to you all for getting the residue samples. That is a huge piece of the puzzle!" The initial view is that the initial treatment worked, was a good value for the money spent, and is a big first step in controlling our EWM infestation.

Melissa noted that Stantek, the company who handled the chemical treatment, expects that another treatment won't be needed for another two-three years. However, Scott Provost had stated that we will have to continue to monitor the lake and be prepared to pull plants that are found.

A brief discussion was held about the fact that we have had trouble get enough volunteers to man the boat landing and to get a team together to pull weeds. The potential to hire a UWSP student for next summer was briefly discussed. Del Anderson suggested hiring a group of Boy Scouts.

ACTION: Melissa to follow-up with Scott Provost and UWSP to see about the costs and the potential to hire someone for next summer. Also to develop a job description for the role.

- Grant Finalization

Ann Hvizdak stated that she and Rob have reviewed all of the information that was submitted to them for the "Early Detection and Response Grant". Our group has completed all of the requirements to receive the grant match based on a number of criteria including volunteer hours. She needs to get copies of a few receipts from Kathie Grill along with a few signatures. She plans to submit the final forms next month. We could receive up to \$5000 to be used for the EWM treatment.

ACTION: Ann & Rob Hvizdak to complete the Lake Grant submission, so that all of the forms and information are submitted prior to the extended deadline.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Set Annual Meeting Date for 2015

In light of the survey results, Melissa Ferg moved that the 2015 Annual Meeting be scheduled for the first Saturday in June, which is June 6 in 2015. Robin Novak-Nelson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Other New Business

> Aerator: Del Anderson noted that he may need to purchase some new stakes for marking the aeration area this winter.

> Fish Stocking: Mark Brandenburg noted that approximately fourteen fishing tournaments made use of Lake Helen this past year. He stated that more than 4000 fish were stocked in 2010 and 2012, with the survival rate difficult to determine. The plan is to use bigger fish when stocking next time.

> Muskrats: Del Anderson stated that 13 muskrats were trapped last year. He will contact the same trapper about setting traps out again this fall.

ANNUAL PICNIC:

Mark Brandenburg noted that Firkus Lumber donated the charcoal for today's picnic. He also acknowledged all of the other businesses and individuals that donated items that will be raffled off, with the funds raised going into the fish stocking fund. He asked Bill Pingel to take pictures during the picnic and to post pictures and a note of appreciation on the LHPRD website.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6pm. Seconded by Bill Pingel. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:10am.

MINUTES SUBMITTED: by Bill Pingel, Secretary