

LAKE HELEN – Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
1st Quarterly Commissioners' Meeting

Held at 11:00 am on Saturday May 2, 2015
At 3040 E Lake Helen Dr (home of Robin Novak-Nelson)

The Lake Helen P & R District organizational meeting was called to order by Robin Novak-Nelson at 11am.

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

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. Robin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

\$ 282.88	Boat Launch
\$1,921.91	Checking Account
\$6,210.20	Savings Account (this includes boat launch and fish stocking funds)

Kathie Grill noted that the savings account also includes \$4312.39 received from Portage County/Town of Alban for the first payment received from the 2014 tax assessment. Another payment of \$2017.11 will be sent to us in August after the final installment for the taxes are due and paid to the County. That's a total of \$6329.50 from the 2014 tax assessment, Mark made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Bill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill stated that the district will have to pay for the meeting notices that are placed in any of the local newspapers. He contacted the Stevens Point Journal, the Community Shopper, and the Rosholt Record. All said they charge the government agencies for the notices. Bill stated that the notice for this meeting was placed in the Rosholt Record. The Commissioners unanimously agreed that we should continue to use the Rosholt Record, since the paper is sent free of charge to everyone in the Rosholt School District including all who live on Lake Helen.

OLD BUSINESS:

- EWM Treatment Update

Robin referenced the email from Scott Provost of the DNR that Melissa received on August 20, 2014. The survey done last summer indicated that the initial treatment worked and is a big first step in controlling our EWM infestation. Mark noted that he came across an old document that indicated that EWM was discovered in Lake Helen in August 1998.

Mark stated that he spoke to Tom Mronek of the DNR who suggested that we request another survey this summer. The DNR is very interested in our results and would like to use the same treatment with other lakes.

ACTION: Robin to send an email Scott Provost of the DNR to request a follow-up survey to assess the EWM situation this summer.

- Grant Finalization

Robin noted that Ann & Rob Hvizdak submitted all of the information required for the "Early Detection and Response Grant Lake Grant." We are waiting for a response. We could be reimbursed up to \$5000 for supplies and volunteer hours.

ACTION: Rob and Ann Hvizdak to follow-up on the status of the grant and to provide a brief update at the Annual Meeting

- Clean Boats Clean Waters/Boat Landing Inspection

Robin noted that Melissa followed up on the idea that we hire someone this summer to monitor the boat landing, to check the lake for EWM weeds, and to help pull any plants that are found. She did receive some names from Golden Sands.

The group felt that hiring someone would result not only in a large expense but also in some accounting complications due to creating a payroll. Instead we should continue to have volunteers handle these tasks.

Bill pointed out that Scott Provost had stated that we will have to continue to monitor the lake and be prepared to pull plants that are found.

ACTION: Robin to contact UWSP to determine if there are any students that are in need of volunteer hours that would be willing to work at the boat landing and to possibly help pull any EWM weeds that are found. The Lake District will provide food and drink to the student volunteers while they are working.

- Other Old Business

> Muskrats: Mark asked if anyone trapped more muskrats this past fall. Robin and Lynn said that they haven't seen any on the lake this spring.

> Fisheree: Mark stated that he will be contacting the head of the Rosholt Blizzard Busters Snowmobile Club to find out about the fish that were taken during January's ice fishing fisheree.

> Fish Stocking: Mark stated that this year's planned fish stocking has been put on hold. He received notice from the DNR that they will be meeting with representatives from a number of small lakes like ours that have a large population of small northerns. They recommended not doing any stocking until the state can assess the situation and determine the best way forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Wake/No Wake time change proposal

Mark stated that he spoke to a Portage County official who stated that the county had set consistent Wake/No Wake times for each of the lakes within the county and that any changes would need to go through them. In light of this point and the fact that this topic has not been discussed at any of the meetings this past year, the group felt that this should not be brought up for a vote at the annual meeting.

ACTION: Bill to contact Portage County to determine the exact ordinance or policy that is in effect by the county that impacts the Wake/No Wake hours.

- Lake Management Plan

Robin noted that she and few other lake district residents attended a meeting in December that was called by Nancy Turyek and Sarah Hall from UWSP representing Portage County Lakes. Bill noted that Ann Hvizdak had issues with some of the items in the proposed plan revision.

Bill made a motion that we ask for volunteers at the Annual meeting to form a team lead by Ann H and Bill P to review and update the revised plan, bringing it back to the Commissioners for approval. Robin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: Bill to work with Ann H and other District volunteers to update the Lake Management Plan.

- Commissioner Terms & Election

Bill noted that Melissa Ferg's and Robin Novak-Nelson's terms expire with the Annual Meeting.

Robin stated that she would like to run again and believes that is Melissa's intent also.

Lynn noted that she is not interested in continuing on. She had been appointed for one year, filling a position whose term expires in 2017.

Therefore three positions are up for reelection; two for three years and one for two years.

- Picnic

Robin stated that she is willing to work with Melissa in heading up the picnic and will work with others who would like to help. The group agreed that she should contact the Portage County Parks Department to reserve the Lake Helen shelter for the picnic to be held on one of the first three Saturdays in August. (Note: as a follow-up to this meeting Robin sent a note to all of the Commissioners stating that the shelter has been reserved for Saturday August 8th.) The information will be included on the Annual Meeting notice with those whose last name begins with A-M should bring a salad, and those beginning with M-Z should bring a dessert.

- Annual Meeting Agenda

The agreed that the following topics should be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting to be held on Saturday June 6th, starting at 9am at the CWEC offices:

- Minutes from 2014 Annual Meeting (Bill)
- Treasurer's Report & Audit (Lynn)
- EWM/Lake Treatment Update (Melissa and Mark)
- Fishing & Fish Stocking Plan Update (Mark)
- Boat Landing Monitoring (Robin)
- Lake Grant Finalization Update (Rob H)
- Lake Management Plan Update Team (Bill)
- Wake/No Wake times to remain the same (Melissa)
- Commissioner Election (Melissa)
- Picnic (Robin)

The group discussed the poor attendance the last few years and talked about ways to encourage more people to attend. Bill suggested and subsequently made a motion to authorize purchasing two signs to be placed on the roadside, reminding the residents of the Annual Meeting date and time. Robin amended the motion adding signs for the Annual Picnic as well. Mark seconded. Motion carried unanimously. Bill will handle this.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mark made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Bill Pingel. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 12:45pm.

MINUTES SUBMITTED: by Bill Pingel, Secretary