

LAKE HELEN – Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
4th Quarterly Commissioners' Meeting
Held Saturday November 7, 2015 at 11:00 AM
at Northland Ballroom, Rosholt WI

The Lake Helen P&R District organizational meeting was called to order by Chairperson Melissa Ferg at 11:00 am.

Commissioners Present: Melissa Ferg, John Hopfensperger, Robin Novak-Nelson,
Mark Brandenburg, Bill Pingel

Commissioners Absent: None

REGULAR REPORTS:

- MINUTES FROM THE LAST MEETING:

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

- TREASURER'S REPORT:

Robin reported the following balances in the account:

Checking \$1,143.56, includes \$282.95 from the boat launch

Savings: \$10,310.62, includes monies collected for the fish stocking fund. A check for \$2017.11 was received from the county as the second payment from the 2014 property tax assessment. This was received and deposited in September.

Mark made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, John seconded, Motion carried unanimously

OLD BUSINESS:

- PO BOX FOR DISTRICT

Robin noted that it would cost \$60 per year for the use of a Post Office Box. The group agreed that there was no need to change and incur the additional expense. The Treasurer's Lake Helen address will remain as the mailing address for the LHP&R District.

- EWM TREATMENT FOLLOW UP

Melissa stated we have not received any additional formal replies from the DNR as a follow-up to the 2014 EWM treatment or the 2015 lake survey. Due to state budget cuts, she does not expect that a reply will be received. The group agreed to the following action in 2016:

> Continue to monitor the boat landing and to make sure that boaters are aware of the "Clean Boat Clean Waters" rules.

> Pull any EWM that is found.

> Spot treat any problem areas.

- FISH STOCKING

Mark stated that DNR held meetings in September to review the northern pike situation in the smaller Wisconsin lakes. However, he is not aware of any ruling being made by them.

He noted that the plan is still to follow the steps recommended by Tom Meronek, the DNR Fisheries Biologist, regarding our future fish stocking efforts. This includes dumping feed into the lake in 2016 and stocking the lake with larger fry in the spring of 2017.

- BOAT LANDING MONITORING 2016

Cameras: Melissa noted that she spoke with Gary Speckmann, Portage County Parks Director, and received the ok to install cameras and signs stating that monitoring is in progress.

The group agreed that cameras should be installed on the pavilion and at the boat landing.

Bill made a motion to authorize Melissa to purchase the cameras and signs and to have them installed at the boat landing. Robin seconded, Motion carried unanimously.

Personal monitoring: Melissa and Mark noted that in 2015 there was some boat landing monitoring done by volunteers, but that it was done infrequently. The group discussed the importance of having the boat landing monitored in 2016 to educate and ensure that no invasive species enter Lake Helen via boats. Mark contacted the Rosholt High School principal about the desire for us to hire someone to do the monitoring this next summer.

- Lake Management Plan

Bill noted that the Lake Management Plan still needs to be updated. However, the only one that volunteered to help at the Annual Meeting was Vicki Brandenburg. Bill was given the ok to contact Vicki and others for help in updating the plan.

- SLOW NO WAKE HOUR SURVEY

Bill passed out a copy of the letter that will be sent to the LHP&R District property owners explaining the Slow No Wake survey and the options up for consideration. The Commissioners made suggestions for changes.

Bill noted that the state law authorizing lake districts as well as the LHP&R District by-laws require that all votes be conducted in person at a lake district meeting. Consequently, any survey being conducted can be advisory only. The district members will need to vote on the survey items at the annual meeting. He also stated that he thought that the options being proposed were complicated, especially since two of them were only for the Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. A discussion followed, but the options remained as agreed at the previous meeting.

The Secretary was directed to revise the letter and to send it out along with a stamped post card that includes the survey and is to be returned by the property owners. It was suggested that the letter and survey card be mailed in January asking them to be returned by the end of February.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2015 Tax Assessment

Robin noted that \$6329.50 was collected from the 2014 tax assessment. Checks were received from Portage County/Town of Alban in March and September. A discussion followed. It was agreed that the current bank balances are adequate to handle the 2015 budget with no additional EWM treatment planned.

Bill made a motion NOT to extend the .5 mill property tax assessment for the 2015 property tax bill. Robin seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bill will notify the County Treasurer and the Town of Alban Clerk of this decision, so that it is not reflected in the 2015 property tax bills.

- 2016 Annual Meeting

The next Annual Meeting is scheduled for the first Saturday in June, which will be June 4, 2016. The group agreed that the primary topic will be the proposed changes to the Wake-No Wake times and the results of the survey.

- Other New Business

The group briefly discussed the summer picnic and ideas to improve the attendance.

- NEXT COMMISSIONERS MEETING

The first Commissioners' meeting for 2016 was tentatively scheduled for 1pm on Saturday March 12th.

ADJOURNEMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 12:40pm by Robin, Mark seconded. Motion was carried unanimously.