

LAKE HELEN Protection & Rehabilitation District
ANNUAL Meeting

Held at 9:00 am on Saturday June 6, 2015
At the Central Wisconsin Electric Co-op Offices

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Melissa Ferg at 9:00 am.

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

Commissioners Absent: none

Attendees: 38 residents signed in. A total of 42 attendees were present

The meeting started with a roll call, following each of the residents signing in at the door. Ray Oksuita was congratulated for his election as the new Alban town chairman.

REGULAR BUSINESS:

3. MINUTES FROM THE LAST ANNUAL MEETING:

Kathy Grill made a motion to dispense reading the minutes from last year's annual meeting. Seconded by Vicky Brandenburg. Motion carried unanimously.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

\$1,538.31 Checking Account

\$8,292.08 Savings Account

Sara Smith made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Cory Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

Note: A copy of the report was mailed to all of the District owners prior to the meeting. That report listed the balances as of May 2nd (not May 31st, as listed):

\$1,921.91 Checking Account

\$6,210.20 Savings Account

The savings account increase was due to the receipt of the Lake Grant payment and another small deposit. The checking account decrease was due to the payment of the electric bill, the Annual Meeting notice expenses, and the down payment required to reserve the park shelter for the picnic.

5. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Audit Committee, headed by John Delie, who along with committee members John Reck and Jim Dunsirn met on May 10th to look over the financial books for the past year. John reported that the committee found that everything checked out and balanced. He noted that the largest payment made was approximately \$4700 for the Eurasian Milfoil treatment. He stated that the committee would like to thank Kathy Grill and asked the members of the lake district to accept the report. So moved by Jerry Witkowski and seconded by Kathy Grill. Motion carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

6. EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL TREATMENT UPDATE

Melissa Ferg provided an update on the EWM treatment that was done a year ago on May 27, 2014, with water sampling done throughout most of last summer. She stated that we have been working with Scott Provost of the DNR, who had the samples sent to labs in Madison. An official report from the DNR has not been received. However, observations throughout last summer noted that the treatment did a good job killing the EWM weed, but that some native plants were killed as well. Melissa also noted that she

has been contacted by four other Wisconsin lake groups who are interested in our treatment and following the results. To date we have been happy with the results.

Bill Pingel commented that in discussions with the DNR they stated that it is difficult to completely eradicate EWM, that we may need to pull weeds if they are found and that we need to be prepared to re-treat the lake in a couple of years.

Mark Brandenburg said that Tom Mronek of the DNR stated that the DNR will do a study of the impact of the EWR treatment on the native plants in Lake Helen. If it is determined that the impact was serious and is a detriment to the fish habitat, then the DNR will provide native plants to replenish the damage.

7. FISH STOCKING PLAN UPDATE

DNR Potential Northern Size Limit Change – Stocking Plans: Mark Brandenburg provided an update on the fish stocking plans. He noted that the DNR started to survey a number of small lakes this past January, with a focus on those lakes that have a lot of northern pike. They plan to meet in September to review the survey results and to put together plans to change the legislation and allow the small lakes to harvest small northerns. Tom Mronek of the DNR noted that it could take a few years for any legislative changes to be passed, so it is possible that lake associations could apply for interim permits. In light of all of this, a temporary hold has been put on all fish stocking. The DNR suggested that we spend \$500-\$800 in each of the next few years for small fish that the northerns will eat. Then in 2017 to stock the lake with 6"-9" perch and 9"-12" walleyes.

Fishing Tournament Impact: Mark also talked about the fish stocking fund, noting that part of the money was donated by the local snow mobile club and patrons of the local bars. That is in addition to the funds that have been raised via the raffles held at the LHP&RD picnics the last few years. He has had great success in getting items donated for the raffles and has recently received some more contacts for additional funding.

Mark also noted that he spoke to the DNR to understand the permitting process for the various fishing tournaments on Wisconsin lakes. He found out that the ice fishing tournaments do not need to have a permit, even though they have been known to have a serious impact on a lake's fish population. He plans to speak to the president of the Rosholt Buzzard Busters Snowmobile Club about ways for them to encourage catch & release and to greatly reduce the fish killed during the ice fishing tournament. This may include live well buckets as required by Minnesota law.

One of the members stated that he is part of a group that is studying the impact of fishing tournaments on another lake. Their findings confirmed that ice fishing tournaments can decimate a lake.

Catch and Release: Jim Haen suggested that we put up a sign at the boat landing with stronger wording about the catch and release practices on Lake Helen.

ACTION: Mark Brandenburg to pursue signage change.

8. LAKE GRANT FINALIZATION UPDATE:

Robin Novak-Nelson reported that Ann & Rob Hvizdak submitted all of the information required for the "Early Detection and Response Lake Grant." A check for \$2081.25 was received from the State. Rob Hvizdak stated that the grant provided a way to receive partial reimbursement for the EWM treatment in return for the monies spent and the volunteer hours that were reported.

9. BOAT LANDING MONITORING / CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS

Melissa Ferg spoke about the need to continue having someone at the boat landing especially on busy weekends to check out the boats and to provided information about the need to have clean boats in order to stop more invasive weeds and species from getting into our lake. She noted that she looked into hiring a college student to do this as a paid position. Due to a number of reasons the Commissioners decided against taking that route.

A discussion followed with a number of suggestions made about ways to continue the monitoring.

- Contact the local high school. There are a number of students who are looking for service hour projects.
- Contact Golden Sands about conducting another training session for all volunteers.
- Contact the Portage County Parks Dept about installing a video camera at the landing to help with the enforcement.

ACTION: Melissa Ferg and Mark Brandenburg to follow-up on the Boat Landing Monitoring suggestions.

10. LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Bill Pingel stated that the Lake Management Plan needs to be updated. A team of Lake Helen residents worked with UW Stevens Point representatives to develop the current plan. That UW Stevens Point group started working with lakes in the county to update the plans. Bill asked that anyone who would like to work with him and Ann Hvizdak on this project should see him after the meeting. He noted that the updated plan would be brought back to the District for approval.

ACTION: Bill P, Ann H and other volunteers to work with UWSP Portage County Lakes representatives to update the Lake Management plan and to bring it back to the Commissioners and then to the District for approval.

11. ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS

Melissa Ferg reported that three Commissioner positions are up for election. The three year terms of the positions held by Robin Novak-Nelson and her expired on May 31st. In addition the position that expired last year and was temporarily filled by Lynn Cook is up for election with a two-year term.

Both Melissa and Robin stated that they are willing to continue as Commissioners. After a brief discussion about the other open two-year position, John Hopfensperger stated that he would be willing to submit his name also.

Paul Seymour made a motion to re-elect Melissa Ferg and Robin Novak-Nelson as Commissioners for the three-year term and John Hopfensperger to the two-year term. Seconded by Vicky Brandenburg. Motion carried unanimously.

12. 2015 LHP&R DISTRICT FAMILY PICNIC

Melissa Ferg reminded everyone that the lake district's family picnic will be held on Saturday August 8th from noon to 4pm at the Lake Helen County Park shelter. She referred everyone to the flyer that was sent out with the meeting notice for more information, noting that guests are welcome to attend.

Mark Brandenburg stated that there will be another raffle for a lot of prizes with the money going for the fish stock fund.

13. 2015-2016 BUDGET APPROVAL

Melissa Ferg referred everyone to the budget for the new year that was included with the meeting notice that was sent out in the mail.

Kathy Grill made a motion to approve the budget as listed. Seconded by Cory Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.

14. OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

- SOUND SYSTEM: Jan Jashinsky and a few others stated that it was very difficult to hear everyone in the meeting. Don Becker asked if we had money in the budget to buy or rent a sound system. Ray Oksuita stated that there is a sound system available at CWEC that can be setup and used at next year's meeting.

- FIRE NUMBERS: Ray Oksuita noted that the Alban Township is taking action to make sure that all of

the fire numbers are visible. He asked everyone to check theirs, noting that they should be 5-6' high and completely in the open.

- FIRE DISTRICT STEAK FEED: Ray also noted that the Town of Alban volunteer fire department is having their annual steak feed fund raiser next week at the Rosholt Park.

ADJOURNMENT:

Rob Hvizak made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by numerous people. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 am.

MINUTES SUBMITTED: by Bill Pingel, Secretary