

## LAKE HELEN Protection & Rehabilitation District

### ANNUAL MEETING

Held at 9:00 am on Saturday June 4, 2016  
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, Melissa Ferg, John Hopfensperger,  
Robin Novak-Nelson, and Bill Pingel

Commissioners Absent: none

Attendees: 54 residents signed in.

Four guests were also present (two adult & two children)

The meeting started with a roll call, in which each of the attendees stated their name and lake address.

Melissa Ferg noted that as a follow-up to the suggestion made at last year's Annual Meeting, we will be using microphones and the sound system.

#### **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 Keith Herrick. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **4. TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Robin Novak-Nelson reviewed the Treasurer's Report that was mailed to all of the LHP&R District property owners. The report included a review of the prior year's spending. The following balances were reported as of April 30, 2016:

\$ 1,307.40 Checking Account

\$10,212.69 Savings Account (this includes monies donated for the fish stocking fund)

Ray Oksuita made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Judy Seymour. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **5. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT:**

The Audit Committee, headed by John Delie, who along with committee members John Reck and Jim Dunsirn met on May 5<sup>th</sup> to look over the financial books for the past year. Kathy Grill handled all of the book keeping. John submitted a written report that Robin read, noting that the committee found that everything checked out and balanced. He asked the members of the lake district to accept the report. So moved by Micke Anderson and seconded by Don Decker. Motion carried unanimously.

##### **6. 2016-2017 Budget – Approval:**

Robin also reviewed the proposed budget for the twelve month period starting May 1, 2016. The detail was also included in the mailing to the district property owners.

The expected income is: \$54.00 from the boat launch

The expected spending is: \$2500 for Administrative and Electric plus up to \$3500 in potential maintenance and projects for a total of \$6000.

In response to a question, Robin noted that this year's budget does not include any property tax income. Bill Pingel noted that the last property tax collected by the district was from the December 2014 tax bill. The ¼ mill rate charged approximately \$50 to each property and brought in approximately \$6000. The 2015 tax bill did not include a charge from the lake district, nor is one proposed for 2016.

A discussion followed with a suggestion was made for the Commissioners to consider adding the ¼ mill tax into the next budget and to continue collecting it each year, so that the funds are available for future invasive treatment and project needs. Another suggested that an account balance cap should be considered.

→ A motion was made by Jim Haen to table the tax discussion until next year. Seconded by Don Becker. Motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Micke Grill to accept the budget as proposed. Seconded by Don Becker. Motion carried unanimously.

## **7. EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL TREATMENT UPDATE**

Melissa Ferg provided an update on the EWM treatment that was done two years ago on May 27, 2014. She noted that the survey conducted by the DNR last year showed that the treatment was successful and that the condition of the lake looked good. There are no plans for further treatment at this time.

It was noted that the EWM invasive plants may still be in the lake and that all residents are encouraged to watch for it and to report any suspected findings to one of the Commissioners.

Jo Seiser thanked the Commissioners and those involved with the discovery and treatment of the EWM for their efforts. Bill Pingel added that a huge note of appreciation goes to Rob and Anne Hvizdak, for leading the effort and for applying for a grant that helped us get funding to defray some of the costs.

→ A question was asked wondering if there was any issues with the chemical treatment affecting the fish in the lake and if they were safe to eat. Mark Brandenburg noted that the treatment was done under the guidance of the DNR with an approved chemical that does not have a negative affect on the fish. However, Mark said that he would contact the DNR to get the latest view.

## **8. BOAT LANDING / CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS**

Melissa Ferg provided a brief review of the DNR's requirement that all boater's need to keep their boats clean prior to entering a lake. She noted that as a follow-up to the suggestion made at last year's annual meeting, approval has been received from the Portage County Parks Dept to install two cameras at the boat landing. Two cameras have been acquired and are ready to be installed. A discussion followed with questions asked about the monitoring.

## **9. FISH STOCKING PLAN UPDATE**

Mark Brandenburg reviewed the seven year fish stocking project, noting that the fourth and final planting will take place this fall. Approximately 2000 9-12" perch and walleye will be purchased and put in the lake at a cost of approximately \$3200. He thanked everyone for their donations and participation in the raffles and fund raising efforts that paid for the stocking. In total, \$9500 was spent over seven years.

DNR Potential Northern Size Limit Change: Mark Brandenburg also noted that the DNR surveyed a number of small lakes last year with a focus on those lakes that have a lot of northern pike. They have not made any changes to the size limits at this time.

## **10. ELECTION OF COMMISSIONERS**

Melissa Ferg reported that two Commissioner positions are up for election. The three year terms of the positions held by Bill Pingel and Mark Brandenburg expire with this meeting. Mark stated that he is not seeking another term, but will continue to be involved with the fishing efforts. Bill stated that he was willing to serve another term.

Del Anderson nominated Fred Stoeger and Fred accepted the nomination.

Scott Saines made a motion to elect Bill Pingel and Fred Stoeger as Commissioners for the three-year term. Seconded by Steve Grill. Motion carried unanimously.

## **11. 2016 LHP&R DISTRICT FAMILY PICNIC**

Melissa Ferg reminded everyone that the lake district's family picnic will be held on Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> 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 not be a raffle this year.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **12. WAKE-NO WAKE HOURS VOTE**

Melissa Ferg introduced the "Wake-No Wake" discussion. She reviewed the information that was explained in the notice that was sent to all of the LHP&R District property owners. She noted that a number of residents have requested that the "No Wake" hours be extended, especially to give those that live and work in the area an opportunity to water ski after work.

Melissa explained the process that would be followed and turned the discussion and vote moderation over to Bill Pingel. Bill started by explaining that we are required to follow Parliamentary Procedure and Roberts Rules of Order and give a brief overview of what that meant.

Survey Results: The question was asked about the results of the survey. Bill stated that 98 letters were mailed to the LHP&R District property owners in March, of the cards returned 51 favored no change, 16 favored option 2, and 4 favored option 3 (71.8%-22.5%-5.7%). A number argued that we should not be having a vote. Bill explained that the Commissioners felt that since a number of residents requested a change, it was proper to bring a vote for the top two to the entire group.

A proposed motion was sent out in the notice letter. However, another motion came to the floor first. Jim Haen made a motion to accept the results of the survey and not change the wake-no wake times. The motion was seconded by multiple property owners. A discussion followed. Jim Haen then made an amendment to his motion to not bring the wake-no wake topic up again for at least five years. The amendment was seconded. A lengthy discussion took place with opinions stated on both sides of the issue. A voice vote was held and the amendment passed on a split vote.

So the new motion that was now before the group was to accept the results of the survey and not change the wake-no wake times, and to not bring the topic up again for at least five years. Another very lengthy discussion took place.

Ballots were passed out for a written vote. The motion passed with 42 in favor and 12 against (78%-22%)

### **13. OTHER NEW BUSINESS:**

- JAPANESE KNOTWEED: Earlier in the meeting Paul Seymour stated that the invasive plant Japanese Knotweed is back again and has been found on the 3202 and 3204 East LH Drive properties.  
→ Bill suggested that the topic should be deferred to an upcoming Commissioners' meeting.

→ PROPERTY OWNER LISTING: Tom Brown asked the Commissioners to consider making a listing of the property owners available, to help everyone can get to know their neighbors.

- ALBAN TOWNSHIP INFORMATION:

Ray Oksuita, Town of Alban Chairman, noted that the Alban Township is taking action to replace the fire lane number signs. The numbers themselves will not be changed.

He also reminded everyone that we have a Neighborhood Watch program around the lake and asked everyone to be aware and report anything suspicious by calling 911.

He also reminded everyone that the dumpster that is at the park is for picnic and boat landing use only.

### **ADJOURNMENT:**

Kathy Grill made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Don Becker. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 am.

MINUTES RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED: by Bill Pingel, Secretary

[Note: "→" indicates an action item that needs to be handled]