

LAKE HELEN PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
March 31, 2021
Zoom Conference Call

Due to the current public health concerns regarding COVID-19 and the executive orders issued by the Governor and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, government organizations are permitted to conduct public meetings remotely in order to comply with the Safer At Home Orders. Lake Helen Protection and Rehabilitation District met via Video / Telephone Conference on February 10, 2021. The Lake Helen P&R District Commissioners' meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm

Commissioners Present: Bill Pingel, Robin Novak-Nelson, Tom Gerlikovski, Glen Bersie, and Tyne Hoffman

Commissioners Absent: Mildred Neville

Guests: Mark Lynaugh (Lake Helen Fish Committee) and Tracy Arnold (Portage County Planning & Zoning)

➤ **MINUTES**

- Glen made a motion to approve the February 10, 2021 meeting minutes. Robin seconded. All in Favor.

➤ **TREASURER'S REPORT**

- \$1,715.50 Checking Balance
- \$3,110.57 Savings Balance
- \$7,000.00 Non-lapsable Fund
- Tom made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Robin Seconded.

➤ **OLD BUSINESS**

- Fishing Committee
 - Mark Lynaugh updated the group on the fishing committee plans. In May, DNR representatives Scott Provost and Tim Parks will be coming out to the lake to start charting and planning out fish habitats and improve habitat structures. Chris Hamerla from Golden Sands and Tracy Arnold were invited to join.
 - Tracy Arnold has information and knowledge on Grant's available to the lake and property owners for implementing fish sticks. \$1,000.00 per project.
 - Jerry Durkee, (not present at meeting) had notified Fred Stoeger that while ice fishing he saw Eurasian Water Milfoil through his camera that he drops down through the ice. It was suggested by Tyne that Jerry obtain a sample of it if he can. Tracy Arnold stated that she would like Jerry to take her to the site where he has seen it so she can help to identify and map it. Glen stated that Jerry has said this before and Glen identified the plant as NOT being Eurasian Water Milfoil.
- **2021 PROJECTS / PRELIMINARY PLANS – EWM CONTROL**
 - Lake Helen Protection and Rehabilitation District was awarded the Grant for \$24,382.95!! Many applied and few were Awarded. This is to be used in our 3 year plan to Control, Monitor, and Treat Eurasian Water Milfoil.
 - We will be receiving soon our first deposit of \$6,095.71.
 - Bill reviewed with us the EWM project plans; Weekly meanders on pontoons, kayaks, etc. Record and Map out EWM, Arrange a Point Intercept Survey with Chris Hamerla in 202, Hire Divers, and use DASH if needed.
 - Discuss EWM prevention and how to educate the public.
 - Encourage more people to get involved in the monitoring of the lake
 - Tom stated that he is looking into a company called "AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT LLC" to help monitor the EWM with diving and DASH services
 - Tom also recommends that we do at minimum one dive per year.

- **2021 PROJECTS / PRELIMINARY PLANS – CITIZENS LAKE MONITORING NETWORK**
 - Glen and Tyne notified Bill when the ice moved out. Two weeks after ice moves out, Bill needs to get a sample of the Lake water.
- **2021 PROJECTS / PRELIMINARY PLANS – CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATER**
 - Tom reviewed with us the Boat Launch monitoring plans, Golden Sands going through interview process to pick a boat launch monitor.
- **2021 PROJECTS / PRELIMINARY PLANS – Japanese Knotweed**
 - Glen stated that it is too early in the season and has not seen any new growth but will continue to monitor.

➤ **NEW BUSINESS**

- **Website and Newsletter**
 - Bill reviewed the updates that he did to the website. Tracy helped to update the rain garden info and shoreline zoning and grants.
 - Tyne will make a Facebook post, Bill is still looking for someone to help with the website and with the newsletter.
- **Wisconsin Lakes Annual Meeting (Wisconsin Water Week)**
 - The Commissioners' reviewed what sessions they attended and shared what they learned with the group.
 - Eric Olson of Wisconsin Lakes is having a web meeting about annual meetings for Lake Districts on April 29, 2021 at 4pm
- **ANNUAL MEETING**
 - Location and date were discussed for the Annual Meeting. Glen will contact the Parks Department to reserve the Lake Helen County Park Shelter. With COVID-19 unknowns, an outside location was agreed upon. No rain date set. Plan to bring your own chair.
 - Glen made a motion to reserve June 5, 2021 9am as the Annual Meeting Date. Tom Seconded. All in Favor.
 - After 9 long, generous years, Robin's term is ending and she would like to retire. Tyne's term is expiring also and she would like to stay on the Board of Commissioners'.

➤ **NEXT MEETING:**

- Next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2021 at 5:30 pm

➤ **ADJOURNMENT**

- Glen made a motion to adjourn at 6:58pm. Robin Seconded. All in favor.