

LAKE HELEN-LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
2019 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2019 3 PM
AT THE PORTAGE COUNTY ANNEX BUILDING

The Lake Hel P&R District Commissioners' meeting was called to order at 3PM

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

Commissioners Absent: Glen Bersie

Guests: Cory Nelson, Steve Cook, Fred Stoeger, Chris Hamerla (Golden Sands), and Tracy Arnold (Portage County Conservation)

- Our commissioners' meeting was held at the Portage County Annex in Stevens Point to discuss our Aquatic Plant Management Plan with Chris Hamerla as our main speaker and Tracy Arnold.

- ✓ **ZEBRA MUSSELS**
 - Chris discussed the recent discovery of Zebra Mussels found in Lake Helen; Tyne brought in about 20 samples of mussels pulled off her neighbor's dock and gave them to Chris. According to Chris this is a new infestation, probably about last summer based upon the size of them; measuring about ¼". Chris noted the following points:
 - In 2017, 2018, and 2019 full lake plant surveys were performed and zebra mussels were not found on any of the plants. Chris did find a handful attached to sticks by the outlet and some found on the rocks of the rock bar (buoy area).
 - Lake Helen is a favorable Lake for the Zebra Mussels due to the amount of calcium in our water, needed to grow their shell.
 - No chemicals have been yet approved by the DNR to eradicate or control the mussels.
 - Property owners should take note that the ZM will colonize in the intakes of jet skis and boat motors that are not properly lifted out of the water wreaking havoc on the motors. Also we should keep a close eye on our aerarotors, as they can clog up our intakes on those as well.
 - ZM are microscopic when first born and can be transferred from water way to water way via boats, motors, and trailers.
 - This upcoming summer of 2020 Chris will hang "sampling plates" on the rock bar which will help show how fast they are reproducing; Volunteers will be needed.
 - It was advised that we post a sign regarding the ZM at the boat landing.
 - Fred asked if fish can help manage the ZM population; Per Chris, ZM's are a filter eater and help clean / clear up water clarity but that would allow more sunlight to penetrate the bottom of the lake which allows the plants invasive and non-invasive to grow more. Sheepshead, Carp, and Catfish, and other bottom feeders will eat the ZM.

- ✓ **AQUATIC PLANT SURVEY AND RESULTS**

The primary purpose of the meeting was to review the draft version of the "AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN AND EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL PLAT STRATEGIES FOR LAKE HELEN IN PORTAGE COUNTY

 - Chris reviewed a presentation, walking through the draft version of the APM. Those present made comments that Chris will include in a revised version. A final version needs to be approved by the Commissioners and will be submitted along with our DNR grant application to help qualify us for a Grant towards the treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil.

- ✓ **EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL**
 - After reviewing the APS Results a map was shown of the spread of the EWM; 15 acres, 14 acres, and 11 acres were mapped out; EWM is also shown on map but in much sparser locations spreading throughout the lake.

- Treatment plans and ideas were discussed and Commissioners' were advised that EWM roots don't run deep and the pellets (granules) are not an effective treatment since they get buried in the lake bottom.
- Tom is waiting on a few more Bids regarding EWM Treatment before any more information is provided.
- It was suggested that we could write up an article for the ROSHOLT RECORD helping to Educate the public about the Health of Lake Helen when it comes to invasive species and the Zebra Mussels. It was also suggested that we could set up a table at the ANNUAL FISHEREE hosted at the Lake Helen County Park shelter, Use Social Media sites, spread the word using our youngest listeners by passing out information to students at school. See if any of the High School / Middle School teachers would offer up students extra credit to help pull milfoil or monitor the boat launch. One Community Working Together to help the problem at hand; Our younger audience is the best audience to have when educating the public.
- It was also suggested that someone speak with the BOYS and GIRLS CLUB ROSHOLT EXTENSION to see if they would like to bring the students out on a field trip of the lake and discuss the habitat / ecosystem of the lake; educated on good VS bad plants. Golden Sands would be willing to come out if we had a few lake Volunteers to drive some pontoons; Tyne offered to be a driver.
- A Lake Helen Commissioners' Facebook Page was discussed; All board members on board.

✓ NEXT MEETING

The group agreed to hold another meeting on Friday December 6, 2019 to review a revised version of the APM Plan. Chris Hamerla stated that he would send out a revised version for review prior to the meeting.