

**LAKE HELEN PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT**  
**2022 COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
**Wednesday, September 14th, 2022**  
**Virtual Via Microsoft Teams**

The Lake Helen P&R District Commissioners' meeting was called to order at 4pm

Commissioners Present: Glen Bersie, Tyne Hoffman, Keith Hoffman, Kara Boghossian, & Scott Nyman

Commissioners Absent: Dave Peterson Portage County Land & Water Conservation Comm. Rep

Guests: Michael Ubl (property owner), Bill Pingel (property owner), Tracy Arnold (Portage County Planning & Zoning), & Scott Provost (DNR Biologist)

**REGULAR REPORTS:**

**MINUTES:** Glen made a motion to approve the Minutes from June 16, 2022 and June 18, 2022. Scott Nyman Seconded. All in favor.

Glen made a motion to approve the August 17, 2022 "Special Projects Meeting" provided the edits Bill Pingel proposed. Kara Seconded. All in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Glen provided an updated Treasurer's Report.

\$580.77 in Checking

\$4,399.31 Savings

\$5,451.72 Non-Lapsable invasive species fund

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Total \$10,431.80

- \$2,866.57 Fish Stocking Donations to date; Boat Launch Donations \$531.75
- \$7,565.23 Accounts Total excluding Fish Stocking Donations.
- Scott Nyman made a motion to approved Treasurer's Report. Kara Seconded. All in favor.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**BLUE GREEN ALGAE ISSUE:**

**DNR WATER SAMPLING UPDATE:** Scott Provost reviewed the sampling results. Nitrate levels in lake dropping, aerators seem to be making a difference. Phosphorous levels at culvert are still above standard levels, installing flowgate will improve this. Blue Green Algae blooms continued on and off all summer and will continue, but should shorten in intensity. The sample reading from 8/26/22 are lower than readings done previously in the year. The goal for Phosphorous levels would be .03 or less, Lake Helen Levels: Deep Hole 0.0346, West Aerator 0.0308, & Culver 0.0506. Keith will send out copies of DNR water sampling reports to all commissioners.

**AERATORS:** Glen Bersie reviewed setback information he received from Central Wisconsin Electric Cooperative. Scott Provost recommends not participating in agricultural setbacks which shut down power to pumps for 4-5 hours, but follow-up on residential set back which would have less downtime, roughly 1 hour. Aerators cost approximately \$220 per month, can shut down when the top water temperature and the bottom temperature is similar. Then turn back on later in winter months.

- Scott Provost recommended a possible Grant Available to help pay for Aeration, if proven that aeration is beneficial to water quality, which would cover about 75% of aeration costs. Per Bill Pingel the pre application would be due by 9/23/2023

LAKE PROFILES: Keith updated that Lake Profiles had not been done in awhile due to new job commitments and family activities. Mike Ubl volunteered to take this project on and Glen Bersie said he could assist.

FLOWGATE: Flowgate was purchased (\$900.89), future install date to be set and volunteers are needed. Tyne will call Diggers Hotline prior to install.

NATIVE PLANTINGS: Tracy Arnold has submitted 11 pre-application spots for 2023, Two are for Lake Helen; (Bersie & Rasmussen Residence). Tyne & Keith need to finish submitting their forms for reimbursement.

### **INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL:**

CBCW 2022: Keith reviewed what Joe Cronk shared via email of the Clean Boats Clean Water Season Summary Report, 200 hours reported at Boat Landing. Keith will email a copy to all commissioners.

CBCW GRANT UPDATE: Scott Nyman updated status of Grant; reimbursement sent with the help of Tom Gerlikovski.

### **EWM CONTROL & GRANT PROGRESS:**

Progress/Current Situation: Keith contacted Onterra to help with Eurasian Water Milfoil mapping and they are very busy but would try to squeeze us in this year. Onterra would use sonar to mark and a camera to verify EWM, mark pinpoints on a map and would make pulling a faster / effective process.

- Glen & Keith both updated status of EWM plants, some areas have some thick matting that reaches the surface, water clarity still seems to be a problem. Glen or Keith will reach out to Aquatic Plant Management to schedule a dive day and have DASH (diver assisted suction harvesting) done. Glen and or Keith will contact Chris Hamerla to borrow buoys and mark EWM patches prior to the DASH.

EWM Grant Volunteer Reimbursement: \$1,813.50 Total for reimbursement at this time. Volunteer Hour Forms are very important to be completed and turn in for matching EWM Grant Funds.

Japanese Knotweed: Glen bought more chemicals and treated an area with about 4 plants. Will continue to treat and monitor.

**Lake Management / Aquatic Plant Management Plans:** Kara and Tracy Arnold scheduled a virtual meeting and are in the process of updating page by page and have made some great progress, will continue to meet virtually between them. Kara will make an Agenda and we will have a meeting with Bill Pingel to cover anything that they need help with.

**FISHING COMMITTEE:** Keith reviewed the meeting that the Fish Committee had with Lucas Koenig, Fish Biologist.

- Comprehensive Fish Survey done every 12 years.
- 6/2/21 electrofishing 63 nets, Fyke Net and Mini Fyke Net study won't be done until 2026-2027 due to availability, larger lakes done first.
- Keith reviewed stocking history, regulations, electrofishing collections, 2021 results of fish study based up species (size & growth).
- Stocking choices: Perch & Crappie or \*\*Perch & Walleye\*\* (preferred through discussions); Follow-up meeting in future, then select a hatchery and obtain permit.

2023 FISH STICK COMPLEXES: Keith stated that we need more commitments, 3 possible commitments; 6 permits available. Tracy stated that County Parks will be on board to do at least one, maybe two complexes.

**BOATING:** Keith reviewed the boat landing signage and many great positive responses with feedback; sign is cleaner and better organized.

**SWIM BUOYS:** Positive feedback and very successful with swimmers staying inside the marked areas and not entering the boating path per Keith.

- Glen followed up with Portage County Parks. They have removed the buoys and will store them for the winter and return them in the spring.
- Bill Pingel inquired into pushing buoys out a little bit further, if we had enough rope / buoy.

**NEW PROPERTY OWNERS:** Tyne is preparing a welcome letter and spoke with a business on receiving coupon / discount for new property owners and Free advertisement for business.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Boating Safety / Concerns:** A review was done regarding Mike Guth's (Guth Property); bleach jug buoys and the Facebook post. The 100' and 200' marker jugs are not permitted due to illegal navigation and not permitted. Jugs may have been removed by the DNR due to neighbor complaints. Bill Pingel followed up that he wanted to have "slow no wake" buoys outside his dock and DNR informed him that it was not permitted. Boating ordinances reviewed again and encourage people to speak with neighbors; Boats 100' from dock if above "wake speed"; Personal Watercraft (Jet ski) 200' from shore. Tracy stated she felt the district is doing a good job on education and signage.

**Road Safety Concerns:** Commissioners discussed another topic seen on Facebook regarding young kids driving golf carts. Glen Boedecker (property owner), would like to assist in educating property owners. Roadway Safety will be added to the annual newsletter. Keith mentioned possibly pursuing 15mph speed limit for the entire lake loop due to the amount of traffic amongst motorized vehicles, walkers, bike riders, kids / families at play. Some commissioners & guests felt not necessary, may not change driving habits.

**Other:** Kara asked what the follow-up was regarding a meeting that Glen, Keith, Tracy Arnold & Ryan Rose had at the beach regarding beach sand entering lake. Ryan Rose brought a topographical map from 1960 showing that the beach sand has not impacted the water level and Keith found a map going back to 1938 showing the same things. Parks adds about 3 yards of sand every 3 to 4 years. If LHPRD wanted a retaining wall installed to hold the sand it would cost roughly \$10,000.00 and Parks not willing to pay for it and they in return would have to do it for every Portage County Park / Beach.

**SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, December 7, 2022 4pm via Microsoft Teams (virtual)

**ADJOURNMENT:** Glen made a motion to adjourn at 5:26pm. Scott Seconded. All in favor.