

Buffalo Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Regular Meeting

November 16, 2013

Minutes

Board Members Present: Vicki Trimble, Bill Lewis, Tom Ogden, Frank Breitenbach, Joseph Oravetz, Carol Deer, Jim Barton.

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:08 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the May meeting were read by Tom Ogden. Frank motioned to approve the minutes and Joe seconded. Motion passed.

3. Treasurer's Report

Vicki read all of the balances, as Board had printouts of the budget. Total in all accounts as of October 31 was \$207,453.17. Frank motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, Joe seconded, motion passed.

4. Resolution 11 16 2013 (Lotus Grant)

Resolution was read by Tom and Joe motioned to approve the resolution as read. Vicki seconded, motion carried.

5. Committee Reports

- a) **Harvesting—District Equipment**—Bill spoke on the bids that were being received for the equipment. He stated it has been difficult to get the bids back and to get proposals. Jim discussed that he has researched the salaries in surrounding lake communities and most of the workers in these areas are at the \$13 to \$14 hourly rate. He is recommending raising the hourly rate over a two-year period. Bill recommended sending it back to the committee and to discuss at the February meeting.
- b) **Technology**—Tom reported that there are a few additional registrants for the email communications. There was discussion about spending some of the allocated funds for updating the homepage of the website and providing the opportunity for each of the committee to have a separate landing page to display the current information. Tom will check into the cost estimate for this.
- c) **Buffalo Lake Ecology**— Friday September 27th. a bird nesting platform and pole was installed on the dredge bank island in cooperation with the DNR , Alliant Energy, and the entire High Marq school, teachers and students. The Lake Districts application for a lotus restoration grant was approved by the DNR.

Early this October the Westfield High School contacted the Lake District and asked if we had any ongoing ecology projects with activities that their students could participate in yet this fall. On Monday, November 4th. One teacher and twenty students from Westfield 's High School Environmental class planted 300 river bulrush plants to create a native emergent aquatic plant demonstration site on Buffalo Lake.

Additional projects being worked on:

- Establishing a demonstration site, showing a shoreline planting of native and non native plants in landscaped fashion. The purpose is to show how the use of native and non native plants can be used to create a very attractive native shoreline for a lake-shore property owner, and to enhance the lake-shore view for all the other lake-shore property owners.

- Continue to work with the county schools, to plan and schedule future students educational ecology activities on the dredge bank island..
 - Determine which GPS unit, software and procedures will best suit our lotus project needs, contact the DNR and the county for their input, so we will be compatible with their GPS mapping.
 - Continue to pursue the building of a white egret rookery.
 - Look into reducing invasive plants by protecting areas where native emergent plants are returning on their own because of the lake draw down.
 - Town/County—Joe reported that by the causeway, 6 culverts will be replaced and this is a County issue. They will be 10 feet longer on each side, they will be stone and riprap areas will be added. The causeway will be closed 3-5 days for this construction. In 2016, the road will be widened
- d) Dues and Finance** —Jim reported that they are scheduling a meeting. They are getting information on projecting costs and looking for input from everyone. Al mentioned that he has a lot of files that he would gladly turn over as a historical perspective. We know we will have to deal with potentially raising the rates and this is always difficult.
- e) Marquette County Lakes Group and Wisconsin Lakes**-Al reported that the next meeting is in May. He raised the question if we want the same format or something different. He mentioned there are 22 lakes in the group. There is a new Director, Mike Eggleston, as for Wisconsin Lakes and the group is getting more involve with the Wisconsin River Alliance.
- f) Town and County**—Frank said they are working on C. Bill said they are starting to dredge. Also, the ramp on the dredge bank is in.

6. **Old Business/New Business** Bill stated that he received an email from the DNR regarding how the project was going. All in all, the word is that it is going well and on schedule. The embankment is done for this year. The fish passage has been poured and they intend on demobilizing and stabilizing by Christmas. Weather is going to dictate when the lake will be back to normal, but the expectation is by Memorial Day, if all goes well.

Tom raised the question regarding old business on the question of if we are paying too much for insurance. She is going to follow up with the broker.

Bill mentioned that he received the paperwork for the transfer of property from the attorney for the 7.3 acre parcel. He also stated that he would like a committee for the long-term plan for the District. Don has volunteered to assist.

Vicki mentioned that there should be a place for storage and records. Frank motioned to set up a site committee and Carol seconded, motion passed. Bob mentioned that the building/siding has collapsed and that he had a quote from the Amish for \$1200 for repair, but never did anything about it. He also reminded us about the fact that we need to look into the grass cutting and need to bring up at the February meeting.

7. **Next Meeting**—February 22, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. Frank motioned to adjourn, Joe seconded.
- 8.

Next Meeting—Next regular meeting 10/19/13 @9:00 a.m, Packwaukee Town Hall

Vikki motioned to adjourn and Frank seconded.

