

Buffalo Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Regular Meeting
Regular Meeting

May 20, 2017

Board Members Present: Tom Ogden (Chairman), Jim Sanders (Secretary), Frank Breitenbach (County Rep), Chuck Kopesil (Town Rep), absent, Darrell Unsinn, (Treasurer) Joesph Oravetz (Town Rep)

Bookkeeper Vicky Trimble was also present

1. The meeting was called to order

9:00am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

Minutes from the February 25, 2017 meeting were read by Jim Sanders. Motioned to approve the minutes as read by Town Rep Kopesil, notion was seconded by County Rep Breitenbach, all in favor, motion passed.

3. Board Changes

Chairman Ogden asked for a motion to accept the resignations of Secretary Sanders and Board Member Mike Heil from the Board. County Rep Kopesil made a motion to accept the resignation of both Secretary Sanders and Board Member Heil, motion was seconded by County Rep Breitenback, all in favor, motion passed. Chairman Ogden announced that he had appointed Ro Klecz to the Board as secretary and Jim Sanders would now be the Packwaukee Town Rep. Ro Klecz was asked by Chairman Ogden to continue taking the minutes. Chairman Ogden mentioned that there was still a board position open and would like to have that position filled as soon as possible. He asked that if anyone is interested in being on the board to contact him either call him or email him. Once he gets interest he will bring the potential candidates up to the board for appointment.

4. Treasurer's Report

Chairman Ogden mentioned that Treasure Unsinn's absence was due to the flu. In his absence, Bookkeeper Trimble read the treasurer's report. The general checking account has \$16,438.40, the money market operating account has \$166,697.17, and the equipment fund has \$156,213.24 for a total of \$339,348.81. All bills are paid to date. Chairman Ogden asked if there was any discussion or concerns regarding the treasurer's report. No discussion was had. Motion made by Town Rep Sanders to accept the treasurer's report as is, motion was seconded by County Rep Breitenbach, all in favor, motion passed.

5. Committee Reports

a) Dues& Finance – Bookkeeper Trimble was asked to give a financial report in Treasurer's Unsinn's absent. She stated that the committee is currently looking at the Lake District boundaries as well as other options and was hoping to have a proposal together of the possible scenarios before the

next board meeting. Chairman Ogden stated that it would be good to meet before the next board to discuss and review the information that the committee will submit.

Chairman Ogden stated that in the past there was discussion about increasing the dues so that an extra day or hours could be added to the harvesting operations but before everyone gets anxious, he wanted everyone to know that the board and the committee are investigating every option to make sure that no monies have been left on the table. It is the Board's focus this year is to work to maintain a balanced budget. With this investigation the Board is going to be able to identify if the assessments are accurate or if they are less than what they should be or more than what they should be.

b) Site- County Rep Kopesil mentioned that a little work needs to be done to the container. He stated that it should be about 2 more weeks before the container is ready to use to store the District's paperwork/files. For those who are unaware, the container was purchased from southern Illinois so that the District would have a centrally located place where paper/files and whatever else, could be stored safely. County Rep Kopesil stated that the people that have District paperwork that needs to be stored contact him so that he can issue a set of keys.

Rich Brefeld brought up that it may be a good idea buying an old pontoon boat to store all the buoys on. Launching the buoys off the harvesters is very difficult and labor intensive and it is a lot of weight for the smaller boat. Scott Preuss, Harvesting Crew Chief, stated that having a pontoon boat would allow for less handling of the buoys which are not cheap and would make it easier to store. Scott Preuss stated that all the buoys could fit on a pontoon and then everything could be store in the garage which would increase the life of the buoys and allow for less handling. Currently they are 17 channel buoys and lotus buoys. The weights of the buoys are approximately 200-250 pounds, cost about \$425.00 a piece and are currently stored outside all year long.

c) Lake Management Plan-Chairman Ogden reported that the Committee was involved through the entire process of the lake study. He was very impressed with what Onterra did. The comprehensive draft of the plan which includes all the details is 120 pages long. He has spoken with Brent from Ontera and their initial recommendation is to come and give about a 2-hour presentation which he thought was over kill. Chairman Ogden stated that it would take someone about 2 hours to read through the study. He hasn't discussed this with the Committee yet but intends too. The plan is still being reviewed by Ted Johnson and once the plan is approved, it will be made available on the website for everyone to view and become familiar with.

Ontterra does have some recommendations that are spelled out for the best way to manage our weed situation. Before the draw down the lake had significant amount invasive types of weeds. When the draw downs were made for the repairs to the dam, it exposed a section(s) of the lake which killed off the weeds. There are some areas were the invasive species are coming back but not nearly as bad before the draw down repairs. Chairman Ogden didn't go into detail about all the recommendation but did state that one of their recommendations was a partial draw down on a regular basis which doesn't mean significant like the draw down when the dam was repaired. He stated that should be no need for

concerned about the fisheries. Chairman Ogden is going to recommend that Ontterra give a quick overview presentation explaining how the plan has changed from a few years back, how the lake has changed, and their recommendations and then they can hang around to answer questions that membership may have.

Bob from the harvesting crew asked if Ontterra was involved with the laterals. Chairman Ogden stated that it was DNR dictated. A permit was submitted with a map and approved by DNR. There seemed to be some confusion by the harvesting crew as to where to cut. Chairman Ogden asked Bill Lewis if he could explain the maps. Bill Lewis stated that there are maps and that the District supplies the map and submits that with the permit to be approved by DNR. It is a 3-year permit. Chairman Ogden stated that he will make sure that the harvesting crew has the current and most up dated map and permit for them to work off of.. Chairman Ogden suggested that Kelly Cosgriff join the Harvesting Committee. It was also discussed to have the harvesting crew leader have imputed on the committee well. Scott Pruess and his crew should a good handle on the location of the laterals. Chairman Ogden mentioned that everyone is always invited to the meetings and participate. Once the right map is established, there should be no deviation to that map. Chairman Ogden stated that the harvesting crew takes direction from Scout Pruess the Harvesting Crew Chief, who takes direction from the Board. If there are any complaints about harvesting they should be directed to Chairman Ogden and asked people to join the committee so that their input could be heard.

d) Harvesting/Equipment – Scott Preuss, Harvesting Crew Chief stated that the first week of harvesting went well. Water is high and weeds are spotty but not too bad. There is one machine that doesn't have interchangeable rams. Scott is trying to find a rebuilt kit for that. Chairman Ogden asked Scott to let the Board know when things like that come up so that they can make sure that everyone is working with in the budget. He told Scott that he knew Scott was aware of that but felt that he needed to make that statement in Darrel's absence. Chairman Ogden asked how Scott's confidence level was with his crew. Scott stated that he has all the confidence in his crew.

Chairman Ogden mentioned that no matter what happens there are going to be some folks that have issues, last year there were some instances to knee jerk reactions in regards to people that couldn't get their boats out and crews deviating off the approved cutting schedule which caused issues. He stressed that if anyone has any cutting issues or concerns to please not bother Scott or the harvesting crew and address your concerns with Chairman Ogden and he will handle it.

Discussion was had that there is a lot of history and experience on the board and Chairman Ogden urge people to reach out to the Board if they have any questions. He wants everyone to be efficient as possible. Chairman Ogden stated that if we have a budget that is under control and we know what we are spending, we know what we can cut, we know how many hours we are spending on people and cutting days, so next year will be able to know if we will be able to add more cutting time or if we will even need too. With all that information including the lake management plan, Chairman Ogden is finally seeing everything come into action.

e) Technology/Newsletter/Website- Chairman Ogden stated that he will be meeting with Ro to go over things. He covered what he had spoken about in the past about obtaining information on mass email servers; Icontact costs \$14.00 a month if you prepay for a year it is \$11.90 a month. We have the money in the budget in the budget to do this. The cost would be around \$200 a year. People that have signed up for email notification are going to be expecting notifications so the Board should go ahead and do this. It was approved at the last meeting. He stated that he would get with Ro and figure out what service would be the best to use and implement using the email notification. Bookkeeper Trimble stated that it may be possible that when people start talking about receiving email notification and it may encourage others to sign up. County Rep Breitenbach made a motion to go forward with the use and purchase of an email server, seconded by Town Rep Sanders, all in favor, motion passed.

6. District Informational Signs

Rich Brenfeld spoke about the replacement of some district signs. Rich stated that there are a few signs that needed to be replaced. One sign a woodpecker destroyed, the other sign had a picture of a student who passed away last year and the parents would like to have his picture removed from the sign. Rich stated that he blacked out the picture of the student. Signs are needed by the island and lastly, we should have a sign with our name on the kiosk that we donated at the Montello Dam. Rich has raised funds in the past to defer the cost to the District. Rich asked for \$170.00 for all 4 signs. Rich felt that the District should sing its praises for the projects that we are in involved with by placing and replacing the signage.

Dredge Island is having considerable amount erosion and DNR suggested that the District place signs on the island maybe even install plastic fencing around the island to keep from having further erosion happening. Carol Deer stated that she felt that would be ugly and would like to see something else. Chairman Ogden asked Rich if he felt we needed all 4 signs. Rich stated that it would be a good idea because the signs would let people know about the projects that the Lake District is involved with. Chairman Ogden asked Bookkeeper Trimble how the budget line item was. She stated that there was about \$3000.00 in the budget and it appears that nothing has been spent yet. There was a question asked about the payment of the new buoys. Bookkeeper Trimble stated that she thought that the buoys were paid out of last year's budget.

Motion was made by Town Rep Sanders to approve the \$170.00 to have the 4 signs made, seconded by Town Rep Kopesil, motion passed, all in favor.

Kelly Cosgrove stated that the kids like to play on the island and asked if DNR is mandating the signs and fencing. Rich stated that it was a suggestion and that he knows that people like to visit the island but the erosion is getting extensive from climbing on the island and that it is important to do what we can to save the island. Rich stated that District could throw some grass seed and put a matt down to help establish some vegetation. Nothing expensive but something to help with erosion control. It is a busy place and it should be saved.

7. Marquette County Lake Group

Al Rosenthal reported that Safety on the lake was discussed and due to the limited resources of the boat patrol, each lake could ask for volunteers to patrol the lake from the sheriff's department if they felt a boat patrol was needed on their lake. The Lake District would be responsible to provide the boat and pay the cost of the patrol. Chairman Ogden asked about other lakes posting signs about boating & fishing requirements. Town Rep Sanders reported that other lakes due posts signs at the boat landings. Discussion was had that our lake didn't need boat patrol. Town Rep Sanders stated that Lake Group had a couple of new board members, Laurie, Mike Johnson, & Steve Simon Next Lake Group Meeting will be in September.

8. Town/County

Town Rep Sanders reported that it is important to establish laterals from the culvert to the river, boat landing looks good. Jim appreciates how good the Hollenbeck landing looks. The causeway construction is scheduled to start the Monday after Labor Day. The causeway will shut down with completion of construction and the opening to traffic between November 1-16 weather permitting. The finish landscape restoration will be completed in the spring of 2018. By mid July, we should know who the contractor for the project will be. Chairman Ogden asked the membership asked if everyone was aware of the project. Everyone seemed to be.

9. Old Business/New Business

Al Rosenthal has been taking pier pieces floating down the lake west of the causeway. He has retrieved several pier parts. Al wanted to know what to do with them. Chairman Ogden thanked Al for doing that. Bill Lewis suggested that maybe Al could post something at the campgrounds letting people know about the piers floating in lake.

New Business- Scott, Harvesting Crew Chief mentioned that he was watching TV and stated that there are companies that buy weeds. Scott asked if the Board could investigate options for disposing of the lake weeds. These weeds could possibly be another source of income. Ro volunteered to do some research on companies that may be interested in the Districts lake weeds. Chairman Ogden suggested that it might be helpful to look at Ray's information from last year to see what the harvesting crew pulled in for the year. Ray stated that he thought 7 thousand tons was pulled last year. Scott thinks that there is a big potential in income.

Tom Spanott from the harvesting crew, asked why the payroll dates were change. Because Treasurer Unsinn was not at the meeting to answer that question, Chairman Ogden asked Bookkeeper Trimble if she new why. She stated that Treasurer Unsinn called her and told her that the guys were going to work 2 weeks and get paid the following week. That was the first pay check everything should be fine now. Bookkeeper Trimble stated that she didn't care how payroll was done but she did mention that there is a 3 day lag with direct deposit. Chairman Ogden will talk to Treasurer Unsinn as to why the changes were made. Bookkeeper Trimble stated that they should get paid now every 2 weeks.

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There was discussion from the harvesting crew as to how and when the harvesting should be done. Chairman Ogden stated that he would get the current DNR permit and make sure that Scott had it so that he can direct his crew on where and when to cut. The crew should take direction from Scott the crew chief. If Scott isn't aware of what needs to be done, he should contact Chairman Ogden and he will give him the correct information. Chairman Ogden stated that we should be flexible with the weed cutting because every year is going to be different. You may start in one spot one year but the next year you may not have to start in the same spot but we must follow the approved map. There is a wealth of information on the Board. Jim & Ray can help be a sounding board for questions. Chairman Ogden stated that he respected everyone's opinion but let's work together and understand that we have someone new in that position and if there are any questions or concerns please call Chairman Ogden. He stated that Jim Sanders would be willing to go with the harvesting crew if there are any questions on how to handle things the crew may not be familiar with. It was determined that cutting should take place approximately 50 feet from the shoreline and that cutting may have to be adjusted because of piers and or the lay of the land.

Rich Brefeld- asked how to get on the agenda if someone has something to say. Chairman Ogden stated that a person can submit what they want to talk about if it is going to be a presentation or if it is a topic that will have a lot of discussion just like Rich did with the signage or they can bring it up new business. Rich feels that communication between the Board and the harvesting crew needs to be better. Chairman Ogden doesn't want people to send emails to every board member. He would like to be the point of contact so that there is no confusion. He stated that he happy to forward the email to the appropriate person. His email is available on the website. If something doesn't get on the agenda it can always go under new business.

Kelly Cosgriff thanked the Board for their hard work. He understands that it is a volunteer positions and he appreciates the work of harvesting crew as well.

10. Next Meeting

August 19, 2017@ 9:00am Packwaukee Town Hall

Annual Meeting was schedule for October 14, 2017 which is after the harvesting meeting. Tom stated that last year the annual meeting had to be postponed because the harvesting operations was still going on and the final budget numbers for 2016 were not complete.

11. Adjourn

Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Town Rep Sanders, seconded by Town Rep Kospesil, all in favor, motion passed.