

# **Buffalo Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Regular Meeting**

**February 9, 2013**

## **Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Jim Sanders, Vicki Trimble, Bill Lewis, Tom Ogden, Roger Naniot, Frank Breitenbach, Don Schroechert

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. Minutes**

Minutes from the July meeting were read by Tom Ogden. Roger motioned to approve the minutes and Vicki seconded.

### **3. Treasurer's Report**

Vicki read all of the balances, as Board had printouts of the budget. As of January 3, our balance was \$4,309.66, Operating fund was \$7,061.64 and Equipment fund was \$77,090.10, with all accounts totaling \$88,461.40.

Bill reminded everyone that we incurred \$77,000 in attorney's fees and we received \$10,000 from the County and \$5,000 from Packwaukee. Timing on the project is going out to bid the first week of March, bids back in 30 days and should start project at the beginning of May. The attorney will be overseeing the project from a legal standpoint but our legal fees should be lower this year. It is important that we stay on top of the project from a legal perspective.

Roger asked if with the new C landing update if we can collect launch box fees. Don responded that since we are a taxing authority, we can, and the County does not have the resources to manage it. Roger asked if the financial reports could be added to the website. Tom responded that it could be added, however, we need to do some reorganization due to the amount of material that is being requested to be posted.

Roger added to Frank's motion with a correction into the capital fund (error), and Don seconded.

### **4. Ted Johnson DNR (Benefits of Emergent Plants)**

Ted was to be present at the meeting to discuss this topic, however, he was not in attendance.

### **5. District Goal Setting**

Bill mentioned that we need to start thinking about the two pieces of equipment that need to be purchased in the future and that they are approximately \$170,000 each. Someone from the district asked if we had considered raising fees and what the process is for this. Roger stated that it must be a resolution at the Annual Meeting. There was considerable discussion regarding this including a rough estimate of additional revenue if the fees were raised \$100. This would result in \$75,000 increase. The idea of having a standard fee and then adjusting based on property value or lake frontage was discussed. Bob said this could cause issues due to some people who have lots that are non buildable. Bill suggested that we have a committee to look into options. Jim Barton, one of the District members volunteered to head the Dues & Finance committee and Roger volunteered to assist.

### **6. Committee Reports**

- a) **Harvesting-** Jim reported on his staff. One person passed away and one quit. He thinks not replacing them will be fine for the maintenance this year since there will be no cutting. Bill reminded him to get quotes on new elevators.
- b) **Technology—**Tom reported that he will let Roger know if he needs assistance with website postings. Tom also led a discussion on how to get email addresses of district members without the expense of printing and postage since that budget has been depleted. It was recommended and decided to put a tear off in the newsletter and to have cards to fill out at

the Annual Meeting. Tom will be responsible for this. Barbara Barton from the district volunteered to write an article for the paper and provided contact information to Tom.

- c) **Buffalo Lake Ecology**—Rich said there now are 10 members on the Ecology Committee. Westfield, Montello and High Marq high school biology teachers all have requested that they and their students would all like to participate with the Ecology committee on any of Buffalo lake's ecology projects. It has been five years since the lotus project was started, and the project is still on track. The grant application still looks good and application processing will occur when the normal water levels have returned on the lake. Rich asked the board to support and approve two new projects. The projects are: First to establish an osprey nesting site on dredge bank island and secondly to pursue planting emergent plants in Buffalo lake (three lake district members have offered some of their shoreline as planting areas for these emergent plants) and at the same time pursue a grant to fund this project. The approval motion was made by Roger and seconded by Jim Barton and the motion was passed. Roger said we should have a separate line on the financial statements to show that the lotus project to date has received \$1,140 specifically donated to the district for use on the lotus project. The Ecology Committee would have a separate line if and when funds were earmarked for use by that committee.
- d) **Marquette County Lake Group**—Al was not in attendance, however, he provided a detailed handout of the activities.
- e) **Town/County**—Jim reported that the ramp on Freedom Road is underway. It is a 30 ft. ramp that goes right up to the pier and can handle 2 or 3 boats launching at the same time. He also mentioned that the parking lot will stay the same. They have the permit in hand, and half of the grant money.

**7. Old Business—Dredge Bank**

Timing was given by Bill—1<sup>st</sup> week of March for bids to go out. 1<sup>st</sup> week of April a decision on contractor, begin in May. He also noted that Steve Miller helped a great deal on getting this project in the works and to this stage. A project like this typically takes 5 years.

**8. New Business**

Roger asked if the Directors of the District are covered under liability insurance. Vicki did not know but will check. Bill did not think they are covered.

**Next Meeting**—Next regular meeting 5/11/13 @9:00 a.m, Packwaukee Town Hall

Frank motioned to adjourn and Roger seconded.