

Buffalo Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Regular Meeting

July 13, 2013

Minutes

Board Members Present: Vicki Trimble, Bill Lewis, Tom Ogden, Roger Naniot, Frank Breitenbach, Don Schroechert, Joseph Oravetz

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:06 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

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

3. Treasurer's Report

Vicki read all of the balances, as Board had printouts of the budget. Frank motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, Tom seconded, motion passed.

Roger expressed concern for the cost of insurance and that we should consider asking the broker to shop around for new quote, as we have not had any claims.

4. Committee Reports

- a) **Harvesting—District Equipment**—Jim not in attendance, but Bill said we are interested in replacing a piece of old equipment. It will be handled in a Resolution later in the meeting.
- b) **Technology**—Tom reported that there are a few ways to capture email addresses of the members, but direct mail will be expensive. He researched putting a form on the website and the fee will only be \$75. Also, a form will be included in the newsletter that he will produce and he will bring additional forms to the Annual Meeting. A concern was raised regarding the online form and the possibility of spam. The Board decided since the investment was low as well as the risk, we will move forward and review if there is any spam issues.
- c) **Buffalo Lake Ecology**—Rich was not in attendance, however, Roger received a report from Rich that reported the following
 - Outcome of DNR grant application will be determined next month
 - Construction of an Osprey nesting pole has been set for September, water level permitting
 - A second attempt for grant funding to establish three native emergent plants demonstration sites on the lake, the deadline is September 1 with Midwest Lakes national fish habitat partnership
 - Progress is being made on making the dredge bank island available to the three local high schools as an educational ecology resource
 - Request has been made to the finance committee for 5% of the annual budget to go to lake rehabilitation starting in 2014
 - Review of the Lake Puckaway website revealed two shortcomings; the website administrator is not a member and the ability to make timely updates is a concern
- d) **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
- e) **Marquette County Lake Group**—Al not present to report.

5. **Approve donation of \$7,000** to Capital Cost Fund from Buffalo Lake Improvement Association.
6. **Approve transfer of land** from Buffalo Lake Improvement Association to Buffalo Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. Bill explained that after 45 years in existence, the Improvement Association dissolved. Over the years, they made donations of approximately \$141,000 to the District. Roger stated that he appreciated all of the hard work over the past years, the hard work and donations. Roger motioned to transfer the land to the District, Frank seconded, motion passed.
7. **Approve Financial Review 2012**
Audit statement was presented. Roger motioned to approve, Vikki seconded, motion passed.
8. **Resolution 2014-1** Approve the purchase of a new weed harvester, money to come from the Capital Cost Fund and DNR grant program. Bill explained that whenever we can, we should try to use and go after other funds in addition to the District contribution. Equipment is now more expensive and we are looking at some expensive options on the equipment, but this will reduce maintenance costs and the equipment will also last longer. Roger motioned to approve this resolution, Frank seconded, motion passed.
9. **Resolution 2014-2** Approve the purchase of a new weed transporter, money to come from the Capital Cost Fund and DNR grant program when funds become available. Jim would like both applications with the DNR to be submitted at the same time. Bill would like the transporter moved to next year's budget when we have additional funds of our own from the sale of the used harvester, which might be worth 50-70K. Roger motioned to not used for 2014 budget, Vikki seconded, motion passed.
10. **District Budget 2014** Roger explained a detailed analysis of the additional weed cutting capacity and cost. In summary, if we were to add 25% more cutting, it would mean an increase in member dues of \$89. Regarding the budget, Roger reminded us of the fact that a full year for cutting was put in even though we do not know how much cutting will need to be done. Also, a reminder that legal fees should be down considerably, probably between \$2,000-\$5,000. Regarding the website, \$1000 was put in for various enhancements that could come up. Regarding the Restoration fund, Bill stated that he had no problem with this, however we need to define what is going to qualify for this account. Frank motioned to approve the budget for 2014, Tom seconded, motion passed.
11. **Newsletter/Annual Meeting Notice** Tom and Vikki discussed timing required for the newsletter and public notices. Tom committed to getting the newsletter files to Vikki by 7/22 and he will contact the paper for one, if not two notices.
12. **Old Business/New Business** Bill stated that there is a book that he has purchased for the Board regarding associations. Also, he recommended that each Board member should ride a cutter when the crew is cutting on the lake. It will give a first hand perspective of what really goes on. Additionally, Don agreed to go over to the property where the equipment is stored after the meeting for anyone that is interested.

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

Vikki motioned to adjourn and Frank seconded.