

Minutes of Buffalo Lake P & R District Meeting
Saturday, June 8th, 2019 8:00am
Packwaukee Town Hall

PLEASE NOTE: District Members are encouraged to attend meetings and participate. These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. Minutes are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Committee/City Council, and to include brief description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. Any references to discussion and /or statements are only to provide greater clarity to the public and they may not reference all, some, or any of an individual speaker's comments.

1) Ro Klecz called the meeting to order 8:01 AM

2) Roll Call –Member

	<u>Attendance</u>
○ Ro Klecz	Present
○ Kelly Cosgriff	Absent
○ Larry Haygood	Present
○ Vikki Trimble	Present
○ Bill Lewis	Present
○ Judy Nigbor, Packwaukee Representative	Present
○ Jon Sheller, Marquette County Representative	Absent

3) Changes or Addition to Agenda.

- None, **motion** to approve agenda by Vicky and seconded by Ro.

4) Accept Minutes from the 5-11-19 Board Meeting.

- Minutes were not available in time to review. Approval of minutes were passed over to the July 13, 2019 Board meeting.

5) Committee Reports

- a) **Finance & Dues:** The Checking account had a balance of \$26,673.00, the Operating fund had a balance of \$111,970.93 and the Equipment fund had a balance of 188,738.00, **motion** to accept financial reports by Bill and 2nd by Judy. Discussion- Garry Kershaw asked if the Districts money was invested. Vikki answered that the bulk of the money is invested, all in favor, non- opposed.

i) Personnel: No Report.

b) Harvesting

ii) Ro asked Dave Barton if he had a report to give. Dave stated that there is continual cleanup of the District's site. The equipment was in the water. There was a bunch of mechanical work that needed to be completed prior to the equipment functioning. There was a lot of money and time spent on repairs. The condition of the equipment and the condition site didn't happen overnight nor in the last two years. The abuse and neglect has been happening for years. The first week of harvesting, the harvesting crew hit the water the as they expected, they worked two days then the air brakes went out in the truck and we should have the truck back in a couple of days. The fourth harvester is almost ready to hit the water, the conveyors are in the water, the transporter is the water and everything appears to be working. Dave stated that he invites members to come to the site to see what has been done. There has been many volunteer hours put into the in the cleanup and in the maintenance/repairs of the equipment. The harvesting crews are working Monday through Thursday 7am to 3am. Dave reiterated that the DNR would not allow harvesting this prior to June 1, 2019. Dave stated that the District should look at going to a 5 day work weeks. Dave stated that many of the crew members are older and that they are really not interested in working 5 days a week or 10 hours a day and that the District should try to recruit some younger guys and gals. Maybe we can do some kind of ride along or internship with the school with the kids that might be into biology. The kids have to be at least 18 years old.

Ro asked Dave how the first week of harvesting went. He stated that it went well until they backed the truck up and the airbrakes blew. The other truck was doubled up on so it made things a little slow. Ro asked how many loads were pulled out of the lake. Tom Spinotto stated that they pulled 24 loads out the west side of the lake and 44 loads out the east side of the lake. Tom said it was a little difficult because of the one truck being down. They had to have the truck that lost its airbrakes towed. Someone asked for clarification on the damaged equipment. Dave stated that there was damaged from slamming into the equipment, mechanical work that was done incorrectly, regular maintenance not being done, cutting blades that were not installed correctly on the harvesters and years of neglect. There was a question that was asked about how many machines are in the water. Dave stated that the East side has transporter, 2 cutters, 2 conveyors, 1 truck. The West side has a conveyor, harvester and truck. By the end of the week we are looking to have a 4th cutter in the water. Jim Barton stated that over a year ago the spare dump truck was sold. Jim stated that the district might want to look into getting another dump truck. Frank asked once the 4th cutter is put in the water, will the blue cutter stay on the west side? Dave stated that the blue cutter will be moved to the causeway to keep the flow of the water continual. Tom stated that 4th cutter is the biggest machine we have. That is going on the east side. The crew will stick the harvesting map and not jump around. Ro stated that there is a Harvesting Hotline that people can call if they have questions or concerns. The numbers of the people on the Harvesting Hotline are located on the website. There was discussion about the blue machine being used and utilized correctly. The concern was that we are not wasting time where the crew is sitting around. There was discussion about selling one or two of the harvesters and then buying a full size one next year. Ro stated that the Harvesting Committee needs to get together to discuss long term planning and get some goals together for the future. It seems like every year we are scrambling to make decisions we need to have a plan. Darrel stated that he hoped that the District would seriously consider running 5 days a week. Vikki stated that we need to crunch the numbers to see if it can be done. She stated that she and Larry would be looking into it. There was a question if we could use the money we saved because of starting late this year to operate 5 days a week. Vikki stated that we have to look at the numbers. We had early payroll because of the condition of the equipment. Ro stated that according to the finances the District was currently \$3100 under in payroll for the same time last year. We are certainly going to sit down and review the finances and look for options so that we can work a 5 day work week.

iii) Operations - Linda thanked all the workers and volunteers that have put in many hours at the site and on the equipment this last month. They are still doing interviews for various positions. With Jim Sanders leaving, Tom Spinotto was made crew leader and because of that, we are down a cutting person. Tom is cutting but it is difficult for him to cut and take care of the day to day work load that a crew leader is responsible for. The District is looking for stand in cutters to help fill in when needed. Linda stated that during a break down, we are utilizing the worker by having them do other activities such as cutting the grass.

- c) **Communication** – Ro stated that the Board has seen a sneak preview of the website and she stated that she hasn't received any feedback. We are now looking into how we can turn the new site over to the host to get it up and running. The site is clean, fresh and easy to navigate through.
- d) **Lake Plan**- Ro asked Bill if there was any update on the Lake Plan. Bill stated that he sent information seeking volunteers and there are enough people for a committee. There is plenty of interest. Ro stated that a meeting really needed to be set. Bill stated that a meeting was planned right after the current Board meeting.
- 6) **Ecology**- Rich stated that he was looking for volunteers to join the Ecology Committee. Rich stated that he was looking into a memorandum of understanding with the DNR pertaining to the use of Dredge Bank Island. The Healthy Grants continue to progress with our district members. Rich stated that he would contact Ted Johnson regarding what other plants could be planted in the lake to slow down the invasive weeds. Rich stated that we are waiting for the lotus plants to emerge before placing the rest

of the buoys out. Rich stated that a year ago the board approved purchasing a sign above the existing Carol's Island sign identify the historic name of Wheaton's Island. Rich is asking for money to buy materials to erect the sign. Ro asked Rich how much he needed. Rich stated he needed \$25.00. There was discussion regarding spending. Vikki stated that someone donated the money for the purchase of the sign last year so there was no cost to the district. **Motion** was made by Larry and seconded by Vikki to allow Rich to purchase materials to install the Wheaton's Island sign. Material shall not exceed \$50.00. All in favor, non-opposed.

- 7) **Bid Specs for Transporter Update**- Joe stated that the committee met and they created a new document for the transporter specs. The Board and Committee members received the document and made their comments. Joe stated that everything has been positive so far. Ro asked about section 2.26 stability calcs and the last line where it states that stability calcs must be provided within 45 days of awarding the bid to the selected bidder. There was discussion about the stability calcs and the time frame. Bill suggested to change the 45 days to 15 days. The Board decided that 15 days was better than 45 days. Bid opening to be conducted at the July 13, 2019 Board meeting. All bids to be received no later than Thursday, July 11, 2019. Joe will send out the legal notice and notify the previous bidders.
- 8) **Marquette Lake Group/County/Packwaukee Reports** – Al stated that the next Marquette Group will meeting on Thursday, June 13th, 2019 at the County Service Center, UW Extension area. It starts at 6PM with pizza and pop. The program has to do with safety. Safety of your house, safety of your cottage, Sara Fisher from the Montello ranger station and the Montello Fire Department will be at the meeting. No Report from the County. Judy reported at the town level. Judy stated that she is responsible for the 3 boat landings. The outhouse will be getting painted and some of the dead vegetation that washed up on the Freedom Road boat landed will be taken care of. She talked to the DNR about getting some new informational signs that will replace some of the old and faded signs. Judy stated that the kiosk was a little tired and could use some painting.
- 9) **Unfinished Business** – None
- 10) **New Business** - none
- 11) **Audience Comments** – Karyn stated that next Saturday was going to be the first Buffalo Lake paddle. Anyone interested can meet at the Freedom Boat landing. They will be launching at 10:30. The goal is to do 4 of these paddles from the various boat landings. So if you like to canoe or kayak please come out and join the group. Karyn asked that when working together, we try and move forward and work cohesively and try and forget about the bitterness in the past. We need to let the old stuff go and concentrate on the future of the lake.
Ro wanted to thank everyone who has worked so hard to get us to where we are today. The volunteers the harvesting crew, committee members and board members have worked hard and are working together for the good of the lake.
Darrell felt that there was some underlying situation that caused the DNR to not grant the District an early start date. Darrell wanted someone from the Board to be a spokesperson to speak with the DNR. Al Rosenthal stated that all the lakes had the same issue. DNR was not letting the other lakes to start early so it wasn't just us. There was discussion about the early start date. The District needs to make sure we communicate with DNR about an early start date for future harvesting.
There was a comment that there has been a good change in how the Board is conducting business. There also was a comment as to how the morale of the Harvest Crew has changed. Everyone seems to be getting along much better which is making working together much better.
- 12) **Announcements**- None
- 13) **Adjournment**
 - o A **motion** was made by Larry to adjourn and seconded by Bill, all in favor. Meeting ended at 9:04AM