

Buffalo Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
Meeting Minutes
August 19, 2017

Present:

Board Members - Tom Ogden, Carol Deer, Ro Klecz, Chuck Kopesil,
Roger Naniot
Bookkeeper – Vikki Trimble
Harvesting Supervisor – Scott Preuss

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 am and was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes from the May meeting were submitted for approval. Carol motioned to accept the minutes as presented, Ro seconded and the motion passed.

Mike Hammer from the Montello Chamber of Commerce gave a presentation on their plans to propose and pay for a pier to be located off Sunset Drive on the Dredge Bank to allow dockage for boaters to use to visit downtown businesses. The pier as of now would be 6' x 50' with a ramp (with handrails) from the pier to the shore measuring 6' x '20. It would be posted no fishing and day use only. It would be policed as the rest of the area is currently. The impact on harvesting and the current Lotus beds was discussed. The plan was received favorably by all present. Roger motioned for a resolution stating the district's support for the pier proposal, Carol seconded and the motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Ro presented the Treasurer's report. General Checking balance is \$15,653.58, Operating Fund balance is \$121,744.25 and the Equipment Fund balance is \$146,985.16 for a total of \$284,382.99 in District funds. Of note is the overage in the Insurance budget due to unemployment costs. Scott has been keeping payroll in check and we are on track for a balanced budget. Cutters will be done harvesting at the end of the first week of September. The full crew will stay on for 1 week and then Scott and 1 other

employee will continue working for another 2 weeks. All payroll will be done by Sept 30th.

Budget 2018

Vikki Trimble and Ro are working together to prepared the 2018 budget which they will present to the full board on Saturday Sept.9th. Carol motioned to accept the report, Roger seconded and the motion passed.

Committees Reports

Dues & Finance – There is currently no real committee. Ro has been looking into boundary issues and has found that there are many properties that are not in the district that probably should be. A discussion on the history of the district boundaries and what would be involved with a revision of the boundaries followed. It was agreed that it probably would not be beneficial to the district to attempt redoing the boundaries.

Site – Chuck reported that a new Porta-Potty is on site and that the old needs to be disposed of. The storage container now has shelving and will be ready to accept boxes for storage soon. Boxes are currently kept at different locations and will need to be gone through to see what needs to be kept and what should be tossed.

Lake Management Plan – Preliminary report, 120 pages, is done. Onterra will do a presentation of its findings following the annual meeting on Oct 14th. Of note is the recommendation of periodic partial drawdowns. This is expected to cause concern among membership. Those concern can be discussed at the meeting. Links to the preliminary report will be available on the website and on Facebook. Printed copies will be left at each library. This will give those interested a chance to go over the report before the meeting.

Harvesting – Scott gave us an overview of the season so far including days cut, harvesting totals etc. High water levels have been beneficial. He also told us about a new cutting pattern he has been using near the causeway.

Pat Kilbey has expressed concerns about the equipment being parked at C landing and it was suggested that the district look into purchasing a lot that

is for sale on Cty Road K. It is in a good location for our needs and would ended up saving the district money in the long run. Harvesting committee will consider this option.

Our oldest cutter is taking up most of the maintenance budget. We could purchase a used cutter for around \$65,000 and convert the old cutter into a transporter. It would be more efficient to have 2 transporters working on the east side of the causeway. Currently cutters are having to wait to unload.

Scott shared a letter he received from the DNR explaining the laws regarding removal of weeds around individual piers. In short, it is not something that the district should be doing with our equipment.

Homeowners can apply for permits to do this work themselves but it is not allowable for the district to use our equipment this close to shore. We will share this information on the district's Facebook page.

Committee member Roger, Chuck, Scott and Jim Barton will go over the various issues discussed today and report back to the board.

Technology - Tom told us about the email delivery service we will be using. Carol and Tom will work on its implementation, hopefully in time for the annual meeting. The newsletter will go out after the Sept. 9th board meeting.

Ecology – Rich requested that money from Restoration fund be used to purchase a Lake Ecology Restoration used pontoon boat that would be used for lake ecology restoration projects (among other things) and the timely placement and pick up of the buoys each spring and fall and to store those buoys over winter.

This will make the process much more efficient, requiring less handling and moving of the buoys and provide secure storage for them.

Scott agreed that it would make the process much easier for the harvesting crew. Carol motioned to approve the request to purchase the boat and motor for the support of the district's restoration efforts, at a cost not to exceed \$3000, Chuck seconded and the motion passed.

County & Town – The representatives from Marquette County and the Town of Packwaukee were not present.

A board meeting to approve the 2018 budget proposal was scheduled for Sept 9th at the Packwaukee Town Hall for 9am. The District's annual meeting is scheduled for October 14th, 9:00 am at the Montello High School Community Room.

Carol motioned to adjourn the meeting, Ro seconded and the meeting was adjourned.