

DRAFT

**BUFFALO LAKE P&R DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2022,
PACKWAUKEE TOWN HALL**

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairperson Bernie Sosinsky called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. **Roll Call:** Present: Judi Nigbor, Town of Packwaukee Representative, Larry Haygood, Bernie Sosinsky, Vikki Trimble, Dwight Fenderson. Absent: Jon Vote, Marquette County Representative.
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. Minutes of August 13, 2022: Motion to Approve by Vikki Trimble, second by Judi Nigbor. Motion approved.
 - B. Minutes of August 27, 2022: Motion to Approve by Larry Haygood, second by Judi Nigbor. Motion approved.
- IV. **Changes or Additions to Agenda:** None.
- V. **Fill Open Board Seat:** Karyn Niin Kitigade and Darrel Unsinn presented as candidates; Karyn Niin Kitigade was elected.
- VI. **New Email Accounts:** Bernie Sosinski advised that the district did not have its own Email account, requiring each board and committee member to communicate using personal Email accounts. It was proposed that the Board investigate establishing a District account. Public comment was in agreement, technical help in doing so was offered, but it was advised that it would cost \$140.00 per month for each Board Member account. Larry Haygood suggested each member set up own personal district account. Public comment was that this risked losing information from members who leave the Board, but that it was the best alternative.
- VII. **Treasury Report:** Larry Haygood summarized the account balances. Bernie Sosinsky made a motion to approve the report, second by Judi Nigbor, approved.
- VIII. **Harvest Committee Report:** Darrel announced that their grant application for new equipment had been funded in the amount of \$153,587.53., and thanked Bob Fohey for

his work in securing it. Vikki Trimble noted that it had yet to be deposited, but would watch for it. Bernie Sosinsky advised that in order for a new harvester to be in service for spring of 2023, the contract for purchase had to be signed in early 2023. He also pointed out that we had trucks that exceeded the weight limit to be driven without a CDL license. Although we did have an operator last season that had one, we can't depend on one person, and CDL drivers are in very short supply. Discussion followed regarding retiring the larger trucks and replacing them with smaller trucks not requiring a CDL licensed operator. A public commenter (Mike Mariner) with trucking industry credentials confirmed that this is a trend in the industry, given the costs and regulatory burden of employing a professional driver. Following this discussion, Bob Sosinsky stated that we needed to buy a suitable truck very soon. Vikki Trimble advised that approving this purchase would require a special meeting, as it was not an agenda item for this one. A special meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, December 7 at 4:00 PM to address this new agenda item. Bob Sosinsky reiterated the need for the new harvester contract to be signed, and asked if any further Board action was required to do so. Vikki Trimble advised that the purchase was authorized at the Annual Meeting, so he could move forward.

- IX. Fish Committee Report:** Vikki Trimble advised that a donation to the fish fund was authorized at the Annual Meeting. Bernie Sosinski reported that crappie, largemouth and perch were stocked, but no walleye due to high cost. Karyn Niin Kitigade added that this took place at three landings.
- X. Lake Level Committee:** Bernie Sosinski noted that no bids had been received to perform the DNR required study; alternatives to the study needed to be investigated. Al Rosenthal noted that while other than DNR approved contractors could perform the study, it was so involved that interest in doing so was very limited. Legal action was discussed. Bernie Sosinski said he had been advised by legal counsel that this had a very small chance of succeeding. Judi Nigbor reported that a partnership with Lake Puckaway representatives had been proposed, but that the Covid epidemic prevented moving forward at that time. Puckaway Lake District Chair Dustin Esselman, in attendance as a public commenter, noted that we shared the same issues and concerns, in particular lake level limits, and should partner in addressing them. Larry Haygood pointed out that we were part of a larger watershed that also included Green Lake. Vikki Trimble said she would ask for volunteers for a watershed committee; Karyn Niin Kitigade said she would put the request on our website.
- XI. Ecology:** Karyn Niin Kitigade advised that the Healthy Lakes Grant for individual shoreline improvements was still available.
- XII. Marquette Lake Group, County and Township Reports:** Al Rosenthal reported that the Marquette Lakes Association was still active and moving forward with its agenda. Judi Nigbor reported that Marquette County faced a large budget deficit, affecting both staffing and operations; reduction in force through attrition is underway, but many positions are mandated. The County is developing a strategic plan to work through

this situation. However, it will prevent reconstruction of the causeway in 2023. -

Vikki Trimble reported that the Township funded renovations at the Hollenback landing through federal grant funds. Bernie Sosinski reported that an issue remained regarding the District's use of the Packwaukee dump. He recommended that one or more District members attend a town board meeting to raise this issue.

XIII. New Business: Bernie Sosinski noted that improvements to the District property were required by early April of 2023, including a point well installation, and electrical hook-up. He said that these were safety issues and a priority. One bid has been received for a well, and we are in contact with other contractors. A date was established for the next regularly scheduled District Board meeting: It will be held on Saturday, February 11, 2023, at 8:00 AM at the Packwaukee Town Hall.

XIV. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by Chairperson Bernie Sosinski at 9:20 AM..