

BUFFALO LAKE P&R DISTRICT QUARTERLY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES  
SATURDAY, August 13, 2022  
PACKWAUKE TOWN HALL  
8:00 a.m.

1. *Meeting was called to order* - Chairperson Al Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 8:00am.
2. *Pledge of Allegiance*
3. *Roll Call of Board Members* - Vikki Trimble, Ro Klecz, Judi Nigbor, Town of Packwaukee Representative, Al Rosenthal, and Larry Haygood. Absent Marquette County Representative, Jon Vote
4. *Changes or Additions to the Agenda* - Al Rosenthal mentioned that the changes he would like to make to the agenda would be to move agenda items 6, 7g and 10 and place them before item 6) Budget Discussion. **Motion** made by Vikki Trimble to accept the agenda as amended, seconded by Larry Haygood, Discussion none, None opposed, Approved – Absent Marquette County Representative, Jon Vote
5. *Accept Minutes* - **Motion** made by Larry Haygood to accept the 5/12/22 & 6/25/22 minutes as presented, seconded by Judy Nigbor, Discussion none, None opposed, Approved – Absent Marquette County Representative, Jon Vote
6. *Lake Level/DNR* - Bernie recapped the request to the DNR to add an additional 20 days in the spring and 15 days in the fall at the summer level so that members could get their boats and piers in and out of the water and to help with fish spawning. DNR said no. The reason the District was asking for the additional summer level to be extended was to bide some time until the District could act on the study requested from the DNR regarding the lake level and hopefully have better negotiations with DNR. RFPs have gone out to 8 engineering firms to get a dollar amount on what these studies are going to cost the District. Information cost on dredging was also asked for. RFPs are due back September 23, 2022. Even if the District were to have all the required studies done, there is no guarantee that DNR will allow the lake level increase. This will be discussed at the October Annual Meeting.
7. *Fish Committee* - Bernie stated that there will be fish stocking this fall. DNR conducted a survey and fish shocking (refer to the District's website for the report under Fish Committee). There will be an upcoming Fish Committee Meeting to determine what types of fish to stock and how fish many we can stock. The Committee will have approximately \$5200 to spend this fall. **Motion** made by Larry Haygood to donate \$2160 plus the \$1567.70 that the Fish Committee collected this year, Judy Nigbor seconded for discussion, Discussion: Vikki Trimble would like to round up the donation to \$4000. This donation would be in addition to the \$1567.70 that the Fish Committee has already collected. Judy Nigbor rescinded her second.

Larry Haygood amended the motion to donate \$4000 to the Fish Committee to be used for fish stocking this year, seconded by Vikki. Discussion –, None opposed, Approved - Absent Marquette County Representative, Jon Vote.

8. *Boating/Bouy Enforcement Responsibility*- Sue gave a background regarding boats, jet skis and a deck boat that are going too fast. Sue is requesting no wake buoys and some type of enforcement. There was confusion as to what entity is responsible for the ordinance and permits to place and maintain the buoy locations. Al will speak with the attorney to find out if the District has the authority to place buoys in another governmental jurisdiction. The Town of Packwaukee has an ordinance on the books indicating the specific locations of buoys in Packwaukee's jurisdiction. It seems that some of the buoys in general, might have shifted locations. Harvesting crew will make sure that the buoys are placed in the proper locations next season. The other concern was who enforces watercraft violators. DNR does not have the manpower to police our waterways nor do we really have the money to hire someone. It just may end up being on each individual to police the waterways. If someone observes a watercraft not abiding by the boating laws, they are to get enough information about the watercraft and operator and report it to DNR. Sue submitted letters from Charles & Debra Burton and Julie Warsksa regarding the speed of watercraft and placement of no wake buoys.

9. *Budget*- State Law requires the District to submit a balanced budget. Prices keep going up and the District will have to either cut costs, which we are at bare bones now, or increase fees. **Motion** made by Al Rosenthal to submit the budget as is at the annual meeting, seconded by Judy Nigbor, Discussion: Vikki Trimble mentioned that the carryover this year will be more than last year. Vikki stated that we have money with the carryover in case it is needed for next year. There was discussion about purchasing another cutter and conveyor. Bernie mentioned that there is a 5-year plan for equipment. Darrell stated that the District needs to look at the possibility of increasing fees because the District keeps kicking the can down the road and pretty soon there will be no carryover. Al stated that there was a motion on the floor and asked for a vote to approve the budget as presented, None opposed, Approved - Absent Marquette County Representative, Jon Vote.

10. *Committee Reports*-

a) *Finance & Dues*:

Larry suggested a 10% increase in dues. Gary and Bob mentioned that a new cutter and conveyor plus trailer would cost approximately \$275,000. The District will apply for a grant to assist in the purchase of the equipment. The cost of maintenance on the equipment is going up along with the operating costs. Al suggested that a motion be made to increase dues 10% and to establish a resolution to purchase a conveyor and a cutter to be presented at the annual meeting. **Motion** made by Larry Haygood to increase dues 10% and to create a resolution to purchase a cutter and conveyor to be presented at the annual meeting, seconded by Al Rosenthal, Discussion, A question was asked if we could present to the membership, a variety of dues increases and let the membership decide at the annual meeting what they are willing to pay. Al stated that he would ask the attorney if that could be done. Ro Klecz stated that she would like to see a 50% increase in dues. It is a yearly fee. For someone who pays \$250 a year, the new fee would add an additional \$125.00 a year.

Buffalo Lake has one of the lowest lake owner fees in the area. The vote was taken for a 10% dues increase and 5 Opposed, 1 YES, Motion Defeated - Absent Marquette County Representative, Jon Vote.

**Motion** made by Ro Klecz to increase the dues to 50%, Seconded by Judy Nigbor, Discussion, Judy polled the audience to get an idea of how members felt about an increase in dues. There was no opposition from the audience with the understanding of how the money was going to be spent. A question was asked, what do the other lakes associations charge their members in the area. Al stated that many of the other lake associations dues are assessed by the value of the property. It was brought up that Montello Lake was going to be voting on increasing their dues for future dredging. Their fees were going to be increasing to approximately \$700.00 per Montello Lake member for the next 7 – 10 years. Judy stated that if the Board presents a dues increase and it is voted down, then where are we? Why can't the membership have a say about dues and amend it at the annual meeting? It was suggested that a possible 10% increase in dues be implemented to cover operational costs and then have a temporary special assessment of 50% to cover equipment for a certain amount of time. The concern is to make sure that the Board does not have to come back to membership in the near future, asking for another increase. Al is going to speak with the attorney as to how the board could present dues to the membership at the annual meeting that would give membership options. **Motion** made by Larry Haygood to tabled Ro Klecz's motion until Al can speak with the attorney about dues and special assessments as non-discussion, All in Favor, None opposed. Absent Marquette County Representative, Jon Vote.

*b) Harvesting Committee:*

i. Update from Committee

Gary stated that there have been minor break downs, the crew has done a good job this season and hopes they come back next year. There will be a small cost of living pay increase for those who come back. Bob stated that they had worked hard and that they had watched costs. Cutter #4 and 2 conveyors need to be replaced. Finding parts is extremely difficult and the equipment is very old and worn out. There is no running water available so appoint well is needed on the property. There was a question about why some laterals were cut in a different direction. Bob stated that they were trying something different and that Sarah on the harvesting committee had recommend the change in direction to see if it would make a difference in the flow and weeds.

*c) Communications - Nothing*

*d) Ecology - Nothing*

*e) Marquette Lake Group/County/Town Reports –* Al stated that the Marquette Lake Association is having their annual meeting on September 8 and that it was an important meeting. There are 16 Lakes in Marquette County that are involved with the association. The meeting starts at 6:00pm and will be held at the County's Service Center on Underwood. Al stated that Causeway will be done next year. Judy spoke about the ARPA Grant Funds that still need to go to the County Board for final approval.

The following projects that should have approval are \$10,000 for Veteran's Memorial Park, \$5,000 Fish Committee for the fish stocking, \$22,000 for Hollenbeck Boat Landing for upgrades to the boat launch and \$500,000 towards the Causeway (At the time of this writing all of the mentioned projects were awarded the grants from the American Rescue Plan Act Stabilization Grant, ARPA). Judy mentioned on the Town level that Terra Summersberger was hired as Town Clerk to finish out the term that was left by Courtney Trimble who was hired by Marquette County as their fulltime Clerk. Vikki and Judy both mentioned that the Town will have a referendum on the ballot in November to have both the Town Clerk and Treasurer be appointed positions instead of being elected positions. The reason to change to an appointment would be, that the Town could then go outside of the County. With the increasing requirements and responsibilities, it is making it very difficult to find qualified candidates to fill the positions that meet the qualifications.

11. *Unfinished Business* – Gary mentioned existing the garbage situation down at the District's Property. We need someone to take the garbage to the dump. Because we are a nontax paying entity. Lance will not allow the District to dump garbage at the Packwaukee dump.
12. *New Business* – Annual Meeting will be held at the County's Service Center on Underwood in Montello at 9:00am on October 8, 2022. Al asked to have another board meeting on August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 8:00am. Judy will not be able to attend that board meeting. Anyone interested in running for a Board position please contact a Board member. There are two (2 year) seats up for re-election and one seat that the Board will have to appoint due to a resignation.
13. *Adjournment* - **Motion** made by Larry Haygood to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:39am

Respectfully Submitted by Ro Klecz