

Buffalo Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Regular Meeting

February 22, 2014

Minutes

Board Members Present: Bill Lewis, Tom Ogden, Frank Breitenbach, Joseph Oravetz, Carol Deer, Jim Barton.

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:04 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Minutes

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

3. Treasurer's Report

Total in all accounts as of December 31 was \$206,668.86. Operating Fund balance is \$71,874.98, Equipment Fund is \$125,796.86, and general checking account balance is \$10,319.43. Frank motioned to approve the Treasurer's Report, Joe seconded, motion passed.

4. Pay increase for Harvesting Crew

After research of salaries in other districts, Bill recommended an increase of \$1/hr. for this year. Joe made a motion to accept the increase and Frank seconded. Motion passed.

5. Participate in Water Sampling

Carol stated that she was approached by Lake Puckaway to go in with them on a water sampling project. The objective is to see the quality of the water at the input and output and determine remedies for any found problems. They would like to meet with us to discuss. It is currently estimated that it may cost \$3,500-\$4,500 per year. Joe suggested that there are kits that can be purchased in order to take on ourselves. Either way, the DNR needs baseline data in order to even participate financially. Joe made a motion to pursue meeting with Lake Puckaway and determine costs and involvement and Frank seconded. Motion carried.

6. Second Emergent Plant Site

Rich reported on the activities of the plantings. Westfield has planted bull rushes. High Mark is doing arrowhead plants. With the drawdown it is a great chance to plant. 300 plants will cost \$400. Joe recommended that if this is done that there is follow up to see how they are doing. Bill said that funds should come from the general budget. Joe made a motion to have \$400 applied to the site. Frank seconded. Motion carried.

7. Island Sign

We were in need of \$125 for a sign, however Naparelli Tire donated the funds.

8. Committee Reports

- a) **Dues & Finance**—Jim reported that they had a meeting. They are going to continue to look at needs and gather information to make more intelligent decisions. With not knowing how much harvesting will be done, we won't know what will be left. Also looking at funding options, increasing assessments, and other options.
- b) **Harvesting**—Bill said due to the drawdown/dam, people are looking for improvements in program. People are asking for what the options are. This is why the harvesting committee was formed. What can we do? What is the cost? All the paperwork is completed for the new harvester, proposal received for \$214,000, and submitting to DNR for potential grant. Jims spoke about the challenges with employment agreements. The employees have not signed them in the past and now they have been asked to do so. They are not comfortable signing them. Jim would like to still be in charge of the hiring/firing as he always was for the last 12

years. There have not been any problems whatsoever. Joe recommended that a personnel committee is formed to document job descriptions, document the process and to have something to follow, should anything happen that Jim is not in this position. Joe motioned to form this committee, Frank seconded, motion carried.

- c) **Technology**—Tom reported that we spent \$200 of the \$1000 budgeted for the website in order to have a separate page for committee reports. To date, only the Ecology Committee has submitted anything. It was recommended that Tom set up an email contact on the website so questions could be asked of the Board. Tom will set up, receive the emails and distribute accordingly. Motion was made by Frank, Jim seconded. Motion passed.
- d) **Water Quality**— Carol reported earlier.
- e) **Site Committee**—Jim stated that an ad for contract mowing will be necessary for land and funds are in the budget for maintenance. Storage buildings need work and we also need room for file storage. Also need to get rid of trash.
- f) **Ecology Committee**—Rich reported about the grant for the Lotus committee, placement of the buoys, GPS unit and will report regularly about the funds as they are spent. Will need to supply a copy of the charges, bills, etc. He is also working with 3 groups on shoreline restoration and demonstration sites.

9. Marquette County Lake Group

Al reported that the next meeting is May 8, 2014 at 6 p.m. Boat safety is the theme. Anyone born after 1989 needs the boat safety course. They will also discuss water quality issues. Pizza and pop will be served. There is a convention in Stevens Point 4/24-26 and Bill stated that he plans on going. It was recommended that the expenses are paid for. Frank motioned to pay for expenses, for the Board to pay. Gary seconded. Motion passed.

10. Town/County

Nothing else from Joe. Frank said county complete C boat ramp and the causeway grant was received.

11. Old Business

Bill stated that the dredge bank is on schedule and water will be back in the spring. Finalize sheeting and other final steps in May.

12. New Business

Paul Ratzburg presented his vision for beginning a Fish Committee. He would like the reports that he assembled to be put on website. Today he is just asking for the opinion of the Board for a committee to be formed. It was suggested that the monies should flow through the Board. He is also interested in sending an email blast and possibly use a flyer on letterhead. Looking at 2015 for fish stocking. They would like to meet in March. Motion was made by Joe to set up committee. Frank seconded and motion carried..

Note New Time:

Next Meeting—Next regular meeting 5/17/14 @12:30 p.m, Packwaukee Town Hall