

Minutes of Buffalo Lake P & R District Meeting
Saturday, August 10th, 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 8:00 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:

- **Motion** to approve agenda by Judy and seconded by Larry, all in favor.

4) Accept Minutes from the 7-13-19 Board Meeting.

- **Motion** by Vikki to approve the 7-13-19 minutes with corrections, seconded by Larry, 4 in favor, 1 abstained.

5) Request from Endeavor Fire Chief to approve funding for 2 floatation suits

Chief Boudeau from the Endeavor Fire Department requested funding for 2 insulated floatation suits to be used on Buffalo Lake for water rescue when needed. Currently the Endeavor Fire Department must wait for either Briggsville or Montello to assist with a water rescue which could take up to 20 minutes. The Fire Department obtains their funding through donations. Discussion: Vikki stated that we had money in the Site Restoration line item if the Board wanted to act now. **Motion** by Larry to donate not to exceed \$750.00 to the Endeavor Fire Department for the purchase of one insulated floatation suit. Money to be taken out of the Site Restoration Fund, seconded by Vikki, all in favor.

6) Committee Reports:

- a) **Finance & Dues:** Checking & Operating fund has a balance of \$ 183,194.15 the Equipment fund has a balance of \$179,031.35 **Motion** to accept financial reports by Judy and seconded by Ro, no discussion, all in favor.

- i) **Personnel:** Due to an employee illness a cutter was taken off the east end and put on the west end. There are still two cutters on the east end instead of 3 and one on the west end.

- b) **Harvesting:**

- ii) Tom reported that the crew has taken a total 656 truckloads of weeds out of the lake to date. The crew is averaging 7-8 truckloads of weeds a day. There has been about 45 various down time hours total. Vikki asked when we can expect the harvesting operations to wind down. Tom reported that the crew will start pulling equipment the week of Labor Day just like we always have done. Tom asked for funds to rent some steam cleaners to clean off the machines when they are pulled. It was determined that it was part of the maintenance and that extra funding doesn't need to be requested. Chris stated that she had a request from someone wanting weeds. She was told to get together with Tom and give him the information. Tom stated that lotus buoys are where they should be and that the lotus didn't pop up until July this year.

Some buoys had to be moved once the lotus started appearing. Larry stated that a concerned citizen called the DNR stating that our equipment was leaking into the lake. The DNR came out to investigate and found the District to be in compliance by using oil that is biodegradable.

iii) Equipment: Selling of the Blue Harvester & Conveyor: Ro stated that the Board didn't officially vote to sell the blue harvester & conveyor/with trailer. Judy asked if anyone has evaluated the equipment. Bill stated that whoever is going to sell it will evaluate it and that the District should put the transporter for sale as well. There was talk by Inland that the blue harvester would be in the \$50,000 to \$55,000 range. Inland & Aquarius are interested in selling our equipment. Inland would charge 5% and Aquarius would connect us with potential buyers. Jim Sanders stated that Marine Harvester Parts and Supplies (Phil) will sell the equipment, but he will charge us 20%. Judy asked if there was any reason why we couldn't have all of them jump in and try to sell. Vikki asked if we had to sign a contract to sell the equipment. Larry stated that we did with Phil. Larry will give both Inland & Aquarius a call about selling the equipment. **Motion** made by Judy to sell the blue harvester, blue conveyor with trailer, and the transporter Vikki seconded, Discussion: Vikki asked why we don't keep the transporter. Jim stated that we use to have two working transporters in the past. Tom stated that we should keep the transporter especially at this time of the year. Tom stated that there is a lot of down time waiting for the transporter. He stated that the transporter is operating great and that it is already paid for so why should we sell it. Tom's opinion was that it is beneficial to keep the transporter. Bill asked Tom if we used the third cutter during the operation this year and if there was any data? Tom stated that he didn't have the data with him but yes, he had the data. Ro suggested to bring the selling of the transporter back to the Harvesting Committee for discussion and bring their recommendations to the Board for action. **Judy amended her motion to only sell the blue harvester, blue conveyer w/trailer, Vikki seconded, all in favor.**

- c) **Operations:** Linda stated that a new position was created which she wasn't involved in. Larry stated that Dave was hired because things were not getting done on the site. Dave has nothing to do with the crew and that he has been assisting the mechanic, ordering parts and taking care of the site. Ro stated that somethings have happened that needed immediate oversight. Larry apologized to Linda about not including her on the hiring decision.
- d) **Communication:** The website has been ready for a while, but we were not able to get access to the site that holds the domain name. That should be corrected soon, and the web site should be up and running in the next few weeks. Karyn stated that we have been getting a lot of communication via the Facebook site. One post received 800 views. The District's social media platform has increased considerably this year and it is nice to see membership communicating.
- e) **Lake Plan:** Karyn stated Chris is going around and taking pictures of purple loosestrife plant that is along the shore line. Although a pretty plant, it is highly invasive. The Lake Plan Committee will be sending their findings via Facebook and email letting the district members know where the purple loosestrife is located on the lake, why it is invasive and how to get rid of it. Chris stated that she is reaching out to the Master Gardeners Club who work with EDU about the beetle program. The beetles eat only the purple loosestrife and then eventually die off. Karyn stated that she contacted Anna Cisar, Regional Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator to come and talk to Buffalo Lake District members about invasive species this year, but she is not available until May 9, 2020. Karyn said that having Anna talk on Saturday may bring in more interested people. Pat Kilby, Marquette County Conservationist would like to speak at the Annual Meeting in October to talk about the Healthy Lake Grant Program. Chris stated that her and Karyn have their gardens in. If anyone wants to view their gardens and see what is involved with the Healthy Lake Grant program, Chris is open to tour her yard.

Chris stated that her and Karyn are going to make up a list of vendors that they used for their plants. Some plants/hardscapes are a little more difficult to locate and this should make it easier for people to purchase plants. Chris will post that information for others who may be interested in planting a garden that complies with the Healthy Lake Grant Program or those who just want to plant a native garden. Karyn & Chris will be contacting the newspaper promoting their gardens and working with Pat Kilby to promote the Healthy Lake Grant throughout Marquette County next Spring. Ro stated that the District will be doing a newsletter for October. If there is information you would like to submit for the newsletter, please let Ro know but be mindful as to how big the article is. The newsletter must be sent by first class mail per Wisconsin State Statue notifying the District Members of the annual Board meeting which is October 12, 2019 at the Montello High School. Registration starts at 8:30am the meeting begins at 9:00am.

- 7) **Ecology-** Rich stated that we need to look at replacing 3 of the lotus buoys which are either missing or broken. We would look at purchasing smaller buoys because they are not as expensive as the big ones. There was discussion about Wheaton's Island sign. Rich stated that he should just resign because he is not happy with how he things are going with the both the Ecology and Lake Plan Committees. Ro stated that the Ecology and the Lake Plan Committees need to get together and discuss their goals and plans for the future and come back to the Board with their findings on the pros and cons of the possibility of merging the two committees or making Ecology a subcommittee of the Lake Plan Committee. Ro asked Rich if he was asking for money to replace the missing buoys. Rich stated that he would have to come back to the Board next meeting with costs.
- 8) **Marquette Lake Group/County/Packwaukee Reports:** Marquette Group/Al not present. County/ Jon not present. Packwaukke/Judy stated that she did leave a message for the person in charge of the life jacket program but has not heard back.
- 9) **Unfinished Business:** none
- 10) **New Business:** - Linda stated that a second pier was repaired due to some minor damage. Karyn Kitigade stated that out in the water east from her home there is a log that needs to be removed. Tom will look into that. Ro mentioned 2 Board positions are up for election in October. If anyone is interested to serve on the board, please contact a District member. We need to know no later than September 14, 2019 if you will be running in order to get your name on the ballot. Any names that come in after that date will have to be write-ins on the voting ballot.
- 11) **Audience Comments:** Gary stated when the equipment is pulled, it should be looked at by the mechanic Ron, to determine what will be needed and what parts should be order so that the District is ready to go next year. Larry stated that was in the plan. Ro stated that ordering the parts this year would depend on the budget. Ro stated that he District has spent a lot of money to get the equipment up and running this year. The intention is to have Ron go through all the equipment, service and winterize it and make a list for what is needed for next season. Don asked if there was any word on the reconstruction of the dam breach on County C. Ro stated that she has been in contact with the DNR and that they are working with the property owner on getting the dam fixed part of the problem is that the water has been high. Joe asked if the District has set up any budget workshop meetings. Vikki stated not yet. Larry stated he would let Joe know when that would be. Gary asked to be involved also.
- 12) **Announcements:** None
- 13) **Adjournment:** Motion by Larry to adjourn and seconded by Vikki, all in favor. Meeting ended at 9:16AM

Next regular Board meeting schedule for September 14, 2019 at 8:00am. Packwaukee Town Hall