

BUFFALO LAKE P&R DISTRICT QUARTERLY MEETING
SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2022
PACKWAUKEE TOWN HALL
8:00 a.m.

1. *Meeting was called to order:* Chairperson Joe Dion called the meeting to order at 8:00am.
2. *Roll Call of Board Members:* Vikki Trimble, Ro Klecz, Joe Dion, Judi Nigbor, Town of Packwaukee Representative and Larry Haygood. Absent Jon Sheller, Marquette County Representative and Al Rosenthal
3. *Changes or Additions to the Agenda:* **Motion** made by Vikki Trimble to accept the agenda as is, and seconded by Larry Haygood, Discussion none, None opposed, Approved - Absent Jon Sheller and Al Rosenthal
4. *Acceptance of the Minutes:* **Motion** made by Vikki Trimble to accept the following minutes from August 14th, 2021, September 4th, 2021 and November 13th, 2021, seconded by Larry Haygood. Discussion none, None opposed, Approved - Absent Jon Sheller and Al Rosenthal
5. *Lake Level Petition – Status, Possible Action:* Joe Dion stated that the District received a reply letter from the DNR stating that they received our petition to raise the lake levels. The DNR came back with a list of actions that the District must do, which includes 8 studies. Once DNR receives the additional information and studies they will then review the District’s petition request. In the meantime, the District must respond to the DNR within 90 days to let them know that we are working on gathering the requested information. If the District does not respond to the DNR, the DNR will close the petition request.

Joe Dion requested that a special meeting be called between the Board and the Lake Level Committee to discuss the requirements and the next steps on how to proceed with DNR. Judy stated that we need to respond to the DNR right away and that we can work out how we are going to go forward with DNR’s request at a later time. **Motion** made by Judy Nigbor to respond back to the DNR telling them that the District is in acknowledgement of their letter and that the District is requesting time to gather the information to submit to the DNR. Seconded by Vikki Trimble, Discussion: Bernie stated that everyone needs some time to digest the letter from DNR, but thought it was interesting that at the end of the DNR letter it was mentioned why was dredging not part of the District’s Lake Management Plan. Dredging is very expensive, possibly a million dollars a mile but should be considered. There are grants that the District could possibly obtain. The District would still have to come up with a substantial monetary portion. Scott stated that we should consider herbicide weed control but would like to do a controlled study in an area of the lake to see what the results would provide. Vikki stated that Williams Lake conducts herbicide weed control. Scott stated that he would volunteer his time trying a test area for herbicide weed control. Vikki Trimble stated that Onterra could possibly already have conducted some of these studies already when they created the Lake Management Plan for the District several years ago. None opposed. Approved - Absent Jon Sheller and Al Rosenthal

6. Committee Reports

a. Finance & Dues:

Checking Account \$7,667.40, Operating Fund \$171, 330.88 and Equipment Fund \$201,321.86. Vikki Trimble stated that the reason we have so much money right now is because the District received tax money from the tax bills. **Motion** made by Ro Klecz to accept the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Judy Nigbor. Discussion none. None opposed. Approved - Absent Jon Sheller and Al Rosenthal

b. Harvesting Committee:

Gary Kershaw stated that equipment maintenance will start around April 18th. Diesel fuel costs will be more this year with the increase in the price of gas. The Harvesting Committee voted in favor of replacing some damaged buoys, anchors and chains at a cost not to exceed \$3500. Joe Dion stated 19 buoys would be purchased, 15 Centerline buoys, 3 Hazard buoys and 1 Slow no Wake, buoy. We only have \$1500 to pay for buoys in the fund. \$2000 could be taken out of the restoration to help pay for the needed replacement buoys. **Motion** made by Larry Haygood to move \$2000 out the restoration fund and add to the buoy fund, not to exceed \$3500 for the purchase the buoys, chains and anchors, (chains and anchors are for the buoys) seconded by Ro Klecz. Discussion none: Judy Nigbor asked Gary Kershaw if there were any other monetary amounts that needed to be voted on. Gary Kershaw stated no. None opposed. Approved - Absent Jon Sheller and Al Rosenthal.

Vikki Trimble mentioned that she saw in the harvesting minutes that there was talk about changing the placement or adding buoys to the waterway. Placement change or addition of buoys must be done via a Packwaukee Town Ordinance. Judy Nigbor mentioned that the channel markers were permitted by DNR years ago but if you add additional buoys to the waterway, the District would have to go through a permit process with DNR. Joe Dion stated that he will make sure that all buoy locations will be updated when the permit is applied for.

The Harvesting Committee voted to allow the County Highway Department to use the District's property for staging during construction of the Causeway. Judy Nigbor asked about the timeline for the construction of the new District building. Gary Kershaw stated that construction is expected to take place this summer. Judy Nigbor stated that she was asked by the Packwaukee Town Board about using the District's property for a temporary recycling drop-off while the Causeway is under construction. Joe Dion asked Judy Nigbor if the District's site is used, what will be the hours of operations? Judy Nigbor didn't know if it would just Saturdays or if a Wednesday operation would be added. There were many questions regarding how the County wants to use the District's property during the Causeway construction. Judy suggested that the Harvesting Committee go back to the County to find out how they are planning to use the district's property and how long they want to use it for. **Motion** made by Larry Haygood to send the County's request to use the District's property back to the Harvesting Committee so that the Harvesting Committee can gather more

information as to how the County plans on using the District's property, how long they plan on using it and who will be using it, (County or Subcontractor), seconded by Judy Nigbor. Discussion none. None opposed. Approved - Absent Jon Sheller and Al Rosenthal

Motion made by Larry to allow the Township use of the District's property for temporary recycling. Seconded by Vikki Trimble. Discussion: Judy Nigbor stated that she would anticipate that the temporary recycling location on the District's property would operate just on Saturdays. Joe stated that Saturday recycling would be less of a conflict with the construction and the District's operations. Larry stated that he wanted to let the Township know that the District is willing to let them use the District's property as a temporary recycling site while the Causeway is closed during construction. None opposed. Approved - Absent Jon Sheller and Al Rosenthal

c. Communications: Nothing

d. Ecology: Nothing

e. Fish Committee:

Joe Dion had two things from the Fish Committee. One is the Fish Committee report, which he will post on the website and the other is a Bulletin which is about the new Walleye Sonic Tagging Study that is underway. There are sensors that were installed down by the dam which tracks the walleye. Joe stated that he will post the bulletin as news on the website. There was a question asked if private donations were taken by the Fish Committee, the answer was yes. Joe was going to check and see if the tackle boxes were in the trailer so that they could be placed in various locations so that the public can make donations.

f. Lake Level Committee:

Bernie Sosinsky wanted to make sure that the special meeting was set between the Lake Committee and the Board so that we can go over the information in the DNR letter. Joe mentioned that the approved Lake Plan and the amendment are on website which some of the information may already done. The date for the special meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2022, at 8:00am.

7) Marquett Lake Group/County/Town Reports

No reports for the Marquette Lake Group or the County. Judy Nigbor mentioned that there is going to be new concrete replacement for the Freedom boat landing this Spring. The town talked about using the material that is pulled out Freedom boat landing, if in good shape, they are hoping to place it at the Hollenbeck boat landing, making sure that the proper channels have been gone through (permits). Judy stated that Vikki Trimble was instrumental in getting the funding for the Freedom Boat Landing by working through the grant process. The Marquette Tourism Board is covering the portion where the grant stops.

8) Unfinished Business – None

9) New Business – None

10) Announcements: Larry Haygood stated that he will be attending this year's State Convention in April if his work schedule allows.

11) Adjournment: **Motion** made by Larry Haygood to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:02am, Seconded by Ro Klecz, None opposed, Approved - Absent Jon Sheller and Al Rosenthal

Respectfully Submitted by Ro Klecz