

A Minute with our Chairperson - Ro

It is sad to think that the summer season is winding down soon and there's only a few more good weather weeks before we put our boats away for the season.

But we as a District still have much more to do.

I would like to remind everyone that our annual business meeting is **October 12, 2019**.

At the district annual business meeting, district members will be asked to do a few things;

- 1) Vote for two open board seats
- 2) Vote to approve the annual budget
- 3) Vote and provide Input on signing an agreement with the DNR to maintain the eroding shoreline and continue with ecological/education programs on Wheaton's Island aka Dredge Island. More information about Wheaton's Island is further down in this email. [Click here](#)

I thought I would take a minute to explain how the election process work.

The District is calling all interested parties who want to serve a 3-year elected term for two open board positions.

The District will need to know if you are interested in running for a board seat no later than 4:00PM on September 12, 2019 in order to get your name on the ballot.

Any person(s) expressing interest after that date will have to be a write-in candidate the day of the election.

Chairperson, Treasurer & Secretary are determined in closed session by the board members the day of the election.

There are 7 board members. Two positions are appointed. One by Marquette County & the other by the Town of Packwaukee. The other five positions are voted in by district membership on staggered years.

Who Can Vote: To vote at annual meetings of the lake district, a voter must be a U.S. citizen over 18 years of age who is either:

1. An elector (a qualified voter who resides in the district)
2. An owner of property within the district (but does not reside here full time):
 - A person whose name appears as an owner of real property on the tax roll
 - A person who owns title to real property even though the person's name does not appear on the tax roll (i.e. a spouse)
 - A person who is the official representative, officer or employee authorized to vote on behalf of a trust, foundation, corporation, association or other organization owning real property in the district.

Determining Qualifications for Property Owners In order to determine the qualifications of property owners for voting purposes, the district obtains a copy of the tax roll and will have it available at the annual meeting.

Eligible voters will be checked off as they arrive and given a colored card or other identification to indicate their qualification to vote. Persons whose names appear on the tax roll are qualified to

vote. If a person is not named on the tax roll, it is up to that person to provide evidence to the district that he or she is an owner of property or a designated representative of an organizational property owner. Wisconsin law does not define what evidence of ownership is sufficient for a person not named on the tax roll or for an official representative of an organization. Some lake districts require prospective voters who are not named on the tax roll to provide either: (1) a copy of a deed indicating ownership of the property; or (2) a letter on the stationery of an organization owning property which clearly authorizes the person to vote on behalf of that organization.

Voting Details: Each qualified voter is entitled to cast one vote at the annual meeting. Ownership of more than one parcel of real estate within the district **does not** entitle the owner to more than one vote. Corporations, governmental bodies and other organizational owners are treated as single owners with one vote.

Commissioners appointed by the county or town/village/city are eligible to vote at the annual meeting only if they qualify as lake district property owners or electors.

Chapter 33 does not specify voting procedures such as a voice vote or show of hands, except that:

- Elections of commissioners must be done by secret ballot
- **No absentee ballots or proxies are permitted. You must be present to vote!**

There is no quorum requirement for the annual meeting.

If you are running for a board position and would like membership to know more about you, please send me or any board member a short bio of your self along with your vision on how you would make the Lake District operate better and we will post it on Facebook, website and send it out via email to membership.

Membership will also be voting to approve the 2020 Operating & Equipment Budgets.

As always there will be the season end review of the district's harvesting operations. This is a good time for members to voice their suggestions and comments on how the district handled this year's harvesting season.

Pat Kilbey, Marquette County Conservationist, will do a short presentation about the Healthy Lakes Grants which a number of our members received this year. You'll learn how you can sign up to receive a grant in 2020.

Dredge Island/Wheaton Island Information

There was talk at the beginning of the year about Dredge Island/Wheaton Island. For members who are unfamiliar with this subject, it is the little island that is closer to Montello where people like to dock their boats, swim and gather with friends. Currently, the island's shoreline is eroding at an alarming rate. The island is technically owned by the DNR but unfortunately not maintained by them. The District could sign an intergovernmental agreement that would allow the District to maintain the island's shoreline on front half of the island and allow ecological and

educational programs to continue on the back half of the island. By signing an agreement of use with the DNR, it would allow the District to apply for grants which would help to offset the cost of shoreline restoration and ecological programs. This would be a volunteer driven project. Your input at the Annual Meeting will determine if this project goes forward.

***Personal message from Ro** - I am so proud that I had the opportunity to be the 2019 Chairperson of the Buffalo Lake District. Every volunteer, employee and Board Member overcame past adversities and worked together to give membership a beautiful lake that they could enjoy with their family and friends.*

We have certainly set the bar high for the next season harvesting, but with the amazing group of people we have, I am positive we will be able to reach that goal once again.

With that being said, if you are not ready or able to commit to a board position, I implore you to think about volunteering. Without the amazing volunteers so we had this year, we couldn't have a had such a fantastic season that came to be!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Important Upcoming Meetings

A regular board meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2019 @ 8:00am at the Packwaukke Town Hall and the **annual business meeting** is scheduled for October 12, 2019 @ 9:00am (8:30am registration begins) at Montello High School. More information on the annual meeting will be sent out via US mail, email, Facebook and website.

Newsletter

If you have information you would like sent to membership via our paper - US mail - newsletter, please submit information to Ro Klecz email doginspector@yahoo.com. I ask that you be mindful of the content as it is a huge postage cost when sending the newsletter/annual meeting notice.

Website, Social Media, Newsletters

Lastly, I hope as a board, we have done as our membership asked, and did a better job of keeping you informed.

Please keep an eye out for our new and improved website to be rolling out soon. Judy Rogala deserves a big thank you for that. Another big thank you goes out to Karyn Niin Kitigade for boosting the use and participation of our social media. Everyone's participation on Facebook - stories, comments, questions, photos - has helped to create a stronger, friendlier, more involved, Buffalo Lake Community.

**Coming together is the beginning,
Keeping together is progress,
Working together is success!**

Henry Ford