

Buffalo Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Harvesting Committee Meeting

January 13, 2018

Packwaukee Library

Committee Members Present: Harvesting Committee Chairman, Chuck Kopesil, Roger Naniot, Jim Barton, Bill Lewis and Harvesting Supervisor Scott Preuss

1. The meeting was called to order

9:00am followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chuck asked the Harvesting Committee members to introduce themselves. Chuck stated that he was happy to see how big the turnout was for this meeting. He asked everyone to please state their name when they wanted to speak and to have only one person to speak at a time.

Chuck read a brief opening statement.

The harvesting crew will cut as many rounds of the lake as the budget allows from which ever map is decided on today. Previously to 1999 there was never a map used to cut the lake until 2017. No one had any idea back then as to what anyone was cutting. Chuck stated that the current harvesting maps that are posted on all machines have been approved by Ted Johnson from the DNR and that the common goal is for all of us to be working together. No special services of cutting shall be provided to anyone. Chuck explained the process of approving a harvesting map. The Harvesting Committee makes recommendations to the Board that are in line with the lake management plan. The Board then approves or denies the changes by voting on the map at a quarterly meeting. Once the map is approved, the Board then submits a permit and the map to the DNR for approval. Chuck stated that there is currently no approved map for 2018. That is why we are here today to make recommendations as to cutting for the 2018 harvesting season.

Chuck gave an overview of the last 18 years from 1995 -2015 when Jim Sanders ran the harvesting program. Jim did not have a map of the lake nor was he instructed as to how to cut the lake. In 2016 Ray was in charge of cutting, he was also not given a copy of the map nor did he follow a map.

Last year Chuck reviewed the permit requirements and the permit states that every piece of machinery must be equipped with a map so that every employee has access to the current harvesting map and permit. There are 3 different maps originally of the lake. Map #1 is an original ariel view of the lake from 2002 – modified in 2006 showing 374 acres of cutting. Map # 2 is a map that Bill Lewis submitted for approval to the DNR for the cutting years of

2016- 2018 showing 188 acres of cutting. Map 2 was modified based on DNR's visit to the lake and Onterra's Lake Management Plan. The enhanced the cuttings by the causeway are because of the large culverts that were initiated into the road, another cutting to improve the initial flow from the causeway east, a cutting down the middle of the lake to open things up and increase the natural flow of the water. This extra cutting added another 49 acres of cutting for a total of 237 acres which was a 26% increase to Bill's original permit for the cutting season during 2016 and 2017.

The 2018 goal for the harvesting season is to have a map on each piece of equipment, stick to the map, will get approval from Ted Johnson before any cutting changes are made. Will bring any changes to the Board first. There will be favoritism including cutting by piers and cutting extra laterals. When the harvesting crew does this it takes away from the cutting of the lake and affects everyone. We will work to stay on budget, implement regular updates to be posted on facebook and on the website communicating cutting progress, equipment breakdowns, equipment maintenance and have regular harvesting committee meetings.

Chuck asked if there were any comments and or questions about his opening statement.

Bill Lewis stated that his issue was that in the past the District would have open discussions and asked if certain Board members if they received a map at the annual board meeting in October. Roger said no, Ro said no, Vicki stated she was not a Board member at the time, Carol stated that she received one. Carol stated that the Onterra representative had maps to hand out at the meeting. Bill stated that the statement was, were board members given maps at the annual meeting. Frank was asked by Bill if he had received a map before the meeting, Frank said no. Bill stated that there was a lot of information at the annual meeting and assumed that was why everyone was at the meeting today.

Bill stated that the District hasn't had an accurate harvesting map since 1987. Bill brought an ariel view of a map that showed laterals. Bill stated that the map depicted 374 acres of cutting. Bill asked "Roger when did you authorize Scott to be the representative for Buffalo Lake to DNR, finish out the lake plan and develop a map and submit it to the DNR". Roger answered that it is the responsibility of the Board not for Scott. Bill asked Ro the same questions, Ro stated that she was not on the Board if that happened. Carol was asked the same question. Carol stated that she didn't believe that happened while she was on the Board. Bill stated that he wanted to give a little history and that this all started last year. Bill stated that somebody brought him a detailed view of the harvesting operation. It was not a map but an ariel view of what was cut. It was an earlier one and the laterals are shown going the wrong direction. Bill gave Roger a piece of paper to read aloud. Roger read an Aquatic Management plan from the year 2000. Roger asked why he was reading it. Bill stated that it was for a little history. Bill stated that the ariel view of the map was incorrect and that it wasn't even a discussion point.

Roger read the Aquatic Management report from 2000.

Bill stated that we have been harvesting 375 acres since 2000. Bill stated that the 2000 permit was what was originally approved and that there have been several modifications to the map over the years.

Scott asked if Onterra was involved in 2000. Roger answered no.

Bill asked Roger to read another document, Bill mentioned that the last document that he had Roger read stated that the district had been cutting 375 acres with the laterals going in the wrong direction.

Roger stated that Bill handed him a hand drawn map that was not to scale which showed a new cutting pattern.

Bill stated that what Roger was reading was the steps the District took to change the lateral pattern.

Roger stated that he was involved back in 2009 when they changed the cutting patterns with input from a number of engineers and a number of residents. Roger stated that the cutting pattern was changed to what it is now. Roger read the minutes from 2009 harvesting committee meeting, the subcommittee of the Harvesting Committee met several times over the course of the last several months regarding the proposed change in the cutting patterns, laterals of the lake. The subcommittee has agreed on the proposed changes and map and will present the recommendations to the District Commission at their quarterly meeting on Saturday, February 21, 2009. The revised cutting pattern was approved by the Commissioners at the February 21, 2009 meeting with the instructions to submit the final changes to the DNR for the final permit approval. Approval was expected from the DNR. The plan change will occur over a period of several years and will basically reverse the current lateral configuration. The new laterals will begin at the same point on the shore line as before but will now go from that point on the centerline towards the east. Think of the cutting plan from less than to greater and then continuing as before to the main channel. As anticipated, this change will allow for greater flow and sediment into the main channel and allow for a cleaner lake and cleaner shore line. Depending totally on financing and the growth of aquatic plants throughout the year the lateral widths might be able to be an increase. The lotus plan as presented in the previous meeting would be incorporated into the overall plan for 2009. While there is not set maximum amount that can be cut. The DNR will allow the whole lake to be cut. Beside it is unrealistic given the funding from the district dues.

Roger read addendum for Lotus Plants. Roger stated that there must be more to the minutes from 2009 he was reading.

Roger read a letter from the DNR to Bill approving without change the total area harvest reversal aquatic plant and patterns from 2009.

Scott asked if Onterra was involved at that time in 2009.

Bill stated that Onterra did the study of the first lake management plan lake. Onterra did not come up with the cutting solution at that time.

Roger read a letter dated April 2016. The Buffalo Lake P & R is hereby granted a permit to conduct mechanical harvesting of aquatic plants in Buffalo Lake Marquette County subject to the following conditions; this permit is valid from June 1, 2016 and expires December 31, 2018. The following conditions must be followed in order to be in compliance with this permit. Mechanical harvesting cannot begin in any year prior to June 1, must provide a schedule of harvesting upon request. The water resource biologist may request an onsite inspection to harvesting activities. Mechanical harvesting will only be allowed in the areas that are specified in the permit, approximately 350 acres. Roger stated that he was not sure about what permit they were talking about. Bill stated that it was the harvesting permit. Roger continued reading, no additional areas may be harvested without an additional permit. A copy of permits and maps shall be maintained on board the harvester at all times, during all operations that are conducted. All harvesting operations should not disturb the lake bed. Roger clarified that you cannot cut to the bottom of the lake bed. The harvested plants must be removed immediately from the water. Disposal cannot take place in wetlands, mechanical harvesting records must be maintained and made available to the department upon request summarizing of the harvesting must be given to the DNR by November 1 of each year. The annual report shall show the area harvested, acres harvested and plant, material that was removed from the body of water. Chuck asked what the date was on the letter that Roger was reading. Roger stated April 8, 2016. Bill stated that the letter was basically the harvesting permit.

Scott asked again, if Onterra was involved with the map that came with the permit. Roger stated no, that Onterra was only involved with the creating the lake management plan and not the map at that time. Onterra were not involved with a map until 2017.

Bill stated that the point he wanted to get at was that acreage they were harvesting was right around 340-350 since 1987. Scott asked Bill if the map that was used for harvesting last year was not recommended by Onterra? Bill stated that the District hasn't had an accurate map since 1987. Scott stated that there was a map last year that he used and wanted to know who created that map.

Someone from the audience stated that they had an issue with what was being said because there is a map on the website dated 2005 from Onterra. They stated that Onterra had to be involved because their name is on that map. Bill stated that the Harvesting Committee had the laterals changed not Onterra

Chuck stated that he had a copy of a harvesting permit and map dated April 14 2016 submitted and approved by the DNR. It stated how much can be cut and what can be cut, and it was the same map used last year. It is good until the end of 2018 and was signed by Bill Lewis.

Bill stated that the Lake District in itself has had hand written maps and nothing realistically accurate since their inception of the District that we can find. Bill stated that this Lake District

has an operation that has been cutting around 350 acres since its beginning. Bill stated that is why we are having a discussion if you look at the map that has been put on the website it shows 237 acres. The concern that we had was, this information was available prior to the annual meeting and it was not sent out you people here. Bill's concern was that there was not an open discussion of where we were at.

Chuck stated that when got involved on the harvesting committee Bill was on the Harvesting Committee, there were private meetings held across the lake in people's houses, Bill stated that those were not private meetings they were committee meetings, Chuck stated that that those meetings were never brought to the public for input, Bill left the board and then Darrell left the board which left only Chuck and Scott on the Harvesting Committee during the middle of the season without any meetings scheduled by the Board in between so they went by the maps that were approved by the DNR from 2016.

Bill stated that he didn't understand what Chucks point was.

Rich stated he was confused to what was going on. Rich stated that we have an approved DNR plan in 2016 that goes 2018 why are worried about 2017.

Bill stated that we would get to that.

Chuck stated that we shouldn't be worried about 2017. The permit expires at the end of 2018. Chuck stated that if there are any updates to the map they need to be made this meeting so for 2018 harvesting season.

Roger stated that we had a plan before but it doesn't mean we actually followed the plan. Roger asked Bill how many acres were actually cut last year. Roger asked Bill was on the Harvesting Committee last year.

Bill stated that there was only one committee meeting last year. Bill stated that his guess on cutting was that only half the acreage was cut last year.

Roger asked about how many acres were cut the year before last or the year before that. Roger asked Bill that we don't really know what was really cut, do we. Bill stated no we don't,

Carol asked about the GPS on the machines and that we should know how many acres were cut.

Roger stated that since we don't know how many acres have been cut, the purpose of this meeting is to come up with a plan that the harvesting individuals can use to maximize the amount of cutting. That is the purpose of what we are looking at here. Roger stated that he understood the history, but he felt that we were getting away from what we were trying to accomplish.

Bill stated that he hadn't gotten to that point yet.

It was asked from the audience if there was an agenda to follow. Roger stated that there was not a posted agenda.

Roger stated that this was a committee meeting that gives recommendations to the Board. It does not have authority to vote. It just gives the recommendations to the board. The Committee decided to open this meeting to the public but normally the meeting is just amongst committee members. Roger wanted to make that point.

Scott wanted to address the GPS question. Scott stated that when he was hired he was handed a box of GPS units. Darrell and Scott couldn't figure out how to operate the GPS's. They both went to Zeigler in DeForest who sells and maintains the GPS units. Scott was told that these GPS's that were purchased by the District were the cheapest models available and that they didn't register acreage. They only registered satellite tracking. The units could register obstacles like in farm fields. Scott stated that the GPS's were beneficial by showing where they went and where they could go back to, like planting rows in a field, but couldn't track acreage. Scott asked how many were at the October meeting. Scott emphasized the importance of members participating in all the Board meetings.

Some audience members stated that were not aware of the meeting.

Carol stated that the meetings are posted in the newspaper, on our facebook page, on the website, posted at the libraries, posted at the grocery store and posted at the post office.

Scott stated that at the annual meeting, Ontterra did bring a stack of maps that were on the sign in table, Scott stated that Brendon Butterfield from Onterra mentioned during the annual meeting that there were maps on the table for everyone to review and that Brandon Butterfield gave a very good presentation on the lake's progress and the lake's future and the future of the people that own property on the lake. Scott stated that he didn't know that there were maps on the table until Brendon stated that the maps were in front of Tom.

Bill stated that the point was that Board members didn't get maps.

Chuck stated that the maps were on the table at the annual meeting.

Darrell stated that there was a statement that maps were available at the annual meeting. He remembers a statement being made that people can come and take a look at them and that there was only a certain amount of copies and if you wanted one, Tom would make them available. Darrell stated that to say that the maps were not there was inaccurate.

Rich doesn't understand what the problem is; the District has a fixed plan. Rich commented that he felt that the lake was the best looking in 19 years.

Bill wanted Roger to read the following paragraph that came off the District's website. .

“From the results of the Onterra Lake Management Plan and the DNR, we have a new, updated harvesting map that is now what will be enforced for the Buffalo Lake weed harvesting operation. This was a joint effort of the DNR, Onterra, and some of the successful portions from previous years. Based on the Lake Management Plan, the DNR who visited the lake this year recommends this plan particularly based on the weed composition since the drawdown”.

Bill stated that were we right back to where the map was. Bill stated that he was not privy to the map at the annual meeting. He stated that he didn't know about it until several weeks later when he went on the website and saw the map. Bill stated that he started to investigate it because the map was quite a bit smaller than what we ever seen before. Bill stated that he made a couple of phones calls. The first person he called was Ted Johnson at the end of November, who stated that he was waiting for a Lake District to send him a new the harvesting operation with the map and then he would issue a 5 year harvesting permit based on that information.

Bill stated that's why we are talking about the map. It wasn't because we had a map and that we were going to follow through with, it was because the intent was that the map was going to be changed last November and the rest of you people wouldn't know about this until this harvesting season. Bill stated that he asked Ted where all this information came from. Bill stated that Ted Johnson sent him a chain of emails that stated a lot of the process which Bill forwarded out to a lot of the membership. Bill stated that DNR does not implement and or design harvesting operation permits. Bill stated that DNR will ok it or tell you what you are doing wrong or what you can and cannot do. The people that do that is Onterra and at the time we were going through a comprehensive lake study just for that purpose and part of that deal was after the draw down the weed composition changed. Ted Johnson came out and said that the District would actually qualify for grant money if the invasive weeds came back that were not there before.

Bill stated that map on the website shows 17 laterals on one end and 18 laterals on the other, where in the past we were generally cutting 30-31 laterals from each shoreline.

Scott showed a map from the 2016 permit that was used in last year's harvesting there are 17 laterals on each side, north shore and south shore cuts except around Shady Rest which we did cut the shore of Shady Rest, Scott wanted to remind everyone that the 2016 map was signed and accepted by Bill Lewis.

Tom asked how many acres were shown on the map that Scott was describing. Chuck stated 237 acres.

Scott stated that this was the map that he followed last year. Scott admitted that he did a little extra cutting to open the flow of water then was on the permit.

Carol made copies of the map Scott was describing.

Darrell asked if that was the map that he downsized he had. Chucked answered yes. Chuck stated that the only difference is that Scott added a few extra cuts to open up the laterals to have the lake work itself.

Bill stated that the District has never had an accurate hand drawn map.

Vicki asked where the rest of the map was. Carol made copies of the portion of the map that was missing.

Darrell had the correct copy of the map that was submitted to the DNR which was used for the 2017 harvesting season. Carol made copies of that map.

Tom stated that the map that was submitted to the DNR is 188 acres with Scotts extra cutting this season based on that map that was submitted by Bill Lewis in 2016 they added additional cutting by the causeway and added additional horizontal cut for flow, cut the middle section of the lake for about 3 ½ miles which adds up to 237 acres. It's not the hand drawn map it is digitized map and Tom feels strongly that Onterra being on the lake and being involved with the lake study and DNR being on the lake that we should go with that map for next season. We should see how that goes and make recommendations for the 2019 permit. Tom stated that you are the committee, and thinks the purpose of this committee is for them to make recommendations if you want to change the map that is currently penciled signed at the DNR, it is not final. It is only final when the Board approves it. This is the first time in 8 years that the Board has had any say in the harvesting map.

Bill stated going back to the map, when he look into this, based on the reality of where we are, we have never had an accurate map for the harvesting operations. Bill brought it to the attention of Ted Johnson that this new map was a lot smaller than what the District had before. Bill's major concern was that Scott was taking it upon himself to be the representative to DNR on behalf of the Lake District by submitting changes to the lake. Bill stated that there had always been committees that have made recommendations not one person making decisions.

Ro stated that we could have had a make showing 300 acres but we truly don't know if that acerage was ever really cut.

Bill stated that there was an ariel view showing of the operation.

Scott asked the question what year was that ariel, that Bill had, taken?

Bill stated that it didn't matter what year the ariel was taken.

Chuck stated that we all know that there were no maps until last year. Chuck wanted to know where Bill was going with all this. Chuck stated that he wanted to go forward with this not backwards.

Rick stated that we all here for one reason and that was to see more weeds cut. Rick stated that we were allowed to 300 acres and that we were going down 237 acres and wanted to know was it because we physically couldn't cut 300 acres.

Scott stated that budget allows us to cut the 237 acres

Rick questioned the dues increase but didn't realize that the dues increase was only 25 % and not double as he thought. He asked why we increased the dues and why we can't increase the cutting.

Roger stated that dues increase doesn't go into effect until 2019

Scott stated that the widths of the laterals are 30' wide. Scott stated that there is no way we could cut 54 laterals with the equipment, man power and budget we have.

A question was asked if it was every done. Scott stated we don't know because we have never had an accurate map.

Linda Hugget lives on the south end of the lake and asked why there are so many laterals on the other side of the causeway and not by her. As the years go by the cutting has been getting less and less on her end of the lake. She stated that she pays the same dues but feels that she is not getting any of the benefits. Since 2000 the weed cutting has gotten less and less and asked why.

Scott stated that at the annual meeting he stated to the Onttera rep that he was concerned about the west side with sediment filling and low water levels. Scott stated it was a big marshy area at one time and that side of the lake is a filter lake. Scott stated that unless it is dredged it is very difficult to get the cutters into that area. They bottom out. Per DNR we can't not dredge up the bottom of the lake. Scott stated that it is about foot and half deep in some areas over there. Unfortunately it is silting in.

Jerry was concerned that he is paying into a lake district that he cannot use.

Carol told members that they are eligible be taken out of the Lake District. She explained the process if they felt that they shouldn't be part of the Lake District.

A female member stated that every member should be notified about what is going on and get minutes of meetings. She stated that the Board should try hard to communicate.

Roger stated that there have been many attempts to get emails and communicate with members. At every meeting there is a call for emails. There are ways to get information by going onto the website where the minutes are posted. Roger stated that the maintaining 750 emails is a big task and is difficult. The one woman stated that she maintains a 350 email list. Rodger jokingly stated that she just volunteered for the job. She stated she would and another woman stated that she would help.

There was a new a new member who asked if by cutting lower we would be afraid that the weeds would die off. Chuck stated no and that the reason we can't cut lower is that we would be hitting bottom which would get us in trouble with DNR. You can't disturb the bottom of the lake.

There was discussion about laterals from membership.

Scott stated that this is time to discuss the map for potential changes to the 2019 permit that will be submitted in November of this year. Scott stated that he wanted to hear the feedback from the members on the cutting so that we could make right changes for 2019.

There was a member who stated that by cutting that lateral from the boat landing on C made a phenomenal change and she was extremely pleased how open the waterway were. They also mentioned that it kept the north shore pretty clean.

Gary Doudna the owner of the Buffalo Lake Camp Ground had a few comments to make. He stated that his first cut was after Memorial Day. Chuck stated that the District's permit doesn't allow cutting to start until June 1. Gary was concerned that the map on the website didn't show the cut that was Scott made by his campground this past harvesting season. It was a cut from his launch up to the channel. He wanted to make sure that cut is continued and added to the map.

There was discussion about the map being used.

Tom stated that the map on the website is the map that was provided at the annual meeting is the recommendation to the DNR and that Onttera recommended with additional cutting. If something has changed that is why this committee gathers. The map on the website has not been approved by DNR. DNR is waiting until the February Board approval. In February the Board will review the Harvesting Committees recommendations and vote on the changes. Once that is completed then the map with those changes will be submitted to DNR for approval.

Tom stated that the reason why we are here to give input to the Harvesting Committee so that they can make the necessary changes and submit those changes to the map for Board approval. Tom stated that he was concerned with everyone focusing on the hand drawn map that Bill submitted in 2016. The District used that map for the 2016 & 2017 season. Bill's hand drawn map shows 188 acres, The District has increased the cutting to 237 acres for the for 2018 harvesting season. That map is currently shown on the District's website. It is the one with the red inserts. DNR is recommending that map for the 2018 season. Tom stated that he has been accused of reducing the cutting when in fact; he has increased the cutting by 26%.

Gary stated that what happened in the past is gone and that we need to be looking into the future.

There was more discussion on laterals and that

Scott stated that opening up the channel allowed the lake to do its job.

Gary asked if that channel by the Buffalo Camp Ground could be placed on the map. That made a difference.

Scott stated that he would like to open the culverts cuts again because it makes the flow work.

Chuck stated that Scott wants to make sure that the red lines on the map connect from one end of the lake to the other to improve the flow.

Gary stated that if his customers have a positive experience on the lake they will be more likely to purchase property on the lake thus boosting the economy. Gary would like better communication from the District when there are issues such as break downs or weather conditions that would prohibit cutting. Gary would like to be able to inform his customers when asked why areas haven't been cut.

Gary wanted to state that he was against any further draw downs. Gary would like to keep the residents informed as to what is going. Gary stated that he would offer extra money to the District to cut by his pier. Gary stated that if his customers have a great experience it benefits everyone. As Mayor of the City it is important that everyone has a great experience.

Scott stated weather permitting he can cut the whole lake in a week and a half.

Ro stated that her and Scott discussed posting on the facebook page. Giving daily updates if possible and letting everyone know when there are break downs and letting everyone know the conditions of the lake when it's low and where the machines are. This hasn't been done before.

Scott stated that those extra cuts would help let the lake work itself. There were several members that stated they saw the difference last year in the lake and would like Scott to cut the same way again this year.

Gary ended with stating that he wants to see as much cut as possible within budget, information being communicated to membership and no favoritism. We all need to take responsibility to clean up around our piers.

Scott stated that he cannot go closer than 50' to the shore, water level permitting. The District doesn't have a permit to go closer to the shore.

Gary stated that everyone has the ability to obtain permits from the DNR to chemically treat around their piers. Although it is better if there is a group of owners that can go in on a group permit and treat together. Gary stated that DNR will only approve 15' on each side of your pier provided you have a company and the right chemicals. It is expensive and you need to start the permit process early.

Scott asked if anyone has used barley bails. They are natural and have a great effect on the weeds. You can get them just about anywhere.

Someone asked if the District had bylaws and where they could be found.

Carol stated that we only followed chapter 33 of the state statues. Rich stated that the District followed the People of the Lakes and chapter 33 as per the Board minutes of 2015.

There was a question about the funding of the lake and where it comes from.

Ro answered that the funding strictly comes from the property owners within the district. We have about 950 parcels and 750 people that pay into the Lake District. If you have lake property frontage, you are assessed \$200.00 if you are off the lake you are assessed \$50.00 and any additional property is assessed \$100.00.

A question was asked how everyone was notified of meetings.

Roger stated that meetings are posted in the libraries, published twice in the local in the newspapers, website, facebook page and in addition to those postings at the annual meeting, notice is mailed to every district member at their last known address.

Al Rosenthal stated that there will be no cutting around the piers even though it would be after June 15 after the spawning season.

Scott stated that the Districts permit doesn't include cutting around personal piers. The permit doesn't allow us to closer than 50' from the shore.

Al wanted to know why the District can't cut around the piers. Al mentioned that it had been done in the past.

Chuck stated that it wasn't on the plan and wasn't that it wasn't include in 2016 permit. Chuck stated that we also didn't budget for cutting around the piers. The District would lose cutting time from the lake if individual piers were cut.

Al stated that he gets questions all the time from Packwaukee residents as to why the District is not cutting the piers. He just wants to know what to tell the residents when asked.

Roger stated that it could be part of the permit to cut around the piers if there is money in the budget to do that. As a Committee, Roger stated that they could recommend that.

Scott wanted to stress that cutting around piers would take away from the cutting of the lake and also eat into the budget for the harvesting operations.

Al wanted clarification on Map number 9. Is the comprehensive plan by Onterra not what we are following? That map shows 374 acres.

Tom stated that was correct that was the original from 2002 modified in 2006.

Al stated that map is dated April 2016 and Tom stated that Onterra wanted to include that in the management plan but they didn't take that directly from the permit.

Mary stated that going forward the map is really one of the critical pieces. As the map developments and changes are made is there any way that members can have access to that. She wanted to know if Scott's recommendations would be on the new map.

Scott stated that he would recommend to the Harvesting Committee his additional cutting changes.

Chris stated she lives at the end the lake and wanted to know if Scott was going to make two passes under the bridge this year.

Scott stated that he will cut it as long as the water levels allow him to get in there with a cutter. Scott also stated that he has to be careful with the pylons so that the cutters don't get caught up on them.

Linda asked why we can't we cut more laterals on the south end of the lake.

Scott responded by stating that opening up the culverts will help the flow of water and that he had a cutter on the south side this last year. The problem is the sediment on that side. That portion of the lake should probably be dredged. Unfortunately, the County isn't going to that.

Rich stated that being with the Ecology Committee it's a long term goal for the Ecology Committee that we first have to prove to the DNR the Department of Natural Resources that we are good stewards of our natural resources which we spend probably on the average 1% of the budget on it. If we can show through native aquatic plants or shoreline restoration to a small degree, then we could ease in asking that we wish dredging to occur with the least impact to the wildlife, but we have to do something on our part to show that we have an interest in our lake. Rich talked about when the kid cut a hole in the lotus beds with his prop, Rich noticed nothing grew back for about 5-7 years. Rich stated the importance of the lotus beds helps to keep invasive species at bay. We need to demonstrate to the DNR that we have an interest in the lake.

David Butler stated that he thought that the reason why he was at this meeting was that he was being assessed more money and that the District was going to cut less.

Chuck addressed David by saying that the increase doesn't go into effect until next year and that actually the District would be cutting as much as possible.

Vicki stated to sum things up, we have a plan for 2018 that we are going to follow and we can make changes to the plan for 2019. Vicki asked what the dead line to submit to the DNR for 2019? She stated that time is of the essence for the Board to approve a plan and submit it to DNR for 2019.

Question was brought up if we could vote online. The state statute requires everyone to be in person to vote. That is the state's rules not the District's rules.

Phil commented that he was pleased to see the big turnout at this meeting and encouraged this type of turn out for all the other meetings. Phil commented on Scott and the harvesting operations this year and stated that the lake looked fantastic. He was able to take his pontoon boat all around the lake and into the channels. He stated that wasn't able to do that in the past. Phil stated he would pay extra for extra cutting around his pier too.

Scott asked members to give him a chance. He is working on making the lake a better place for everyone to enjoy. He thanked Phil for his compliment. Scott stated that given the chance, he believes he can make the lake better.

Question was asked about contacting a board member with questions, they were directed to the website to contact Tom Ogden.

Tom stated that the map with the red inserts that is digitized is from an ariel photograph from 2012. The additional red insert by the causeway and the additional horizontal cut, is what is proposed for the 2018 cutting season. If that is what we think this should be doing then the Harvesting Committee must make a recommendation. If there are other cuts that should be placed on the map then we add to it now then send it to Ted Johnson for his seal of approval and we are done. For 2019 we can wait until after the 2018 season and see how it goes with plant growth; see where water levels are and see if some of these changes for 2018 worked. The map on the website is the one that will be used for the 2018 harvesting season with a date of October 2, 2017.

Keith wanted to make sure that the cuts that went straight across, indicated as a yellow marking on the map, were included.

Again, there was discussion from membership about the District's communication. Membership would really like to use email communications.

Scott mentioned that in this day and age there are not too many people that doesn't have internet. We need to post more of what is happening with harvesting on the facebook page.

There was discussion about chemical application around the pier. Vicki stated that we could look into buying the chemicals having someone who is trained in the chemical application and go around and treat the property owners that would want to pay extra for the application around their piers.

Chuck asked if everyone was in favor of the #3 map with the following changes; straighten out the lines by going through the culverts and adding the landing cuts, there is a cut from the sea landing to the south shore, Freedom landing cut, continuing the down by the Buffalo Camp Ground. There are 17 laterals for a total of 34 laterals.

Roger asked what Scott was doing for the south side of the lake.

Scott stated that he would like to cut it like last year.

Tom stated that the DNR doesn't want to use the map from 2002. It is 16 years old. Tom asked if anyone doesn't think that the lake has changed in 16 years.

Roger asked what map Tom was talking about. Tom stated it is the map that Bill Lewis wants the District to use. The DNR is focused on our lake; Ontterra is focused on our lake. We have spent \$40,000 twice on a lake management plan studies even though half of it was funded by the DNR, we still spent a lot of money. The first study that was done, we did nothing with. Tom stated that he honestly wants to do something with this data if we use this new map this summer with Scott's improvements and recommendations and with the input from the audience here today and thank you for all coming, we need to go forward and the next committee meeting after this season we take a look at what worked and what didn't worked. That makes more sense than trying to work with a map from 2002. Shorelines have changed, there has been a drawn down, the entire area has changed.

There was more discussion about maps.

A member asked if the proposed map could be placed on the facebook and website for every to review so that if there are any questions they can be brought to the Board at the February 10, 2018 meeting.

RESOLUTION: Roger stated that the first part of the resolution he wants the Committee to consider is the plan that is submitted to the DNR to include this year, just includes the ability to cut around the piers. That is the first part of that resolution. The second part of the resolution is to approve the map that has been presented here today with the changes, be sent to the Board from the Committee to be voted on at the February 10, 2018 quarterly meeting.

Chuck asked if that was the motion, Roger stated yes, Chuck asked for a second all in favor, no nays.

Roger stated that if there is money in the budget and we have the manpower we would cut around piers.

Ro asked Roger what map we would be using for the resolution. He stated map number 3; showing 237 acres dated October 2, 2017 with modifications.

Scott stated that it will be a problem cutting around the piers due to situations that he may not be able control due to water levels. People may not understand and think that favoritism is going on.

Chuck stated that better harvesting records were going to be kept. The records will include, time on the lake, off the lake, time that machines are down, weight loads, how many loads, etc.

Scott stated that he would post on facebook the activity within the different segments. Scott stated that he will record a minimum of once the progress of the Harvesting Committee, and how many hours each cutter cut. The old weed cutter is going to be turned into a transporter.

Someone asked if we could cut before Memorial Day, Chuck stated the permit starts on June 1. Roger stated that we could ask DNR if we could start earlier. Vicki stated that if we start earlier, we end earlier.

Roger motioned to adjourn the meeting 11:36am, Jim seconded all in favor, no nays.