

Minutes of Buffalo Lake P & R District Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 10th, 2020
Town of Packwaukee Pavilion

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 District Board/committees, 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) Joe Dion called the meeting to order 9:03 AM

2) Roll Call –Member

	<u>Attendance</u>
○ Al Rosenthal	Present
○ Vikki Trimble	Present
○ Bill Lewis	Present
○ Larry Haygood	Present
○ Joe Dion	Present
○ Judy Nigbor, Packwaukee Representative	Absent
○ Jon Sheller, Marquette County Representative	Absent

3) Accept Minutes from the 10-12-19 Annual Board Meeting.

Motion made by Vikki Trimble to accept the minutes from 10-12-19 Annual Board Meeting. Seconded by Larry Haygood. Discussion: None. All in favor, None Opposed. Motion passed

4) Treasurer's Report

Finance & Dues: As of September 30, 2020, the checking account had a balance of \$8,867.94, the Operating fund had a balance of \$56,243.00 and the Equipment fund had a balance of \$113,832.00. Larry explained that there were some overages on repairs, and we received and paid for the new transporter. **Motion** to accept September's financial report by Bill Lewis and Seconded by Vikki Trimble. Discussion: None. All in favor, None Opposed. Motion passed

5) Presentation of the Audit- Ro Klecz stated that she audited the books for 2019 and did not find any misstatements with the bookkeeping. Ro did suggest that a reimbursement form be created so that anyone requesting a reimbursement would need to fill out the form and attached their receipts to the form before payment could be released. The ink on the receipts becomes faded and it becomes hard to read.

6) Budget Hearing- Hearing called to order at 9:12. Larry presented the Budget for 2021. Larry stated that the reason the District is putting money into the equipment fund is to purchase a harvester when we have enough money accumulated. This will allow the District to have all stainless-steel machinery. Larry thinks we are a year away from that purchase. Ro asked about the unemployment. Vikki stated that this is the last year the District will have to pay dollar for dollar and then the District goes to 3 1/2% of the payroll for unemployment tax. The District has become a taxable employer. Chris asked for clarification of the restoration budget which is \$3970.00. Al asked about legal line item. The biggest legal expense this year has been the representation of the District with the DNR regarding lake Levels.

7) Adjourn Budget Hearing – Motion to close budget hearing made by Vikki Trimble and seconded by Larry Haygood. Discussion: None. All in favor, None Opposed, Motion passed.

8) Approval of the Budget for 2021 – Motion to accept the 2021 District Budget as presented made by Ro Klecz, seconded by Carol Deer, Discussion: None. All in favor, None Opposed. Motion Passed.

9) Golden Sand AIS Yearly donation- Al stated that he sits on the board of Golden Sands which typically gives money to AIS, Aquatic Invasive Species. There are 8 counties that gives money to AIS. DNR is

changing the way they are doing their grants. Al asked for \$500.00 donation from the District. Joe stated that it is law that any donations made to a nonprofit organization be voted on by the district at an annual meeting. **Motion** to donate \$500.00 to Golden Sands/AIS made by Ro Klecz, seconded by Chris Meyer, Discussion-None, All in favor, None Opposed. Motion passed.

- 10) **Election of Two Commissioners**– Joe stated that Dwight Fenderson decided that he did not want to run for a commissioner’s position and asked that his name be removed from the ballot. The current candidates running are Vikki Trimble and Larry Haygood. Joe called three times from the floor if there was anyone interested in placing their name on the ballot as a write-in candidate. No one responded. **Motion** made to close the nominations and accept the two candidates on the ballot by Vikki Trimble, seconded by Chris Meyer, Discussion: None. All in favor, None Opposed. Motion Passed. The two New Commissioners are Vikki Trimble and Larry Haygood.
- 11) **Committee Reports**- Gary gave a report for the 2020 harvest season. Report posted on the District’s website. There were 60 scheduled workdays. 57 ½ days were actually worked. 378 truckloads or 756 cutter loads from the east side of the lake. There were 318 truckloads, or 636 cutter loads from the west side of the lake. The crew harvested 275 more truckloads than the previous year due to an increase of hours. Discussion: membership would like to see more accountability with the harvesting crew and hours broken down. Joe ask members to please volunteer. Joe stated that there are a lot of things going on with the harvesting crew and operations. Joe stated that there were two major repairs that needed to be done on the equipment. The district has 4 cutters. One goes to the west side while the other 3 are on the east side. The district has two transporters. The new one is on the east side and the old transport is now listed for sale. The sale of that transporter would go back into the capital fund for the new harvester. There was a question on how the crew makes up days they do not harvest. Linda stated that they make up days on Friday. The current work week for the crew is 32 hours a week. Kelly talked about having the harvesting crew work a 40 hour week instead of working a 32 hour week, possibly four 10 hour days maybe be more efficient then working 5 days a week seeing how the crew is already on the water. **Motion:** To have the District review the number of hours worked and propose an increase in the budget for personnel by Kelly Cosgriff, seconded by Todd Burnett. Discussion: The questions was asked if we go to a 40 hour week, would the district give benefits. The answer was no. Karen thanked Gary and Linda for all their hours and work they put into the harvesting crew and operations. Question asked about an early cutting start. The DNR did not give the District permission to start early this year. Joe will submit to DNR for an early cutting start for the 2021 season. All in favor, None Opposed, Motion Passed
- 12) **Marquette Lake Group, County, Town of Packwaukee**- Chris Meyer spoke on the Healthy Lakes Grants Program. Cut off this year to apply is November 1, 2020 instead February 1, 2021. Please get in touch with Karen or Chris if you are interested in applying for the grants. Al spoke about Marquette County Lake Groups, there are 17 lakes within the county going on their 14th year as a group. There is a survey going around asking if Marquette Lake Group should continue. The group also has some feedback questions and would like to hear comments from the public. You should have received it if you are on the group’s email list. Marquette Lake Group is a good organization and provide good information. Al hopes to get some good responses from the survey. He also stated that there is nothing really to report from the County other than they are currently reviewing their budgets. Al stated that it might be another 2 years before the causeway is rebuilt to the 500-year flood level. Vikki mentioned that the Town of Packwaukee was looking into repairing or up grading the boat landing at Freedom Road.
- 13) **Lake Levels**- Joe gave an update on the lake levels. Joe stated that he, Bill Lewis and the attorney met virtually with DNR. The meeting was to get a feel for where the DNR stands on the lake level. There is another group that may file a petition who has filed previous complaints with DNR regarding the high-

water levels and would be asking for the water level to be lowered. The group is up river, not on the lake and are on County Trunk O. One of the things that was mentioned due to staff shortage of the DNR, DNR maybe asking petitioners to pay for engineering studies. That would be a huge cost to the district. The District would have to decide how much it would be willing to pay to pursue the issue. This process is long (3-5 years) and could be a contested hearing. Our attorney is looking to see if the dam in Montello was built according to plans. Joe stated that DNR was not doing enforcement of the dam for a long time. In July 2019, DNR received a complaint regarding high water levels, that is when the DNR started regulating the dam per the order of 1976. **Motion** to form a new committee that will investigate limited dredging, find out what DNR requires, the costs associated with dredging and bring it back to next year's annual meeting to see if membership would be interested by Larry Haygood, Seconded by Al Rosenthal, Discussion: Question was to get politicians involved. Joe mentioned that all interested parties could have a say. Interested parties include everyone in the Fox River water shed from Pardeeville to Green Bay meaning if there were a lot of people against what the District was requesting, DNR could side with those parties. All in favor, None Opposed, Motion passed. Larry was appointed committee chair.

- 14) Determine Next Year's Meeting-** October 9, 2021 9:00am, Motion by Ro Klecz, Chris Meyer seconded, All in favor, None Opposed, Motion passed.
- 15) Closed Meeting for Commissioner-** Not needed
- 16) Reconvene to open session-** Not needed
- 17) Audience Comment-** Ro reminded everyone that there will be another Venetian Night. Watch for email blast. She is looking for volunteers. Carol Deer wanted everyone to know that anyone who lives in the Lake District is entitled to a library card at the Packwaukee library.
- 18) Adjournment:** Larry Haygood made a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:21am.