

Draft

Buffalo Lake P&R District Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting, Saturday, September 16, 2023, Packwaukee Town Hall

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by District Chair Bernie Sosinsky.
2. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
3. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Present - Bernie Sosinsky, Larry Hagwood, Karyn Niin Kitigade, Dwight Fenderson, Vikki Trimble, Judi Nigbor. Commissioners Absent - Jon Vote.
4. **Accept minutes from July 15, 2023:** The minutes were accepted without change.
5. **Changes or Additions to Agenda:** Dwight Fenderson requested review of bids received for improvements to the District's harvester landing be added to the harvest committee agenda item.
6. **Treasury Report:** Larry Hagwood presented the District account balances report as of August 31, 2023.
7. **Harvest Committee Update:** Harvest Supervisor Bob Fohey reported that an attempt to install a well point type well was unsuccessful owing to the geology of the area, requiring a conventional 120' deep well instead. He has a quote of \$7,300.00 to install such a well, noting that the District already owns the pump and pressure tank system needed for its operation. Vikki Trimble proposed that \$8,500.00 be added to the proposed 2024 budget to cover this safety item.

Discussion took place regarding the appropriate budget line item for the well and District landing improvement. It was noted that the funds received from the sale of the truck and harvester approved at the special meeting of August 23, 2023 can only be applied to the "equipment" line item. Trimble also proposed adding a \$10,000.00 allocation to the 2024 budget to fund improvements to the District landing, reported by the Harvest Committee as necessary for the continued launch and retrieval of the harvester machines.

A discussion took place regarding using the larger truck as "back up" for weed transport, as it is undetermined whether or not it can be driven on the public roads given the multitude of regulations for a vehicle of this size and type. This discussion was tabled.

At this point, an irate audience member was asked to leave following a brief expletive ridden diatribe. Harvest Chair Darrell Unsinn reported that a state DNR grant to fund 50% of the cost of the new harvester on order would most likely be funded in August of 2024, as the DNR has already expended earlier grant cycle funds. However, it was still thought advantageous to submit the grant application earlier, in case previously allocated funding did become available, as sometimes occurs. Larry Hagman made a resolution to go forward with this grant submission; motion carried.

8. **Approval of 2024 Budget:** Discussion took place regarding the pay scale of District employees, with Supervisor Bob Fohey noting that the existing scale does not reflect the skill set necessary to operate and maintain complex, expensive and potentially dangerous equipment, with some employees having a long commute besides. Larry Hagman made a motion to increase the compensation of these employees by 17.5%. Motion carried. Vikki Trimble made a motion to approve the proposed 2024 Budget as amended above which carried. She made a second motion to approve the equipment budget as ammended, also approved.
9. **Fish Committee Update:** No update provided.
10. **Lake Level Committee Update:** Sosinsky reported that the DNR has requested a formal District Board resolution in order to qualify for a \$100,000 grant for the study required by the DNR prior to any change in lake level protocols, as reported in the July 15 2023 District meeting. A resolution was made and carried directing District Board Chair Sosinsky to proceed with this grant application.
11. **Ecology Update:** None provided.
12. **Marquette Lake Group Update:** Larry Hagwood reported that group annual dues will remain the same for 2024.
13. **County/ Township Reports:** Judi Nigbor reported that Hollenbach Landing concrete work was complete, with repaving to shortly follow. She also noted that the Causeway renovation project was scheduled for June 16, 2024 or later, as conditions allow. This work will require that the Causeway be closed to traffic for about two months after work commences.
14. **New Business:** It was reported that a volunteer had come forward to update and maintain the District's website and Facebook pages; contact information to be forthcoming.
15. **Unfinished Business:** Darrel Unsinn noted that the District's buoy permit for existing buoys needed to be renewed, and that he needed a copy of the original permit to do so. A Board member agreed to provide him with this. Unsinn also noted that a new permit would be required in order to place "No Wake" buoys at Dredge Island.

16. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned by District Chair Bernie Sosinsky at 9:14 AM. The Annual Meeting of the District Board is scheduled for Saturday, October 14, 2023. (Post Meeting Update: The Annual Meeting of October 14 will take place at the Marquette County Service Center, 400 Underwood Ave., Montello WI., beginning at 9:00 AM.)