

Buffalo Lake P&R District Minutes: January 18, 2023 Regular Meeting

- I. Call meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 4:00 PM by District Chair Bernie Sosinsky.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. Roll Call:** Commissioners Present – Bernie Sosinsky, Darrell Unsinn, Dustin Esselman, Karyn Niin Kitagade, Dwight Fenderson. Commissioners Absent: Judi Nigbor, Jon Vote.
- IV. Accept Minutes of September 16, 2023 Regular Meeting:** The minutes were accepted as written on a motion by Dustin Esselman.
- V. Changes or Additions to Agenda:** Fenderson requested discussion and approval of payment for renovations completed at the District site boat ramp.
- VI. Treasurer's Report:** D. Unsinn presented the most current account balances and financial statement. He noted that a revised banking access resolution allowing him as Treasurer and V. Trimble as Bookkeeper access to the accounts of the District was required. This was approved on a motion by K. Kitagade, seconded by D. Esselman.
- VII. Lake Level Updates:** B. Sosinsky reported that bids are being accepted for the lake level study required by the Wisconsin DNR, and two bidders have been identified to date. An interim measure pending DNR review is a request to extend the approved maximum level from May 1 through October 10. While elected officials had earlier indicated support for this, it appears that this support has been withdrawn. It was requested by a member that this update be reported on the District social media, and this was agreed to. Discussion took place regarding further action to be taken, the consensus being that this should involve participation beyond the District Board itself.

VIII. Harvest Committee Report: Committee Chair D. Unsinn expressed concern that keys to the District Site were unaccounted for after being in the possession of D. Fenderson, who had provided them to the contractor performing the improvements to the District site, (Daniels Excavating) who had failed to return them. Fenderson replied that it was common in his professional career to provide keys to trusted contractors while work was underway. Unsinn further stated his opinion that the work had not been satisfactorily completed, which was confirmed by Harvest Supervisor Bob Fohey. Fenderson replied that it appeared to him that the work was completed as specified.

Unsinn reported that he had visited Inland Co. to check on the progress of the new harvester, noting that it was nearing completion and would be ready for the upcoming season. He reported that the Ford F350 gasoline truck had not performed well in towing the equipment, and that it might be necessary to purchase a diesel unit, keeping the Ford in reserve. He also reported that internet service would be initiated at the District site at the start of the new season, and that staffing for the upcoming season was being addressed.

IX. Website/Facebook: Sosinsky reported that D. Esselman would be maintaining social media for the District going forward.

X. Reorganization of Committees/Board Member Roles/Processes: Discussion took place regarding the need for reactivation of previously established committees, as well as increased participation in those currently active. K. Kitagade noted that she is essentially a “committee of one”. Fenderson said that he would serve with her on the ecology committee, but that he did not wish to continue composing the minutes. Kitagade said that she would assume this duty. Concern was expressed that the label of a formal “committee” might dissuade participation, as Unsinn noted that this label had implications under the Wisconsin Open Meetings act. He added that he did not have any backup as treasurer for any information that might be lost in the future due to current manual processes, these functions needed to be improved and updated.

XI. County/Township Reports: None

XII. Unfinished Business: Regarding payment to Daniels Excavating for the work performed at the District site, Sosinsky noted that any additional work required would need to wait for the weather to improve, and proposed that a portion of the total payment be withheld until it could be completed. It was agreed that \$1,000.00 of the total payment would be withheld for this reason. Discussion then took place regarding the dates for ordering and stocking fish, which normally takes place in early May. Sosinsky pointed out that the funds to purchase the fish were available, but was concerned that a lower than normal lake level could result in a die-off of the fish. It was agreed that a decision would be tabled until further expert information is available as to the best time to introduce the new fish. Unsinn reported that placement of additional buoys as discussed in prior meetings would require an ordinance by the town.

XIII. Set Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Buffalo Lake P&R District is scheduled for March 2, 2024 at 8:30.

