

DRAFT

Buffalo Lake P&R District Minutes: October 14th, 2023 Annual Meeting

- I. **Call meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:07 by District Chair Bernie Sosinsky.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- III. **Roll Call:** Commissioners Present – Bernie Sosinsky, Larry Haygood, Karyn Niin Kitagade, Dwight Fenderson, Vikki Trimble, Judi Nigbor, Jon Vote.
Commissioners Absent: None.
- IV. **Accept Minutes from Fall 2022 Annual Meeting:** The minutes were accepted as written.
- V. **Treasurer's Report:** Larry Haygood presented the year-end account balances, showing \$2,475.64, checking, and operating fund balance of \$79,812.90.
- VI. **Presentation of Audit:** Carol Deer reported that her review of the District's financials found no audit findings of significance.
- VII. **Hearing of 2024 District Budget:** Commissioner Haygood reported that maintenance/repairs increased to \$21,000.00, but that funds set aside for chemical treatment (\$26,000.00) remained, as the DNR permit for this had not been approved. Additions to expenditures included a well added at the District site, and improvements to the District site boat landing. Harvest Committee Chair Darrell Unsinn reported that the DNR approved harvest plan would remain in place through 2024, and that the chemical harvesting plan would likely be approved if submitted with corrections. He also noted that the individual home owner funded shore line chemical treatments were considered effective based on owner feedback, and would likely be repeated. Following this discussion, a motion to approve the 2024 District Budget ~~was made~~ was made by Commissioner Kitigade, seconded from the membership, and carried.

Commissioner Trimble opened discussion on the equipment budget, noting that repairs and maintenance were budgeted at \$21,000.00. The total cost of the new harvester on order is \$307,000.00, of which the District has paid over 50%, with a DNR grant responsible for the balance. Darrell Unsinn made a motion to approve the equipment budget, seconded by a District member, and approved.

- VIII. **Election of New Commissioners:** District Chair Bernie Sosinsky introduced the candidates for the two open board positions, and those present gave a short “bio” prior to voting.
- IX. **Yearly Donation towards AIS Needs in the County:** Commissioner Haygood requested that a \$500.00 donation to the Marquette County Lakes Association for invasive species research be approved. This was done on a motion by Darrell Unsinn and carried.
- X. **Committee Reports:** Darrell Unsinn reported for the Harvest Committee that the new harvester on order was now under construction, and that the Committee was in the process of applying for a grant for renovations for the “blue” harvester. All equipment has been serviced and placed in winter storage. He also reported that six complete passes through the lake had been completed during the 2023 season, resulting in 1,700 loads of weeds removed. He also noted that the surplus International Harvester truck would be listed for sale in the coming week.

Paul Ratzberg reported for the Fish Committee that \$9,300.00 worth of fish had been stocked for the 2023 season, of which half were bass, and half perch. He noted that a fish kill was reported to him, and thanked those who assisted the Committee during the season.

Commissioner Kitigade reported for the Ecology Committee that a \$1,000.00 “Healthy Lakes” grant was available to District members for shore line improvements, the recent garden at Freedom Boat Landing being an example of the use of this grant. She also reported on the “Purple Loose Strife” invasive plant elimination program, which employed the use of volunteer bred beetles to feed on these plants. Commissioner Haygood

reported that two \$500.00 grants were awarded by the Lakes Association, although the District's request was not funded.

Judi Nigbor reported for the Town of Packwaukee that reconstruction of the causeway was scheduled for June 16, 2024, or as weather allows after that date; the causeway is expected to close for about four months after work begins, and would not require that the lake be drained. She also reported that work on the Hollenbeck and Freedom boat landings was completed, including concrete and shoulder improvements. She noted that the Packwaukee dump site would remain open on Wednesdays throughout the winter. Commissioner Jon Vote noted that the County was seeking a loan for funding the causeway improvements; also that burning permit requirements were again in force.

- XI. **Determine Next Year's Annual Meeting Date and Time:** Following discussion, the last Saturday of September (September 28, 2024) was selected as the date of the 2024 Annual Meeting, with the place remaining the same.
- XII. **Closed Meeting for Commissioners to discuss election Outcome if necessary per Wisconsin 19.85 (1) C (f):** Determined unnecessary; Darrel Unsinn and Dustin Esselman were elected as new commissioners.
- XIII. **Audience Comments:** Discussion on the lake level took place, with Commissioner Sosinsky noting that, while the lake never reached its maximum depth of 8.5 feet, it did reach 8.2, so there is not a lot of room to work with. He also reported that temporary repairs to the locks were planned by the State, but did not have any timeline for this.
- XIV. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 9:56 AM.