

**Buffalo Lake P&R District Minutes: Regularly Scheduled Meeting, Saturday, April 21, 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 April 21:** Judi Nigbor noted a correction to the District Email and Facebook accounts administrator; the administrator is Judy Rogala, not Judi Nigbor. The minutes were accepted with this correction.
5. **Changes or Additions to Agenda:** None
6. **Treasury Report:** Larry Hagwood presented the District Operating Fund report as of April 21, 2023. Judy Nigbor noted that the district is over budget in legal fees. Bernie Sosinsky said that some of this could be due to carry over, as well as legal counsel research and letter regarding lake level management. Judy Nigbor said she would go review prior billings.
7. **Harvest Committee Update:** Committee Chair Darrel Unsinn noted that new electric service has been installed. New buoys were needed for replacement and for additional "no wake" zones in proximity to the island. Discussion took place as to whether or not the DNR needed to authorize placement of new buoys; further inquiry will be required. Darrell Unsinn reported that the DNR approved early weed cutting, with operations beginning April 4. Karyn Kitigade reported that sign-up for individual property chemical weed treatment ended 4/21, with payment required by 4/28. Treatment will also take place where mechanical cutting cannot take place. Bernie Sosinsky noted that the District is required to adhere to the DNR approved cutting plan. Vikki Trimble requested that the District Facebook page emphasize that the chemical treatments to take place have been proven safe, and that prior public notice is issued when treatment dates are established. Bernie Sosinsky reported that treatments were expected to take place late May or early June, but a permit from the DNR has not yet been issued. Darrell Unsinn reported that the two surplus trucks will be posted for sale in the coming week.
8. **Fish Committee Update:** It was reported that fish valued at \$9,300.00 had been stocked, with the District receiving a \$5,000.00 grant and a \$500.00 donation. The District thanked Karyn Kitigade for the publicity she generated through Facebook and

other promotions. The Fish Committee reported disappointment with the DNR's response to lake level complaints, noting that low levels are affecting the health of fish.

- 9. Lake Level Committee Update:** Bernie Sosinsky reported that the District's attorney had responded with six options that can be pursued toward raising the lake level, which included both legal and political avenues. He recommended that political actions be employed first, as legal actions could be costly with an uncertain outcome. After much discussion, it was determined that a campaign to petition our elected representatives was a starting point, with all persons concerned with the health of the lake, including residents, tourist and hospitality businesses, notifying them as to how the health of the lake negatively affects them personally. A motion was made by Larry Hagman to pursue legislative change as part of the annual state budget process. Dwight Fenderson seconded the motion, which carried. Bernie Sosinski said that he would advise the attorney of the decision to move forward.
- 10. Ecology Update:** Karyn Kitigade noted that eight people were participating in the program to eradicate the invasive plant "Purple Loose Stripe" found growing around the lake. They are growing this plant at home to attract the beetles that feed on it.
- 11. County/ Township Reports:** Vikki Trimble provided the results of the recent local election results. A veterans' memorial is also being sponsored. She also noted that Marquette County is severely over budget and looking to save every way possible, including eliminating some positions. Karyn Kitigade reported that evening walks of about 2.2 miles will be taking place each Wednesday starting about 5:55 PM from the Packwaukee Park Pavilion.
- 12. Unfinished Business:** Darrel Unsinn asked about the status of the district's e-mail directory; Karyn Kitigade noted that it was in progress. Ro Klecz (former District Chair) reported that the private owner of the spillway (dam) at "C Landing " boat ramp was petitioning the DNR for permission to remove the structure. There is a concern that doing so will allow silt behind it to flow into the lake.
- 13. New Business:** None
- 14. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned by District Chair Bernie Sosinsky at 9:25 AM. The next Regularly Scheduled Meeting of the District is scheduled for July 15, 2023, Packwaukee Town Hall, starting at 8:00 AM.