

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Potter's Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Saturday, April 24, 2004 at Town Hall, Town of East Troy, Wisconsin.

Commissioners Present – Jeff Beiriger and Barry Bonneau.

By Invitation – Kathy Aron (Aron & Associates), Brian Suffern (Marine Biochemists), Jeff Bode (Wisconsin DNR), Jeff Thornton (SEWRPC), and Representative Scott Gunderson.

Also Present: 48 Electors

Chairman Jeff Beiriger called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. It was noted that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the aquatic plant management plan and permit for the lake, the specific application of Sonar (fluridone) to the lake, research surrounding this project, and potential for DNR grants to be used to cost-share the project with the District.

AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN/PERMIT

Kathy Aron (Aron & Associates), the District's lake management consultant, presented information about the District's four-year aquatic plant management plan for 2004-2007. The plan includes a whole-lake Sonar treatment in May of 2004, water quality and plant monitoring, and spot treatments as necessary. The plan also includes a watercraft inspection program and a contingency for aeration. The plan was submitted to the DNR on April 20 and approval is expected in late April or early May. A fisheries survey will also be conducted through DNR on several occasions during the term of the plan.

Jeff Thornton (SEWRPC) noted the research it had done on the return of milfoil to the lake after the 1997 treatment and stated that spot treatments had been largely ineffective, causing the District to look for more viable, and long-term approaches to controlling the milfoil.

SONAR/FLURIDONE

Brian Suffern (Marine Biochemists), the applicator for the whole-lake and spot treatments, indicated that the treatment would take place before May 15. Specific restrictions regarding the use of water after the treatment will be posted on docks and available through the District. The manufacturer guarantees the product to be 80 percent effective. Marine Biochemists warrants the labor.

The application is "six-bump-six." That is, the chemical is applied at 6 parts per billion and "bumped" back up to 6 parts per billion after a period of time. Analysis of the milfoil in the lake indicates an application of 6 parts per billion is more than adequate to control the plant. The "bump" allows the chemical to remain in the water at a lower dosage for a longer period of time. Results should be seen 30-45 days after the treatment.

Since prolonged contact provides the best chance of killing the milfoil, residents were advised to make certain that no plant fragments along their shorelines be allowed to remain there, as they may still be viable and may not have been in contact with the Sonar. If washed back into the lake, the plant cutting could root and start a re-infestation.

Any spot treatments done under the plan would be done using the most effective aquatic herbicide for the project. Historically, 2, 4 D has been used, but other products are now available as well.

RESEARCH/GRANTS

Jeff Bode (Wisconsin DNR), one of several DNR representatives having oversight on the project, noted that there were three elements of the permit – pre-treatment monitoring, application of the aquatic herbicide, and post-treatment monitoring. Because Potter's Lake has had an extensive monitoring program, the lake will be approved for treatment this year. Another lake that had petitioned for a treatment this year will have to wait until next year while they collect data.

The intent of the project is to eradicate milfoil. To that end, Potter's Lake will be monitored closely in hopes of generating research that will factor into DNR's statewide policy regarding the use of whole-lake treatments and Sonar as a means to control aquatic invasive plants in the State's lakes.

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DNR will be reviewing a grant proposal from the District to cost-share the project, and though not guaranteed, expectations are quite high that the District will receive the grant. If awarded, DNR would provide up to 50 percent of the project costs, approximately \$59,000. The answer regarding the grant should be known in the first week of May. Irrespective of the decision, the District plans to proceed with the project as the District's electorate, at the 2003 annual meeting, has previously authorized the treatment and it is within the scope of the District's budget and financial resources.

Mr. Bode noted that watercraft inspections would be helpful. Asked if the District could restrict public access or horsepower during the research period, Mr. Bode replied that it could not, though it could restrict the use of boats on the lake. The need for enforcement of existing rules was noted. Any additional rules sought by the District would need to be approved by the Town of East Troy.

MISCELLANEOUS

Residents were advised that the lake continues to be low and it was suggested that care be taken when launching boats this spring and removing them at the end of the year.

There are still at least three beavers on the lake. It was suggested that residents protect their trees using mesh wire wrapped around the trunks of their near-shore trees and bushes.

Buoys will be placed on the lake soon, though the pattern may be different than years past. The buoys will be placed in greater density in sensitive areas and not placed uniformly around the shoreline.

Signage has been purchased for the Love/Torpe properties prohibiting trespassing, hunting, dumping, and the use of motorized vehicles.

The boat parade will be held July 4 at 6:30 p.m. The lighting of the lake will be held July 4 at 9:00 p.m. The annual meeting will be held September 11 at 10:30 a.m. The annual picnic will be held September 11 at 12:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to help sell flares on Friday evening, July 2, and all day Saturday, July 3.

There were several questions asked regarding the use of a high capacity pump and deep well to restore the lake level. Questions were also asked regarding the effect of sewers and higher population densities drawing down the water table. Mr. Bode indicated that approval was unlikely, as the DNR believes there are positive benefits to the natural process of a lake receding and refilling. The commissioners noted that it was not long ago that residents along Shorewood were being flooded because of the high lake level and noted that the lack of rain and snowfall is the most probable reason for the changes in the lake level. While rain and snow levels have been below normal for several years, a longer-term perspective needs to be taken, as weather trends tend to re-balance over time.

At 11:17 a.m., a proper **MOTION** was made and approved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Bonneau
Secretary

Minutes of the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Potter's Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Saturday, September 11, 2004 at the Town Hall, Town of East Troy, Wisconsin.

Present: Commissioners Jeff Beiriger, Barry Bonneau, and Jana Charvat.

Also Present: 34 Electors.

Chairman Beiriger called the Annual Meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

A **MOTION** was made, seconded and approved to approve the Minutes of the 2003 Annual Meeting as presented.

The Treasurer reported that the District has assets of \$163,936.35 in the savings account and checking accounts. The District has no outstanding liabilities. Net income for the year to date is \$19,271.21, but there are several bills to be paid before the end of the year and revenues have all been collected. A surplus is expected and will continue to be set aside for lake projects including a whole-lake treatment and the purchase of properties critical to the watershed. It was noted that the District has made improvements in its financial reports, having computerized check writing and financial reports. Continued progress is planned for 2004. On proper **MOTION**, the Treasurer's Report was approved as presented.

The Commissioners reported that:

Residents were thanked for their participation in the Boat Parade and Lighting of the Lake. The Boat Parade and Lighting of the Lake will be held on Sunday, July 3 in 2005.

The Lake level was discussed briefly. The Lake has returned to normal levels from its low levels of earlier this spring.

There were 12 hours of police patrol, down 18 hours from last year, largely due to the cooler weather. 1 citation was issued, down from 9 the previous year. The citation was issued to a PWC for failing to stay 100 feet or more from other boats. There were a total of 9 contacts, 2 for registrations and 7 for PWCs.

On proper **MOTION**, it was agreed that the District would write to the Town of East Troy and request that the law regarding usage of the lakes in the Town be clarified so that only one towrope can be used on weekends and holidays.

The police suggested that violations of after-hours boating and skiing be reported, but that it is necessary for the police to observe the violation in order to write a citation. Since this can often be difficult, having additional information, particularly the registration numbers, can help the police identify the boater and to facilitate a warning being issued.

Kathy Aron presented an update on the whole-lake treatment conducted by the District in May. Although it took somewhat longer than expected, it appears as though the treatment for milfoil has been effective. There are still a few instances where the milfoil is resisting, but it is expected to drop in the weeks ahead as the residual chemical in the lake remains sufficient to treat the plants. Although not yet finalized, it appears the District will receive a cost-sharing grant from the DNR for its aquatic plant management, which included the whole-lake treatment.

The presence of filamentous algae in the lake earlier this year was also discussed. Though there are few hard and fast answers, most of the speculation regarding the outbreak of algae on Potter's Lake and others centers on the significant rainfalls of the spring. Although the algae broke apart in July, it will be monitored closely and treated if it merges again in 2005.

A fisheries survey was done on the lake earlier this year, the results of which we are still awaiting. There will be a follow-up survey this year and later on during the five-year permit period for aquatic plant management.

No trespassing signs were placed around the District's properties. The signs also call for no hunting on these lands. As a result, there will be no District activity to trap or remove the beavers living on the lake. Residents were advised to protect their trees and to consult the website for suggestions for dealing with the beavers.

Nearly 70 residents are now receiving their newsletters via e-mail, about the same as in the previous year. Residents were encouraged to provide their e-mail addresses to the District to continue to improve communications. The District continues to receive positive feedback on its website.

Although it was hoped they would be available for the meeting, samples of Potter's Lake merchandise will not be available until late September. Items will be photographed for a brochure/catalog which will be mailed to residents and placed on the website.

Committees will be forming to look at the possibility of holding several events on the lake in 2005, including a fishing contest, a pontoon tie-up, and water skiing. Residents interested in volunteering were encouraged to contact a Commissioner. Funding for the events should be available through the District as part of the 2005 budget.

Residents were also encouraged to become involved with the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. The program will involve voluntary training to monitor boats coming onto the lake. The District is obligated to monitor boats for aquatic invasive plants on trailers and boats as part of its plant management plan. After attending the class, residents can be paid for their time working at the public launch.

It was noted that the DNR is looking at rules that would affect the length and width of piers. If passed as proposed this summer, many of the piers on the lake would have been in violation, as anything over six feet in width (including an "L") would not be allowed. There was significant public outcry and the rule was not approved, but the debate will continue again in 2005.

The Commissioner presented the following:

Resolution 04-1, designating September 10, 2005 as the date for the 2005 Annual Meeting, was presented and, on proper **MOTION**, unanimously approved.

Resolution 04-2, designating F & M Bank of East Troy (or its successor) as the depository of the District, was presented and, on proper **MOTION**, unanimously approved.

Resolution 04-3, pertaining to the operating budget (\$11,250.00) of the District for 2005, was presented and, on proper **MOTION**, unanimously approved.

Resolution 04-4, pertaining to the lake projects and the weed-harvesting budget (\$38,750.00) of the District for 2005, was presented, and, on proper **MOTION**, unanimously approved.

Resolution 04-5, authorizing the District to borrow up to \$10,000.00 for operating expenses only, was presented and, on proper **MOTION**, unanimously approved.

Resolution 04-6, authorizing the Commissioners to seek any grants available to the District, was presented and, on proper **MOTION**, unanimously approved.

Jeff Beiriger was nominated and, on proper **MOTION**, unanimously elected to a three-year term as a Commissioner (2005-2007).

There being no further business, on proper **MOTION**, the Annual Meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry Bonneau
Secretary