

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Saturday, June 22nd, 2024 at Town Hall, East Troy, Wisconsin.

Present: Commissioners Cathy Schulz, Bob Rice, Bill Roeber, Liz Sanders, and MaryJo Jones.

5 constituents from the district attended.

Chairman Cathy Schulz called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM

Liz Sanders made a motion asking to amend the agenda to add discussion on wake-surf boats. MaryJo seconded the motion. Motion passed 4-1.

Cathy handed out packets with inaccuracies and outdated information that is currently on our website. She commented that there is currently too much information on our home page and it keeps people from looking further. Some of the links take you to old information and need to be updated. Information on our District tab needs to be added to current information as it has not been updated since 1999. There are also several things that are repeated and should be noted in one place to create less confusion. Our current website does not allow us to create content or make changes on our website and we currently pay \$80 an hour to make changes. Our current annual average cost for our website is \$480 a year and does not include dedicated email addresses. If we went with a new website, the hosting cost and dedicated emails would run \$425 a year and we would be able to make our own updates. A redesign for our site was quoted at \$1375. Bob asked if the current costs included the hosting and updates. Cathy clarified that it did but did not include dedicated emails. Cathy asked if we could move \$2,000 from Professional Legal Services to Web Expenses so that we had money to move forward with a new website. MaryJo made a motion to reallocate the budget to move the \$2,000 from Professional and Legal Services to Web Expenses. Bill asked if we would need to use those funds in Legal when we moved away from bylaws. MaryJo doesn't anticipate that we would need those funds. All were in favor motion passed 5-0. Bob commented that for \$55 a year we are also getting someone to make our updates for us. It may be smart to stick with this instead of trying to find someone to take this on. Cathy said that she was willing to take the lead on website updates and continue to search for a Website/Tec committee. What she is proposing to do includes quite a few more updates to the web page to include current, important information, such as a banner announcing slow-no-wake or include photos of current events. It would include a lot more than just adding agendas and minutes as we currently do so the savings would be more.

Cathy asked for discussion on the possible donation to the Potters Lake fireworks. Liz said that this came up when the Town of East Troy had an agenda item for a donation to Lake Beulah fireworks. Liz attended the Town Board Meeting and pointed out to the Town Board that Potters Lake also has fireworks that have been privately funded and should have consideration for any Town donations. The Town communicated during this meeting that they are not able to make a contribution to either Lake District this year and that they would re-visit the idea of a firework donation during their upcoming 2025 Budget workshops in October or November. Cathy said the question is, "Is it appropriate use of our tax dollars to make a contribution to the fireworks?" Bill commented that tax dollars should be used for the betterment of the lake. Liz said that since the Town needed elector input before making a donation that this should be moved to an agenda item at our annual meeting to let the electors decide. MaryJo said that we would then need a separate line item for the PLPRD 2025 proposed budget if the Lake District was interested in donating to fireworks. Bob commented that he likes the fireworks and is supportive of them but as the board helping to fund them, it is a private event. He also expressed concern that if the district made a donation, would people then stop donating to the fireworks thinking that we were taking care of it? Liz thinks we should open the conversation up at the fall meeting. Bob also stated that we had someone attend a meeting earlier this year asking for district support for a fund raiser. These he feels would be something that a social committee would fund rather than the district. Liz made a motion to move the

discussion on firework donations to the fall meeting. The motion was seconded by Bob and motion passed 5-0.

MaryJo had a handout for State Statutes and Policies. She is seeking to make Policies and Procedures for setting rules or guidelines for the Lake District that are not covered under the State Statues. Cathy asked if there were other districts that used this recommendation and MaryJo cited Beaver Dam who uses them. Bob clarified that we have no control over State Statues. Once MaryJo gets feedback from the board she will start drafting policies and procedures to be voted on at the annual meeting. Bob commented that we should be careful because once you have a policy and procedure in place you can end up pigeon holing yourself. Example was given that we can only use certain banks which has cost us money because higher CD rates were available elsewhere. Cathy asked if once a policy and procedure is written can it be changed? MaryJo said that it could. Bob said that once the new dam has been completed, he would like to see a policy and procedure on how we manage lake levels so that there is consistency with our process.

Cathy opened the discussion on wake surf boats. This stems from the story on Fox News. The district needs to gather information from other lakes as well as the state on the use of wake boats and impact on lakes. Liz had done some preliminary research and some of the concerns were the ballast tanks and how they are being drained and cleaned before going into a new lake as there is no way for us to inspect that. The large wakes are doing damage to the shorelines and should be kept 500ft from the shoreline to mitigate damage. Currently the rule is 200ft. Also, when they are used in shallow water, they blast the lake bed disturbing fish habitat and native plants. There are currently 18 local ordinances created in Wisconsin to control or prohibit the use of wake surf boats on their lakes. Many towns are waiting for the state and the DNR to make a decision before implementing any changes. Liz feels that we should follow what standard is set by the state and the DNR. It is something we need to follow and be aware of. There are many other states that have implemented laws regarding wake boat usage. MaryJo commented that the Lake Beulah Protection & Improvement Association is going to have a special meeting on Aug 24th. Bob commented that he was against banning wake boats as it is not the boat that is the problem it is the wake they create and wake size should apply to all boats. He noted that even I/O runabouts that are not on plane create sizable wakes that can be disruptive. He noted that we will also need to watch what happens on Lake Beulah because if they ban them then we will see an increase as people will trailer them to other lakes. Our hand may be forced to follow. He also commented about the slow no wake times on our lake and that we have a healthy balance so that people have times to enjoy the lake they way they want to. Cathy received 36 surveys back from her newsletter that was sent out earlier in the month. She cited concerns from kayakers, paddleboarders, fisherman, and others about people not following lake rules. MaryJo made a motion to seek a riparian owner to be a liaison and gather information on wake boats and report back to the board. The motion was seconded by Liz. All were in favor, motion passed 5-0.

Cathy asked if there were any public comments. Tom Riley commented that the annual meeting would be a good place to bring up donations for fireworks. He also said that it would be a good idea to wait and see what the state comes up with for wake boats before putting a lot of energy into it. We could just follow suit. Another constituent asked if there were any regulations regarding Air BnB or VRBO. This is not something that the district regulates or has authority over. It is something that Walworth County permits and controls. MaryJo said that she would look into it and report back.

MaryJo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Liz and the meeting was adjourned at 11:06 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C Rice
Secretary

