

Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Potter's Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Saturday, September 10, 2022 at Town Hall, East Troy, Wisconsin.

Christine Celley called the annual meeting to order at 9:13am.

Christine reported on lake conditions. Our five-year lake management plan was updated this year and approved by Heidi Bunk at the DNR. The approach for lake treatment is similar to past years with a combination of chemical and harvesting. Rick Witt was able to get on the lake and started harvesting early this year. The early harvest was effective for controlling the Curly Leaf Pond Weed. We continue to struggle with low lake levels and rely on precipitation and run off for maintaining lake levels. The lake was lower in the 50's and we are on the low side of the cycle. A few years ago we were experiencing high water problems. A constituent asked about dredging. Our consultants have not recommended it in the past. If you want to do something with your frontage you should start with Walworth County and the DNR to find out what is allowed. A constituent asked if we were ever connected to Lake Beulah. Someone commented that it used to connect before HWY 43 was put in. Christine thanked everyone who sent emails and letters opposing NR107 and Joe Jones for putting the notice together that was distributed. Bob Rice commented on the shallow lake levels and to make sure when using the launch to stay close to the Shorewood Dr side as the water in the center of the bay is about 6" deep.

Also, the lakes levels off Spleas Skoney and Lake Lane are very shallow. Even at 100 yards from shore it is still only about 4ft deep.

Copies of the minutes from the spring meeting on May 14, 2022 were available for all. Rick Witt made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dale Marciniak and all were in favor and none were opposed.

Rick Witt spoke about the harvesting season. Last year we took out 108 loads of weeds and this year we only had 23. The chemical treatment for the Milfoil worked well. The main weeds harvested were Elodia and Curley Leaf. The harvester was removed for the season due to low water levels. He did find some Sago Pond Weed along the buoy line. Sago is a native weed that we will keep our eye on next year. Also due to the low water levels the harvester was not able to get as close to piers as we have in the past. When the water level comes back up, we will be able to get closer to shore.

Bob Rice gave an update on the dam replacement. A packet of information with costs and engineering were available to all who attended. Ayres did core samples of the berm in preparation for the new dam. They did not find solid ground until a depth of 17ft. A recommendation was made to remove the brush and trees from the berm to help with future erosion from tunneling. Helical piles will need to be used due to poor soil conditions and precast concrete will sit on top. If the lake levels remain low in the spring it will help to keep the dewatering cost down. We did ask them to raise the level of the plate to 8.7 from the current 8.6 in order to keep more water in the lake. Slow no wake is at 8.8. There will be a wheel and gate instead of stop logs so it will be easier to adjust lake levels when needed. The project will take about a week and is slated to be done in the spring. The district will not be seeking grants for the project. If we were to apply for a grant, it would involve more work and higher costs. The project, because of its size, would fall at the bottom of the requests for grant funds. We would rather put the money towards the dam. A constituent asked about how the levels would be measured with the new dam. There will be a new gauge installed that will be based off a survey of the high-water mark. Funds will come from CD money. There will not be a special assessment for this project. Christine commented that this is why we have been collecting money for years so that when a special project like this occurs the district has the funds to do it. Bob Rice also reiterated that this will not solve the low water levels.

Joe Jones updated the group on NR107 / 109. He had attended a Walworth County Lakes Association Meeting. NR107 is the rule for chemical treatment of lakes and NR109 is for harvesting regulations. They are trying to consolidate the two and they are also looking to increase fees. The first part of the process is to develop a scope statement, the second part of the process is the writing of white papers and then they do a draft rule, and the final process is when the Natural Resources Board approves it. This process takes between 3-5 years. The proposed document was 51 pages. They were going to try and approve this at the August 10th meeting. We were informed of this in late July and then on August 9th before the meeting, we received notice that this was being pulled from the agenda. This can be revisited at the September or October meeting but if it goes past October they will need to start over.

Christine commented that the consultants had problems with what was being proposed because the data didn't agree with what was in the white papers. She also thanked those who responded and voiced their concerns as their voice made a difference. We try not inundating people with email but when the district sends emails they should be read. Bob Rice commented that when our consultant Jeff does a weed survey the DNR does not take into account visuals. Meaning even if you see weeds from the boat if they don't come up on the rake you can't count them on the survey. Jeff does an addendum to the survey so that they are accurately recorded. A constituent asked about the Wisconsin Lakes meetings and if they could be notified of when they are. The district will make sure there is a link on our website so people can view the schedule.

Bob Simons term will be up at the end of 2022 and he will not be seeking reelection. An email was sent out asking for interest and a couple people responded. MaryJo reached out to those who responded and went over the responsibilities of the position. Bill Roeber was in attendance and introduced himself. He has been the treasurer for another board and runs quick books in his business. Christine asked if there was anyone else who was interested in running for the open position. No one else stepped forward. MaryJo Jones made a motion to nominate Bill Roeber for the open position and Dale Marciniak seconded the motion. All were in favor and none were opposed. Christine said that after her term was up next year that she would not be seeking reelection. Bob Rice has two more years and he will also not be seeking reelection. Both are happy to help with transitions and encouraged people to start getting involved.

Bob Rice went over the resolutions and asked if there were any questions. Jon Voss made a motion to approve the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by MaryJo Jones. All were in favor and none opposed. The spring meeting date was set for May 6th and the annual meeting will be September 9th 2023. Christine commented that there are state statutes that lake districts fall under and that we should convert from our bylaws to the state statute. This would simplify things and do away with our bylaws. Kathy Aron and Jeff said that it would be a good idea. It was stated the bylaws cannot impose more than the statute so it would clean things up. An attorney would need to be consulted for this.

MaryAnn Buckley made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Jon Voss. Meeting was adjourned at 10:09 am

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Rice
Secretary