

Minutes of the 2021 Board Meeting of the Potter's Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Wednesday August 11th, 2021 at East Troy Town Hall, East Troy, Wisconsin.

Present: Commissioners Christine Celley, Bob Simon, Bob Rice, and Jerry Kozik.

1 constituent from the district was in attendance.

Chairman Christine Celley called the meeting to order at 6:15PM

Bob Simon shared with the group his findings for CD and money market rates for reinvestment of our callable CD that came due. There are options from banks that pay less than 0.5% and to renew the callable CD they are offering a rate of 5% on a 7-year term. All options are FDIC insured. Bob Simon's recommendation is that we hold off for now to see if rates increase in the next year but no strong opinion. Christine said it may be a good idea to wait for another 6 months and table this topic until some of the other agenda items are addressed. Jerry looked at the balances in the accounts and renewals with Bob. They went over return rates on our current CDs, most are paying a higher amount than what is currently being offered. Bob Rice disagreed and would like to see the money put back in the callable CD at 5%. He suggested that we wait until the other agenda items are addressed but cited that even with an increase of a few percentage points we would never be able to make up for the loss in the first year by waiting. The CD was tabled until the annual meeting.

Wisconsin Lakes Association has asked for additional contributions. The board had discussion and it was reaffirmed that we need to keep our membership in good standing. It was agreed that we would maintain our current level of contributions at this time.

Christine updated the board on our current harvesting situation. Ken Zess, the property owner next to where we compost the weeds, contacted the district along with the Town of East Troy, Walworth County and the DNR concerning our harvesting operations. Christine has been working with the Town of East Troy, Walworth County, and the DNR on Ken's multiple requests. The district has been harvesting and disposing of the weeds the same way and in the same place as we have in the past. Ken expressed concerns about individual property owners disposing of the weeds at the Town compost site. He stated the site is not properly permitted for solid waste which lake weeds are considered. Lake Beulah is experiencing the same problems as we are with this. Our truck based on the number of loads and total tonnage needs to have an additional license for our intended purpose. Bob Simon agreed to work with Walworth County to get the appropriate truck licensing taken care of. The license will have to be renewed each year. According to Lori, with the DNR, the field where we are spreading the weeds is acceptable to use as we have been. Ken requested a copy of the conditional use permit for the land where the conveyor sits and accepts the weeds. Matt Weidensee, SR Planner with Walworth County, recommended that we apply for a conditional use permit for the spot at the launch where our conveyor sits and work with the Town of East Troy to request a change of zoning for the area at the other end of the lake. Christine presented a flow chart of the process that needs to take place for the needed changes, this involves significant time and many meetings. Christine has been in contact with Matt at Walworth County as well as Heidi and Lori at the DNR. All of them realize that we are working on what we need for compliance and we are not going to be getting penalized in the meantime. Christine reached out to Lake Beulah's attorney to see if things escalated if we could coordinate with them. Nothing is being done now but that door is open if needed in the future. This complaint from Ken Zess will not only apply to us and Beulah but all the other lakes in Walworth County. The DNR has covered itself on this by noting on the permit you must comply with all town and county ordinances. We are ok to continue to dump at our current location, but we do need to get the additional license for our truck and apply for the conditional use permit. This will not be an overnight process and will take time. Bob Simon made a motion to move forward with the licensing of the truck and table other activities related to harvesting operations and rezoning. Motion was seconded by Jerry Kozik.

The board has been contacted by several home owners with questions about chemically treating their own frontage. They are questioning if it is acceptable to take matters into their own hands to treat their frontage. This is not an acceptable practice nor approved by the county or DNR. This can have a negative impact on the lake for future treatments. We spend upward of \$50,000 per year for treatments, permits, and management. Our consultant, Lake and Pond Solutions, is required to do plant surveys to see how native plants react to treatments. When people put their own chemicals into the lake, we have no way of knowing what the negative impacts are nor does Lake and Pond because there is no record of it. Christine encouraged people to speak up if they are aware of this going on. Bob Rice commented that this knowledge puts all of us in a compromising position because we are supposed to be protecting the lake. We all signed up for the board but not to police the lake. Christine suggested that if we get more complaints, we could draft an informative letter that would be educational to the homeowners about the hazards of self-treating the lake. Bob Simon agreed.

Jerry asked if we were still harvesting. Rick Witt who was in attendance and works on the harvester responded that they are being proactive and trying to stay ahead of it. They will be back out on the lake again next week. Bob Rice noted that people have been asking to have shoreline pickups for the weeds that wash up on their shoreline. Homeowners are responsible for the upkeep of their frontage no different than when the snowplow comes down the road, they don't clear the end of your driveway. Weeds can be dried out on piers and then burned. There are companies or handyman that people can hire who would do that work if needed. The board agreed that people need to be responsible for the maintenance of their own frontage.

Christine had done some research on our dam and companies that could provide guidance. She provided a copy of the report that she received from Collins Engineering who had done work on Eagle Springs. Collins came out and looked at our current dam and provided a proposal for the engineering portion of the job. That estimate came in at \$23,000. They would also help us to secure bids for labor take care of the permitting process through the DNR. There are several different options on what may work for our situation. Collins was going to get some rough numbers put together so that we know what kind of money we are talking about for the complete project. If we decide to move forward with the dam now is the time to do it based on low water levels. There was further discussion about lake levels and the project. The DNR is also going to have grant money available next year for dam rebuilding. Bob Rice commented that we also need to keep in mind the outflow of our current dam and the capacity of the culvert. Christine said an option that was mentioned was to remove the current metal grate system and replace it with something new in the same opening. We hope to get information on cost and options soon.

Bob Rice had worked on guidelines for lake level management. He provided pictures and a document on how levels could be managed consistently year to year. He cited slow-no-wake levels of 8.8 on the gauge that were put in place in 2009. According to measurements at the dam and on the gauge the gauge has moved lower over a period of time. The suggestion was to use a fixed point (the grate) to gauge levels of the lake along with slow-no-wake. He also recommended that no water be removed from the lake prior to May 1st of each year unless water is at the top of the grate. We can always use siphons to take water out but have no way to replace water we have taken out. Lake levels would be maintained May through September according to the handout so that we would not be on slow-no-wake. In November you would bring the levels down to the 3rd bar on the grate to allow for winter precipitation. Christine wanted to be cautious of how much we have written as it could cause problems with random people checking levels. Readings can vary with wind. She suggested that we work with the engineers for the dam as well as Lake and Pond. Bob Rice also stated that the siphons should only be set up when they are being used and not kept out from spring till fall. With the talk of maybe redoing our dam the lake level guidance will be tabled until there is clarity on how we are moving forward with the dam.

Christine has been working on the updated directory. She has reached out to new homeowners so that we have the most updated information. All advertising has been sold. Bob Simon and Bob Rice are going to work on a letter that will go out with the directories.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:58pm

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C Rice
Secretary