

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

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

4 constituents from the district attended.

Chairman Cathy Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

Bill Roeber brought it to our attention that the posted lake rules on the DNR website are not consistent with what we are handing out and what is posted at the launch. Bill pointed out the confusion on hours of skiing and the clockwise and counter clockwise direction being stated different ways. The DNR website should be updated so that it reads clearly. Bob checked this against the printed sheets handed out at the launch. Another thing that came up was that counter clockwise was only between May 1st and September 15th. Bob and MaryJo will work with the Town to make sure the ordinances read correctly. A constituent expressed concerns over people parking boats and swimming in the traffic lanes and asked if there was a way that we could have them park inside the buoys. We could recommend that people do this but we are not able to limit where people boat on the lake.

Cathy talked to the board about our website. She has reached out to several people to see what could be done with our site. Linda at Goehre Creative has worked with lake districts before and could set up a site using Word Press that would enable us to do our own updates. She would also be able to set up the emails for all commissioners. Charges would be around \$3500. Cathy also reached out to Al on our current site and that site was done in 2016 using HTML format and does not allow us to make any of the updates or posts. It would be about \$2500 to rebuild depending on the number of pages. Al strongly suggests that we change from GoDaddy to Host Drive in Lake Geneva. This change would also allow us to have up to 10 emails and there is no extra charge for security or SSL certificate. Bob commented that he really wanted all of the commissioners to have a district owned email. This would enable the next person to have the history of prior conversations if need be and would also eliminate emails going to prior board members. MaryJo made a motion to move forward with Al to proceed with establishing standard emails for the board and switching from GoDaddy to Host Drive. The motion was seconded by Bob Rice. There was discussion about HTML vs Word Press. There was also discussion about the dead links on our current site and confusion of how things are organized. MaryJo said that she will reach out to the Facebook administrator to post that this is a homeowner's group and ask that a link be put on directing people to our official website. Bill asked for examples of what we thought our website should look like. Cathy is going to reach out to Al to start the change to Host Drive. Concerns were voiced over making sure that lake files were backed up in the event of a computer crash. Bob does back up files several times a year on an external hard drive.

The board discussed pay rates for the employees for the 2024 year. Motions were made to establish pay rates and approved. A budget for CBCW will be capped at \$8,000 for the year. \$4000 of that is subsidized by the CBCW DNR grant.

Cathy would like to form some committees to try to get more people involved. It may also generate interest for future board positions. To start we will try to form one for Fish stocking, Tech to help with the web page, and Policy and Procedures. Bob will reach out to the person who asked last year about fisheries. MaryJo suggested a Welcome Committee. This would be a good idea and would help new residents to learn about the lake and where they can find information. There was also discussion on how often to update the printed directory as there have been several changes since the last printed directory.

Cathy gave an update on the district property off of Lake Lane. The no trespassing signs have been posted and all bordering properties were sent a certified letter stating that the land is private property and no permission has been given to use the land.

Beavers and lodges have been removed near the dam. If you want to protect your trees, chicken wire and the use of latex paint mixed with sand are effective in deterring beaver damage.

There was discussion of current water levels, slow-no-wake, and when to install the siphons. The current ordinance is slow-no-wake when water levels reach 8.8. Bob commented that there should be a written policy and procedure in place on how to manage levels (when to start letting water out and how much). With the Lake District's plan to move away from bylaws to State Statutes with policies and procedures, a Slow-No-Wake / Dam Maintenance policy and procedure will be created once the new dam has been constructed with accurate measurement technology. The board is not going to adjust the plate for fear of breaking the bolts. Siphons will be used to lower levels if need be. Bill commented that we should do what we can to lower the lake level but if we are above the 8.8 we will be slow-no-wake. We can't control the weather either way. A motion was made by Bill to institute slow-no-wake until the lake reaches the appropriate levels. The district will evaluate the levels before Memorial Day Weekend and install siphons if need be. The motion was seconded by MaryJo. Signs will be posted, an email will be sent to constituents, and the police department will be notified.

There are two properties on the lake of concerns. The vacant home with the unsecured pier on the shoreline and the home on Shorewood Dr burning on the shoreline and landscape with no silt fence to prevent runoff from entering into the lake. The Lake District is planning to send a letter to the homeowners for the pier and the district plans to follow up with Walworth County on the silt fence as a letter was sent by the district last year asking for compliance.

Commissioners discussed items for the agenda for the spring meeting and the agenda for the spring meeting was set.

Bob Rice's term will end at the end of 2024. He would like to give someone else the opportunity to serve as he has served for several years. Cathy asked for him to put together a job description and timeline of duties and responsibilities so that we could notify people at the spring meeting of an open position.

MaryJo provided a handout which gave an overview of bylaws and why we would want to move to Wisconsin State Statutes Chapter 33. Bottom line is that districts can have bylaws but they cannot conflict with state statute and statute will always trump bylaws. Statutes are updated regularly and when statutes change it can create conflicts with bylaws. This would also open us up to other banks so that we can get more competitive rates as it would do away with the resolution of having to name banking relationships.

Bob updated the group on the Land Use Agreement. We are still going round and round with the DNR. Every time we think we have an agreement, it needs to be approved by someone else, and the original agreement is sent back as an offer and not our amended agreement. If we can't have the amendments included, the offer has no value to the district. The board decided that we should move forward with a 5 year amended agreement with the DNR (that Jim and Lance have the authority to sign off on). If, for some reason, they are unable to do that, the district will back out.

A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C Rice
Secretary