

Minutes of the 2021 Special Meeting of the Potter Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Saturday May 14th, 2022 at Town Hall, East Troy, Wisconsin.

Present: Commissioners Christine Celley, Bob Simon, Bob Rice, Liz Sanders, MaryJo Jones, and 48 constituents from the district were in attendance.

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

Christine introduced the commissioners. Bob Simon who is our Treasurer, Bob Rice our Secretary, Liz Sanders our town appointed board member, and MaryJo Jones our Walworth County appointed board member.

A copy of the minutes from the annual meeting were available to all for review. A motion was made by Fran Basso to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dave Bradley. All were in favor, and none opposed.

Jeff Stelzer from Lake and Pond Solutions spoke to those in attendance. He circulated a draft copy of the aquatic plant management plan that was submitted to the DNR which is waiting approval. Jeff commented about last year's problem with Elodia which was found in 90% of the vegetative areas of the lake. This is a native plant that you can't do much about. Jeff was out on the lake this past week and handed out maps which showed areas that contained Milfoil and Curley Leaf Pond Weed. He is hoping that treatment can be done this coming week, but it will depend on when he is able to get product. This will not be a whole lake treatment but targeted spot treatments. A whole lake treatment was turned down by the DNR for this year. ProcellaCore will be used to treat the designated areas for Milfoil. This product should give multiyear relief to the treated areas. It is different than what we have used in the past but by changing up the chemicals it is harder for the plants to become resistant to treatments. Curley Leaf Pond Weed was also found in large areas. It produces seeds that can lay dormant in the sediment for up to 10 years. The best way to control this is through harvesting. Curley Leaf will die back by mid-summer. Elodia is still abundant in the lake and will remain an issue and harvesting of navigational channels may be needed. Christine commented that the district is working on getting the harvester and conveyors put in. A constituent asked if the treatments and the decaying weeds contributed to the muck. Jeff answered that when weeds die, they do turn into muck at the bottom of the lake but they do the same thing when they die in the fall. The hope is when you treat, you are getting out early when there is less biomass there for reducing the amount of decaying matter. Jeff went on to explain about the safety of the products being used. It takes 7-10 years of testing before a product can be registered. The new herbicides are very target specific. A constituent asked what caused the pea soup condition a couple years ago. Jeff replied that it was caused by phosphorous or nitrogen in the water column. It can be a result of runoff, warm weather, or it can happen if too many plants die at once and there is nothing else to take up the nutrients. This is one of the reasons why it is important to have plants in a lake. Jeff was asked about an update on NR107. This has drawn interest from across the country as the DNR is on track to become one of the strictest states from an APM (aquatic plant management) standpoint. They are looking to get stringent not only with treatments but with harvesting as well. There will be a board meeting later this summer. Bob Rice commented about the loss of fish due to harvesting. Jeff said that is one of the downsides to harvesting especially in shallow waters with the small fish.

Bob Simon went through the budget and had a handout as to our current financial standing. Our receipts from last year were almost \$53,000 and we took in about \$59,000. Last year the lake projects were down and the payroll was up due to more harvesting and less chemical treatment. This is typical as years where

there are larger treatments there is less harvesting. The anticipated cost of this year's chemical treatment is around \$38,000. Jerry Kozik asked for a breakdown of Lake Projects due to the large budgeted amount. It was explained that this number included the amount approved at the annual meeting for the dam project.

Bob Rice spoke about the condition of the dam and the need for near term replacement. Last year the board was authorized to have an engineering study done. We received two proposals for the job, one from Collins Engineering and another from Ayres. Ayres was referred to the district from a constituent who specializes in dams. Bob read a statement from Ayres. He also stated that the replacement of the dam would not help with current low water levels. Ayres had a proposal of almost \$40,000 for their work and oversight and a construction estimate of \$100,000. Bob asked for approval to set aside \$150,000 for completion of this project. Christine commented that if water levels were higher there would be additional costs. With the low water levels now may be an opportune time to do this. Christine also commented on the vegetation near the dam and how it is contributing to the erosion. There was discussion about the size of the pipe. It was explained that it would all be part of the study and we are also limited by the pipe that goes under the road. We are also looking at wings or a retention wall on either side to prevent erosion. The new dam would be similar in size to what we already have but more functional. Dave Bradley asked about the differences in the cost between the two quotes. They are very similar; Ayres was a little more but that was comparing a quote from last year for Collins. Ayres came recommended and has been very responsive and gave us bids for multiple stages of the project. MaryJo Jones asked if the proposal included fencing and signage for safety and to prevent vandalism. The current proposal does not but we could request a bid if needed. The timeline for the project would be to get the engineering part done over the summer and get bids late this year for an early spring 2023 start. A constituent asked why it is in the 2022 budget if we aren't going to do the project until next year. It was explained that we pass the budget at the annual meeting for the following year. We had to budget for it so that we could start on the project if approved. Someone asked if grants were available for the project. We did research this and there is grant money available but there are many additional studies and tests that would be required to apply. The grants are also based on a grading scale and we were told that based on the scope of our project we would fall along the bottom for grant money. The district thinks it would be best to apply money to the project instead of studies. Rick Witt made a motion to approve the board to spend up to \$50,000 for the engineering and bid for the dam. The motion was seconded by Lou Ferruzza. A vote was taken all were in favor and none opposed.

Christine Celley had worked on getting bids from a local service that would collect the weeds off shorelines due to the abundance of floaters from harvesting and boat traffic. Eco Waterway Services has done work on our lake and provided us a quote to do weed pick up once a week while we are harvesting. Weeds would be picked up at the end of your pier and the cost to the district would be \$1150 per visit. We estimate that it may go for 10 weeks and would coincide with harvesting. This is something that we have not done before but would help the residences with disposal. A constituent asked why we would outsource this when we already have a crew harvesting. It boils down to liability; the size and number of boats have increased through the years, and it is hard to navigate a big piece of equipment around peoples lifts and piers. A constituent expressed concerns about the costs of adding another service as the district is already facing increased cost of treatments as well as additional harvesting. Someone asked to do a survey to see who in attendance would be interested in the weed pick up. With a show of hands only about 1/3 of the people were interested. It was recommended that if people wanted to pursue this that maybe they could use Facebook to organize those who want the service and then contract privately for it. Bob Rice also commented that the weed removal also helps the lake. If people take the time to remove the weeds from their shoreline it helps to stop the spread by fragmentation. Christine said that it was also a recommendation as part of our lake management plan. A motion was made by Jerry Kozik for the district to contract with Eco Waterway Service to provide weed pick up this summer. The motion was seconded by Lee Barber. A vote was taken and only 14 were in favor. The motion did not pass.

Gary Froehlich asked to speak about organizing the fireworks. He is organizing a private firework show for the lake and gave an update on the donations that he has collected so far. The plan is to have the show on Sunday July 3rd. There is a small shortfall for the needed amount and if needed he will provide the shortfall.

MaryJo went over the Lakeshore Resource Guide. It has many useful links for information for lakefront homeowners about their shorelines. The guide will also be available on our website.

Christine thanked Fran Basso for her help selling advertisement for the new directory. Directories were mailed out to everyone and additional copies were on hand if people wanted an extra.

Bob Rice talked about Clean Boats Clean Waters. Please give the workers time to check your boat over before launching. There will be people working the launch weekends as well as some hours during the week. Flares will be sold at the boat launch by the CBCW crew on Saturdays and Sundays starting June 18th through 4th of July weekend. Karen Winkleman will also be selling them again this year.

The 4th of July Celebrations were also discussed. In the past the district always did the flares and boat parade on the 4th. It was decided that the flares and boat parade this year would be on July 3rd to coincide with the private fireworks show. The date of the district's celebrations will be determined at each spring meeting. If people still want to do the flares on the 4th they are always free to do so. There is no theme for this year's boat parade.

The annual meeting will be on Saturday September 10, 2022. The budget meeting will start at 9:00am and the annual meeting will follow.

Dave Bradley made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Christine Celley. Meeting was adjourned at 10:35am

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C Rice
Secretary