

Minutes of the 2021 Special Meeting of the Potter Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Saturday May 15th, 2021 at Town Hall, East Troy, Wisconsin.

Present: Commissioners Christine Celley, Bob Simon, Bob Rice, and Jerry Kozik, and 22 constituents from the district were in attendance.

Chairman Christine Celley called the meeting to order at 9:00 am
Christine introduced the commissioners. Rosemary Badame who was our Walworth County appointed board member is not able to continue on with her position on our board. She is working with Walworth County for her replacement.

Jeff Stelzer from Lake and Pond Solutions is our new consultant as Kathy Aron retired. Jeff gave the group back ground information on Lake and Pond as well as himself. Lake and Pond provided the district Sonar mapping of the lake which shows bottom contours of the lake as well as depths. The deepest point found was 24.1 feet with an average depth of 8.3 feet. They also did an invasive survey along with a spring treatment for Milfoil. In the next couple months they will do a point intercept survey which is required by the DNR every 5 years in order to update our Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Jeff had many handouts from his testing and surveys that he went over with the group. The handouts are attached. The spring treatment this year targeted Milfoil in 4 areas of the lake. The area in the channel at the end of Shorewood Dr was treated with a new chemical Procella Cor while the others were treated with 24D at 3 parts per million. In prior years we treated at 2 parts per million, which Jeff believes could allow the Hybrid Milfoil to survive through the prior treatments. 24D provides seasonal control while Procella Cor provides 2 years of control. The current conditions did not warrant a whole lake treatment and the thought was with seasonal control of 24D maybe next year there would be enough for a whole lake treatment. If we used Procella Cor in the larger areas we could get into a cycle where you are treating the same areas every couple years but not enough area in a single year to have a whole lake treatment approved. In the past we have also treated for Curly Leaf. Curly Leaf spreads by little spike balls called turions which can lay viable for 10 years plus. A couple timed harvests in early June and early July can help to reduce the spread of the turions and harvesting is a more cost-effective approach than chemicals for our lake seen our current situation is limited to smaller areas. Curly Leaf will also die off in July on its own. Jeff also commented about the DNR redoing NR107 and NR109 which governs treatments and harvesting. This past winter they put out a series of white papers. The DNR is extremely bias towards treatments. If what they are looking to put through you would not be able to treat in back-to-back years more than 5% of the lake. Jeff encouraged those in attendance to get our legislators involved. The current legislation that is going to be brought forward could impact the way our lake is managed for the next 30-40 years. The DNR is starting to take the stance that invasives aren't as bad as what they originally thought. A constituent commented and asked how the DNR can be so strict with their regulations when many of them don't live on shallow lakes. She commented about the mounds and mounts of seaweed that needed to be cleaned up as a result of harvesting. It was asked what the difference is in us wanting to treat the lake and someone treating their lawn for dandelions. Jeff said that those are the stories our legislators need to hear. There is also a committee the JCRAR that has the ability on its own to turn down the proposed changes by the DNR. Christine stated that the WMC (Wisconsin Manufacturing and Commerce) are currently working with applicators and biologists throughout the state. Christine has received calls from people in northern Wisconsin that don't have a district and are doing collections for treatments. Jeff commented on DASH (diver assisted harvesting) which he did for a few years and stopped. He noted Little Muskego which spent \$50,000 in grants to treat 1 acre of Starry Stonewort. Jeff could treat the same are for \$1,000 with the use of chemicals. The state agencies are not looking at the cost of things when they are making recommendations. Christine encouraged people to get involved as well as spread the word with people on other lakes. A constituent who has been on the lake since the 1950's said that you couldn't use a motor

boat on the lake prior to getting the harvester the weeds were so thick. Bob Rice commented that if the lake reverted back to the way it was prior to whole lake treatments that it would impact our property values and also effect the towns mill rate because they still need to collect the same amount of taxes. The mill rate would then affect those who live off the lake so we all have a stake in this. Another constituent commented about the stunted growth of the panfish. He also asked with the new chemical Procetta Cor if the lake would be alright with reduced treatment levels. The thought process was if it lasted 2 years you would not have to treat the same areas the next year. Jeff said that you are assuming that it is just the same areas. 50% of our lake is less than 8' deep and can grow weeds so it could create a cycle of small limited treatments. Jeff also contributed the small panfish size to the thick weeds. The panfish can hide in the weed beds and it makes it harder for bass and northern to get in and feed creating more panfish and smaller game fish. Bob Rice commented that the district has paid for fish stocking the last two times because the DNR didn't have money left to do so. We stocked northern pike at their recommendation to try to reduce the smaller panfish. Bob Simon asked why we are just targeting the invasives. Jeff explained that invasives growth at a fast pace and will reduce the sunlight needed for the natives to grow. The invasives are also shown to decrease diversity of plants in a lake. Shallow areas less than 4' with native plants can be a nuisance and be hard to balance between recreation and structure for habitat. Bob Rice asked Jeff if there was anything we could do for the Elodia that is starting to take over the lake. Jeff said because it is native you would have to show navigational impediment for the DNR to allow treatment. If allowed they would only grant approval for navigation channels and not clear cutting. Homeowners are allowed to remove a 30' wide path off the end of their piers if they want but the same areas each year. Jeff also said that the more you use your boats the less problems you will have as the traffic creates navigational channels. Jerry asked for recommendations for Curly Leaf going forward. Jeff's recommendation was to top the plants a couple times between June and July to prevent the spread of the turions and the plant will naturally die off in July. Jerry also asked about the potential for another whole lake treatment in the next couple years. Jeff estimated that the lake may be at a point in the next year or two but also stated the DNR may have a different opinion on when that may be. Zebra muscles are starting to become a problem in our lake. They do contribute to increased clarity but the clarity contributes to shifting plant growth. Jeff left handouts for the group for those who were interested in taking them.

Copied of the minutes were available for the 2020 annual meeting as well as the Budget meeting. Christine asked if there were any questions on the provided minutes. A motion was made by Fran Basso to approve the minutes of the 2020 annual meeting as presented the motion was seconded by Carol Haynes. All were in favor and none were opposed. A motion was made by Fran Basso to approve the minutes from the February budget meeting as presented the motion was seconded by Carol Haynes.

Bob Simon provided a handout with a summary of our current expense's year to date as well as last years approved budget. Over the past three or four years we have spent less than expected because of the whole lake treatment and not harvesting. There is enough cash on hand in the event we need to harvest this year without a need for increased tax or special assessments. We had a rolled one of our CD's into a callable product which we earned 5% for one year but it was called back. We will be looking at other options for that money. Financially the district is in pretty good shape.

Bob Rice talked about the Clean Boats Clean Waters program for 2021. He is in need of help this summer as two people will not be returning from last summer. Historically we have manned the launch all weekend but because of lack of help we may not be able to have staff down there all weekend. Bob commented about the zebra muscles in the lake and encouraged people to trim their motors out of the water when they are done using their boats to prevent the zebra muscles from clogging the intakes. The DNR is supposed to be replacing the concrete by the ramp sometime this month. A email will be sent once we are informed of the dates.

The group was asked if they had seen large numbers of geese on the lake. Only reports were of 4 adults and a few small goslings. Not enough were reported to warrant a round up for this year.

Christine asked the group for help updating the directory. If anyone has a new neighbor, please make sure you have them email us with their information. We will also be selling advertising to offset the cost of the new directories. The hope is to have the new directory ready for the annual meeting. Last year's directories were on hand for those who wanted to take them.

Bob Rice talked to the group about the Heathy Lakes Program. The DNR is offering grants to help people with their projects which would include rain gardens, shoreline buffers with native plantings, and gravel around foundations to help filter runoff. More information about the program can be found on the DNR website. A constituent asked about the salt run off from winter and if that was a concern for the lake. Jeff is going to be doing some water quality testing and we could ask Jeff.

Christine talked about the boat parade and flares which will be on Sunday July 4th. The boat parade will start by the boat launch at 7:00pm and the lighting of the lake will follow at dusk. There is not a designated theme for the boat parade this year. Flares will be sold at the boat launch on weekends prior to the 4th and will also be sold by Karen Winkleman. Bob Rice commented that someone had questioned the district not contributing towards the fireworks. The fireworks have always been done by a private party and the district has never financially supported the fireworks. Christine stated that the district is a sudo government agency and we don't get involved in things that a homeowner's association might get involved in such as community events or promotions. Bob Rice also stated that the Facebook page is not associated with the district and if you want information from the district you should go to our website or email us. PottersLake.org and PottersLake@gmail.com.

A constituent asked why every year Miramar Park was allowed to dump sand on their beach and into the lake. Christine stated that it is not recommended and if you want sand you are supposed to be getting a permit and approval from Walworth County and the DNR. If you do get sand, it should be placed behind the riprap to prevent it from going into the lake. Pea gravel is preferred for a firm bottom as it doesn't float around like sand.

A constituent asked about the buoy placement this year as some are closer than they have been in the past. The board will check to see what proper distance is for placement. Christine talked about the harvester. The DNR wants harvesters to start using GPS. If we had a GPS on the harvester it would make it easier for our guys to go right to where Jeff finds the invasives.

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held Saturday September 11th following the budget meeting which starts at 9:00am.

Dave Bradley made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Tim Krenke. Meeting was adjourned at 10:48am

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C Rice
Secretary