

**Minutes of the 2019 Special Meeting of the Potter Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Saturday May 4th, 2019 at Town Hall, East Troy, Wisconsin.**

Present: Commissioners Christine Celley, Jon Voss, Bob Rice, Jerry Kozik, Rosemary Badame, and 34 constituents from the district were in attendance.

Chairman Christine Celley called the meeting to order at 9:04 am  
Christine introduced the commissioners. The first item on the agenda was to approve the minutes from the 2019 budget meeting and the 2018 annual meeting. A motion was made by Carol Cole to approve the minutes as presented and the motion was seconded by Annette Larson.

Jon Voss provided the Treasure's update. There was a handout that provided year to date actuals through the month of April. We have 4 CDs that were broken out on the bottom. One will be coming up for renewal in May and the interest rate is going to go up from .50% to 2.50%. Jon asked if anyone had any questions or comments regarding the finances? No one had any questions. Jon encouraged people to reach out to him if they ever have any questions.

Christine introduced Kathy Aron who spoke about the condition of our lake. Kathy commented that we have had a lot of rain this year making our water levels higher than normal. The nights have been cold so water temperatures have remained cooler than they would normally be in a typical spring. Conditions have made it difficult to get on lakes and assess the weed growth for treatments. Water needs to reach a certain temperature for the plants to start growing and until then they won't take up the herbicide for treatments. We are into our 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the Sonar treatment and it is expected to be effective against the Milfoil for the next two years. It is encouraged that if anyone spots Milfoil on the lake that they contact the board so that spot treatments can be set up to extend the life of the whole lake treatment. One more water test will be taken to see if any levels of Sonar remain in the lake. Last year we still had 4 parts per billion residual from the treatment in 2017. Kathy commented that there has been a change in the goose round up program. This has been a Federal program in the past but has recently been taken over by the DNR. Goose round ups are important because it helps to keep the nutrient levels in the lake down. Christine commented that we have been lucky over the past five years. Residences have been good about putting up wire across their frontage and using rip rap which both help to make shorelines undesirable for geese. Kathy said that we do have our chemical treatment permit for this year but there has been an adjustment as to what we can treat with due to an endangered frog in our wetlands. The 24D which was used in the past is now restricted but there are other manufacturers that do not have the same restriction and were added to the permit. The snow cover from last winter has helped to keep the plant growth down.

Christine commented that people should put their house numbers on their pier or boat canopy. This is good practice not only for reporting emergencies that may happen but also reporting weed growth to the board. The district does have a plant management plan that is available on our website. This is a good place to look first if you have any questions regarding the lake or you can reach out to the board at any time. We do have good plant growth on our lake which is also a sign of a healthy lake. They help with our water clarity and fish.

Christine went over the differences between a lake district and a lake association. A lake district is a government entity with taxing authority. Our district uses the taxes generated towards the lake treatments, Clean Boats Clean Waters, harvesting, and special projects. We have to follow state statute 33 and our bylaws. We often get emails asking us to post items for sale or people's private events. Those things may be appropriate for an association but not a district. There is a facebook page that someone has set up for the homeowners and that would be a good place to go and post things. The facebook page is not run or set

up by the district. We don't want anyone to feel bad about us not posting things on our site, but it is not the appropriate place to do so. Kathy Aron commented about the participation at our meetings and the homeowner's involvement with the lake. A district has to operate like the town does and there are reasons for the differences between a district and an association.

There was a handout given about the use of phosphorous in fertilizers and the effects it has on the lake. UW Extension will do soil tests of your lawn for free. Bob Rice pointed to the section in the hand out that stated 1 pound of phosphorous can result in 300 to 700 pounds of algae in a lake. Christine said that phosphorous is mostly used to establish new lawns and once they are established, they no longer need phosphorous. She is going to be attending a phosphorous seminar on Memorial Day Weekend put on by Walworth County and the DNR.

Bob commented on the Clean Boats Clean Waters program. The program will staff people at the launch over the summer on Friday, Saturday, and Sundays. He is currently looking for more people to help out at the launch. They must be at least 16. Bob also applied for grant money for the program and we were approved again this year to receive funds. Our total out of pocket for the program runs about \$1500 for the year with the rest being picked up by the grant. Flares will also be available starting 2 weeks before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Flares will be 3 for \$10 and sold by the CBCW crew along with Karen Winkelman.

Bob asked Kathy if she had been on our lake yet this summer. He stated that the lake level is high right now but there had been talk of maybe adjusting the slow-no-wake level. He asked Kathy if she was able to give us any guidance with those levels. Kathy said that she was on our lake last year and the 8.8 level is still her recommendation unless something dramatically changed around our shorelines. Christine said that from past conversations with Kathy her understanding is that 8.8 is the marker and if we have a ¼ inch of rain that we wouldn't place the lake back on slow-no-wake. If that were the case we could be going back and forth on a daily basis. Kathy said that there could be an inch or more of variance depending on the wind. A constituent asked us to explain the 8.8 level and where that came from. Kathy commented that it is the level that was set and put in municipal code. Once lake levels exceed this number the potential of damage to property and erosion of shorelines increases. She thinks that the 8.8 level is still appropriate for the protection of the lake. Bob commented that based on what Kathy said we should still use 8.8 as our guide but not go to slow-no-wake until the level reaches 8.9 which would then account for any variance of lake levels. A constituent asked about what the current levels have to do with levels later in the summer. It was explained that we are a seepage lake and do not have any inflows of water. We can take water out but rely on rain and snow to keep our levels up. Christine commented that the marker is in 10ths of a foot and not inches. Kathy said that there is a balance in how fast you bring the lake levels down, how far you bring it down, and when you bring it down. If we get into June and the levels are still hanging around 9.1 you may want to have conversations about installing the siphons. If you bring those levels down too soon you may have low water come mid-summer. Christine said that there have been some summers when it has been down 18 inches. Kathy said that the bottom line for the district board is the interest of the lake not the boaters. The district's responsibility is to protect and insure the long-term viability of the lake. Christine stated that the board developed the siphon system in the last 10 years to help with managing levels. Also, lower lake levels at the end of the season are bad for the fish, plant growth, and algae blooms. Christine said that we will continue to monitor lake levels and make recommendations based on all of the factors effecting the lake levels, the lake is a living thing. None of us want slow-no-wake over 4<sup>th</sup> of July and will work to get the levels down so that people can enjoy the holiday but right now there is no reason to adjust the levels. We are on slow-no-wake now because our water levels are high and with our launch and small lake, people like to come here to test out their boats before summer subjecting our shorelines to potential damage. Siphons are implemented to help move water out of the lake in extreme conditions, she cited lake Delton when the dam failed. Our dam has a small diameter pipe and can only allow so much water to flow out. The siphons are used to alleviate the pressure on our dam and allow more water to flow out. The types of boats have also changed through the years. The newer boats throw up a much bigger wake than the older ones used to. People need to be

cognizant of this and plane their boats off. A constituent asked about the beaver dam by the boat launch area. Christine stated that the district removed the dam last year. She also noted that Chief Jensen from East Troy told her that the DNR and Town of East Troy will be patrolling our lake on a more regular basis this summer. Jerry Kozik asked if we were going to install a new stick at the dam as we had talked about in the past. All agreed that there has been movement of the stick but Kathy commented that there really isn't enough movement to affect what we are trying to do with levels. Bob said that he would like to see something permanently affixed to the dam. He commented that back when we started taking readings 8-10 years ago that our current level of 9.1 is more in line with where 8.8 used to be by measuring from the top of the grate. He feels that there have been several inches of movement in the gauge. If we affixed something to the grate the grate is not a post or anything that will move with the ice or settle. A constituent said that they have seen that done on other lakes. Christine asked the constituent if she knew what material they used. Several people commented that you could use stainless steel. Kathy suggested that someone should measure the water going over the dam and record that level and also record the level on the stick and between those two measurements you will be able to tell if the stick is moving.

Jon commented on the beavers and suggested that you should put wire mesh around your trees to protect them from the beavers. A few people commented that they have had damaged trees from the beavers.

Kathy Aron said that Starry Stonewort has now been found in Lake Geneva. It surrounds the Door County peninsula, Wind Lake, Long Lake, Green Lake, Muskego Lakes, and Silver Lake. None of the control measures to eradicate it have worked. The key is Clean Boats Clean Waters and decontamination measures for keeping it out of other lakes. This is a bad invasive that we want to make sure doesn't get in our lake. Kathy stated that there is not a system set up to stop the spread of this. Little Muskego drained their lake down 7 feet to try and freeze it out. It grows so fast that you can't keep up trying to harvest it. A constituent questioned about the high use of our launch because of there not being a charge. Christine responded that it is a DNR owned and operated launch and if we wanted to charge, we would have to take it over. If we did take it over the district would be responsible for all the maintenance of the lot and piers.

Christine spoke to the group about the round up. She encouraged people to manage their shorelines to try and make them less inviting to the geese (low strings, higher grass, and rip rap). She encouraged new residences to go online or ask Bob for a permission slip so in the event of a round up we would be able to access their property. The round ups are a very humane way of getting rid of the geese. The meat is donated to food shelters after it has been tested.

The website is a great place to get information about the lake. This is where we post notices and information about the lake. Christine said that if there was anything on the site that needs to be corrected to please let the board know.

Christine told the group that we are always looking for people to help out and if anyone is interested in getting on a committee to let us know. The more people that get involved the better as it is about education. The more you understand about how the lake works and how we interact with it the better off we are. The lake is constantly evolving and changes each day. Jon Voss has been working hard to organize this year's carp out. He also thought it would be good to get people involved in our fisheries Working with the DNR to see about stocking and maybe slotting limits that would help to make our fishing better. A constituent thought that the carp out was a great idea and thought that we should get businesses involved to donate prizes. Jon spoke about why the carp out is beneficial for the lake. Carp are terrible for the lake. They are bottom feeders and the phosphorus that settles on the bottom of the lake gets stirred up when they feed. Last year they caught about 30-40 carp by just fishing for them. This year he hopes to get the bow hunters involved to make it a bigger success. Each boat that comes can take about a 55-gallon drum of carp out in a single night. There were handouts that provided information on how to successfully fish for them. Jon said that he is looking to change the date to June 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> and will post notice once the date is set. There will be a payout of \$1 per carp and there will be 3 more carp tagged that

are worth \$100 if you catch one. None of the ones we tagged last year have been caught and may still have the tags, so chances of that payout are better. Bob asked how many boats were going to be involved. Jon said that he didn't know yet. Bob questioned where those boats would be coming from and wanted to make sure that they were not coming from lakes that had the Starry Stonewort. He hoped that maybe we could coordinate it with Clean Boats Clean Waters. Christine thought this was a good idea. Jon was hopeful that because of the cooler spring weather we would-be right-on target with their spawning season as the water warms up. Carol Cole asked if it were possible for people to use the lot that the district owns off of L to park in so that we could accommodate more boats and people for the carp out. Bob commented and said that he would check and see if we could use the lot on Shorewood Dr as it would be closer.

This year the boat parade will be on Thursday July 4th starting around 7pm at the boat launch bay. The board asked for recommendations for a theme for this year's parade. A constituent suggested patriotic. No other suggestions were given so patriotic will be this year's theme. Christine encouraged all to attend. The lighting of the lake will follow around 9.

Loreen Hirsch will be organizing the Blake Party again this year. She was unable to attend so Bob addressed to group. The proposed date is Saturday August 3<sup>rd</sup>. The proposed location will either be at the Potter's Lake storage shed or the peninsula on Shorewood Dr. This is a meet your neighbor event and will be run a bit different than past years as they have proposed a pot luck. Christine explained why we are talking about this after Kathy explained the differences in districts and associations. In years past they had a carp fishing event in conjunction with the party that benefited the lake. Last year there was no party and this year they had come back and asked us, but they were unable schedule it in conjunction with the carp out. We are asking them to distance the event from the district. We will encourage them to put it on the Facebook page. Carol Cole asked if they were going to accept donations for raffle items. Tim Krenke said that he had talked to Lorene and it was going to be a more casual get together with no raffles or DJ's and people would bring their own food.

Next meeting will be on Saturday September 7, 2019. 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 Carol Cole. Meeting was adjourned at 10:14am

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C Rice  
Secretary