

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Potters Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Tuesday, August 20th, 2024 at Town Hall, East Troy, Wisconsin.

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

8 constituents from the district attended.

Chairman Cathy Schulz called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM

Johanna Cairns from the Welcome Committee presented to the board. They will be reaching out to new residents with a welcome packet that will include a welcome letter, lake rules, newsletters, a note on what you can do on your waterfront property, goose round up forms, and Town of East Troy contact information. Joe Jones also suggested including the non-emergency number for the Town of East Troy Police Department. They have identified 12 new homeowners that they will be reaching out to. The committee will also be giving an update at the annual meeting.

Dennis Schulz from the Fisheries Committee presented to the board. They are looking to get the lake back on the DNR stocking program to get fish stocking at a lower or no cost. Years ago, the lake was stocked with Tiger Muskies to feed on the small panfish and that program failed. After that the DNR stocked Northern Pike and they are questioning if our lake can handle a Northern Pike population. The committee is trying to enhance the fish population on the lake and are also considering private hatcheries for stocking. Bob Rice commented that the majority of the boats that have been launched this summer have been fishing boats. More so than we have had in the past. Fisherman have been catching fish but are reporting smaller size. Dennis commented that the last fish survey that was done in 2022 confirmed the average size Bass is down from 14" to 12". The committee is also looking at the Carp situation on the lake and trying to make sure that there is a healthy balance and not an over population.

MaryJo went through the updated policies and procedures with the changes that were submitted by the board. She explained that our by-laws were from 2007. By-laws should mimic the state statues but never overrule the state statues. Due to the constantly changing statues it would be very difficult to keep the by-laws current. The most efficient way for the district to operate is to follow the state statues, do away with the current by-laws, and develop policies and procedures to fill in where state statues do not cover. There was in depth discussion on the policies and procedures and some suggested updates. MaryJo will make the suggested changes and present at the annual meeting for approval. The district will also review the policies and procedures on an annual basis.

Bob Rice updated the board on the progress of the dam. There was a conference call earlier in the day with Ayres, Purpero, and the DNR. The project is scheduled to start sometime between September 3rd and September 13th. There was a change made to the coffer dam and they are going to be using larger plates to hold back the water in the lake. The project should be completed within 3 weeks after start. Rick Witt had questions about the setting of the new dam. A measurement was taken and the top of the plate and the new dam will be 1/10 of a foot higher than the top of the old plate. He also wanted to know the flow rate of the new pipe that will be going in. This way we would be able to calculate how long it would take to lower the lake if need be. Bob will check and see what the flow rate is for the new pipe and report back to Cathy and Rick. Bill commented that we could put in a solar powered system that could alert us of levels at the dam.

Cathy presented a power point on the new website. There were three design options that were presented. She went through ideas of how it may be organized with tabs and quick links. Lake Management and Lake Rules would be available right from the front page. The links to the DNR and Town of East Troy go directly to their site and will take you to the most current information. Liz suggested a link to the Town

calendar which would give information on town meetings and also dates for the compost site. Our meetings and agendas will be organized more like the way the town has it (our current site has everything lumped together by year). The goal of the new site is not to get rid of things but make it easier to find information and give the district the ability to self-administer. Cathy and Bill brought up the lake rules and we need to make sure that what we put on our website is consistent with the Town and DNR. MaryJo will be updating the information on what a lake district is and what it does for the new site. We will be adding a link for new residents which the Welcome Committee will help with. Cathy is also looking at adding a gallery page where people can submit photos to be posted. Liz agrees that this would make the site more interactive and help with getting people to use it.

Bill Roeber, Treasurer, presented the proposed 2025 budget. There were some adjustments from last year. The dam will be completed and paid for this year and we should have about \$130,000 left in reserves which includes the money in the LPL account. Cathy verified that even though we are spending more than we are taking in that we are still ok. Bill said that for a period of time that is true unless something unexpected came up. Bob commented that he would like to see the levy increased so that we are taking in enough to cover our expenses without having to dip into reserves each year. We have not had an increase in at least the last 20 years. The reason we are able to pull money from reserves is because of what was done by the district years ago. Our average expenses over the last 10 years have exceeded what we have collected and with the cost of the dam we will be getting less in interest income going forward. Inflation will also come into play. Cathy said that it may be up for discussion in the future but now is not the time to do it as there were people who voiced concerns over the amount we currently have in reserves.

Bob's term is expiring at the end of 2024 and he is not seeking reelection. Cathy and MaryJo will create an email and attachment to be sent out to the constituents to try and fill the open position. Bob is willing to help with the transition. Flares will not be part of the Secretary position but will be part of the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program.

The commissioners discussed and set the agenda for the annual meeting which will be posted 2 weeks prior to the annual meeting. Handouts for the annual meeting will be sent out to the constituents with the agenda for the annual meeting.

Rick Witt suggested that it may be a good idea for people to put their house numbers on their pier. In the event of an emergency, it would be helpful to first responders.

MaryJo made a motion to adjourn the meeting, the motion was seconded by Bill and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C Rice
Secretary