

Minutes of the 2024 Spring Meeting of the Potter Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Saturday May 11th, 2024, at Town Hall, East Troy, Wisconsin.

Present: Commissioners Cathy Schulz, Bill Roeber, Bob Rice, Liz Sanders, MaryJo Jones, and 17 constituents from the district were in attendance.

Chairman Cathy Schulz called the meeting to order at 9:00 am

Commissioners present were Bill Roeber Treasurer, Bob Rice Secretary, Liz Sanders Town appointed board member, MaryJo Jones Walworth County appointed board member and Cathy Schulz our chairman.

Cathy Schulz asked to amend the agenda removing approval of minutes from the annual budget meeting and annual meeting. Dave Bardley made a motion to remove the approval of those minutes and the motion was seconded by Fran Basso.

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the 2024 financial audit and minutes were approved as presented.

Jeff Stelzer from Lake and Pond updated those in attendance on the conditions of the lake. Water sampling was started this year and had not been done for many years. Reports were available for those who wanted them. Nothing stood out as abnormal. The lake was surveyed for weeds on April 30th. There was Curley Leaf Pond Weed throughout the lake. This will die back in mid-July and is best controlled by harvesting. Treatment for Curley Leaf was done along the shoreline of Spleas Skoney and Lake Lane in the shallower depths that the harvester can't get into. Jeff did a sonar mapping of the lake and sheets were available that showed where the weed growth was. Milfoil was found in the bay by the boat launch and along the northern shore line and the 12 acres were treated with ProcellaCOR. We used this product in the past and it gave us multiple years of relief. Contributing to the invasives problem was the late ice cover and early ice off along with higher-than-normal spring temperatures. The long-term plan for the lake is to treat invasives in areas the harvester can't get into and spot treat for Milfoil as it is found.

Bill updated the group on the current financial situation of the district. The district had about \$15,700 in retained earnings last year as we didn't have any expenses for lake treatments. 2 CD's came due in February and we put them into a money market account along with the tax revenue we collected in order to get a higher interest rate. Most of that will be used for the replacement of the dam. The LPL account has recovered some to \$103,858 but we are still about \$15,700 down from our cost basis. The plan is to let that run to maturity in 2028. Income year to date is about \$124,000 which includes the special assessment for the dam construction. Our expenses will run about \$250,000 which is about what we have in the money market account. We should have about \$15,000-\$20,000 left over plus what we have in the LPL account at year end. A question was asked as to why we wouldn't put that money in a high yield savings account. It was explained that our bylaws limit where we can bank. This would be something

that can be changed at the annual meeting. A hand out was available for anyone who wanted a breakdown of the finances.

Cathy informed the group that the 2 beaver lodges that were located at the East end of the lake were removed. Since then, there has only been one beaver sighting. There are a few ways to protect your trees, one being wrapping them with chicken wire and another is mixing sand in latex paint and painting the bottom of your trees. A constituent also commented that the muskrats also like to eat the rubber covers on the lower units of boat motors.

The district received some complaints of people riding ATV's on district property. We posted No Trespassing Signs along the lot lines and sent certified letters to 20 homeowners who border that property and one to the Town of East Trot Police Department as well. Cathy brought a copy of the letter for anyone who wanted to read what was sent.

Cathy is looking for people to get involved and help with a few committees. There will be a committee for Welcome and Directory that will welcome new residents and also keep a current directory. Fish Stocking will work with the DNR and make suggestions about what types of fish to stock and a schedule of when. Dennis Schulz told the group that years ago the DNR stocked Tiger Muskies in the lake to try and improve the size of the panfish. The last stocking that was done was in 2019 and 300 Northern Pike were stocked by the district. We could use Bass, Crappie, or Perch. The DNR does not have us on the calendar for fish stocking for the next couple years due to budget constraints. Jeff Stelzer had said in the past that you are better off stocking Bass to eat the panfish than you are Northern as a Northern would rather eat Bass. Cathy is also looking for help with Technology and Website which would help with updating and revising our website. We would like to be able to do our own updating on the site. The other committee would be a Policy and Procedure committee which would help with moving away from the bylaws and going to Chapter 33. This committee would also help with auditing.

There will be two potential board positions opening. The town appointed position runs through May 1st of each year but if someone is interested this could be changed at any time. Bob Rice's Secretary position will end at the end of 2024. Bob stated that he is looking for a replacement and is willing to help with the transition. Liz said that she is happy to continue in her current capacity but does not want to get more involved with the Town Board meetings. If there is someone who would like to take over her position and she would also be happy to help with the transition.

Bob Rice gave an update on the dam. We met with Purpero at the dam and went over the project in early Spring 2024. The gate and grate assembly will be delivered in June and they can start the project after the 4th of July. We asked if they could start in the fall after Labor Day Weekend and they would also prefer to do it in the fall. The area around the dam will be blocked off as they need the working area to stay dry. There should be minimal water loss from this project. The project is anticipated to take 1-2 weeks. They will not be hauling away the soil but placing it on the berm and seeding it. Liz asked if there was any risk of the dam not getting done before the permits expire. We did ask Purpero about that and if the lake levels prevent us from doing the project extending the permits would not be difficult.

A constituent asked about slow-no-wake. The district has sent out the email notice and posted signs. The district will continue to monitor the lake levels and does not want to take measures to lower the lake too soon. The goal would be to have the lake back open by Memorial Day Weekend. We need to be careful in our decisions because there is no way to get water back into the lake once we let it out. Forecast is for another hot dry summer.

MaryJo spoke to the group about shifting away from the current bylaws. She has been working with UW Stevens Point Extension Lakes Director Eric Olson. It was common in the past for lakes to have bylaws but bylaws cannot conflict with state statute and chapter 33 has changes several times a year making it difficult to keep bylaws up to date. The best thing to do is to follow chapter 33 and dissolve our current bylaws. There will still be a few resolutions for setting up meetings, annual budget, levy and weed tax, along with commissioner stipend. MaryJo asked if anyone would be interested in helping her with making the changes and creating policies.

Bob updated the group on the status of the land use agreement. We have a final 15 year (2024-2039) agreement that the DNR is supposed to sign and send to us for our signature and we will record that document with Walworth County. The agreement will enable us to have a small dock, leave the conveyor parked at the launch, dock the harvester, and unload weeds into the truck when harvesting. In exchange we will mow and trim the lawn and pick up garbage in the parking lot. The harvester will still be kept at the end of Lake Lane and the launch will be used for back up.

Cathy went over the 4th of July events. The boat parade and flares will be on July 5th. Boats interested in being in the parade will meet by the launch at 6:45pm and proceed counter clockwise around the lake. The theme for the boat parade this year will be Jimmy Buffett. Flares will be sold by the Clean Boats Clean Water crew on weekends starting June 22nd and Karen Winkelman will be selling them out of her home again. Cost of flares will be \$5 each. Gary Froehlich will be organizing fireworks again and he is collecting donations. You can drop off payment in the box behind his mailbox at W920 Shorewood Dr or you can use VENMO. Fireworks are scheduled for July 5th.

Annual meeting is set for Saturday September 14th. The budget meeting will start at 9:00am with the annual meeting to follow.

Cathy asked if there were any public comments. A constituent complained about jet skis riding inside the slow-no-wake buoys. She called the police and was told that there was only 1 patrol on duty and they were at another call. Nobody came to follow up on the complaint. Bob Rice commented on current legislation trying to regulate wakeboard boats and suggested that people stay on top of this at the local level. Lake Beulah may be trying to regulate this and if they do, we could see an increase in activity on our lake. He suggested paying attention to the town agendas.

Clean Boats Clean Waters program will run on a similar schedule to last year. People will be checking boats for weeds and assisting with lake related questions. We also received another grant for \$4,000 from the DNR to help cover the cost of the program.

Town of East Troy will be having a E-Cycle on October 5th from 9-2 where you can get rid of your old electronics. Walworth County will also be having a Clean Sweep on June 21st from 3:30pm---5:30pm and on June 22nd from 8:00am—12:00pm at the Walworth County Public Works building. This would be a good way to get rid of those hazardous chemicals and old paint.

Dave Bradley made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Liz Sanders. Meeting was adjourned at 10:16am

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C Rice
Secretary