

## MOUNT MORRIS LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

JUNE 24, 2023 – 12:00 PM - MOUNTAINVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

District Lunch: 11:30 am – 12:00 pm

### 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:00 PM

#### a. Agenda Presented with a modification

- Under new business, the item “Other New Business” was added
- Modification approved; Agenda voted accepted with modification

#### b. Introductions of residents by lake; Introductions of the Board Members:

- Present: Rob Adams, Joe Slezak,, Peggy Thiel, Karen Tschurwald, Paul Jarvis; John Jarvis
- Gil Steffanides was not able to attend due to a family wedding event he is attending.
- Ed Heath Onterra LLC.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE JULY 16, 2022 ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING- JOE SLEZAK, DISTRICT SECRETARY

Minutes presented in edited PowerPoint for the July 17 Annual Meeting. Key topics covered in the meeting minutes summary were:

- **Rob Adams Chairman’s Report** covered reasons for the Annual meeting date change, District Mission, Drawdown details, and By-Laws changes regarding use of referendums and meeting quota
- **Peggy Thiel - Treasurer’s Report of 2020-2021** covered what was received from the DNR for the drawdown grant; upcoming Harvester storage costs; Budgeting for future harvester equipment needs, safety improvements, and repairs; Report was voted for approved by the electorate.
- **Bob Jozowski - Endowment Fund Report** restated the mission and purpose of the fund; Two more members are need to fill the committee;
- **District Service Award** Presentation: A wooden plaque was presented to retiring Board Chairman Tim Dahlstrand for over 32 years of service to the District.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Rob Adams** summarized some initial observations regarding the impact of the drawdown on AIS and that additional data was being collected for the remainder of the year. We have a DNR grant for drawdown research for \$10,000 to \$18,000.
- **Harvester Operations Report:** Joe Slezak covered harvesting strategies, harvesting techniques; future equipment needs; allocation of \$7,000 for maintenance for 2023; and the potential of the DNR to significantly increase harvesting fees in three years.
- **Slow-No-Wake Referendums:** Tim Lewis inquired about the wake laws regarding Lake B; The reason for the Lake A and Lake B referendums were explained: After much discussion, a motion was made to ask the Lake District Board to go to the Town of Mt. Morris Board to ask what procedures are needed to officially state that Lake A was a slow no wake lake, and how Lake B might be made into a slow no wake lake.
- **Harvesting Labor Management Fees Paid to USTF:** It was brought up by Kathy Croft that we were paying USTF temporary help firm a lot of money to administer payroll and HR services, and she recommended forming a committee to investigate this in detail. Committee volunteers at the meeting and from the District are to contact Kathy and they will research the issue and report their results and recommendations at the next annual meeting in 2023.
- **Dam Maintenance:** We budgeted \$20,000 to repair the Toe Drain at the dam to be made in the Spring of 2023;
- **By-Laws Changes:** It was voted to eliminate the need for a quota for the Annual Meeting and to allow for the use of mailed non-binding referendums to assess electorate opinion on specific issues, and to allow binding referendums to occur between annual meetings that would be needed to resolve issue between annual meetings.
- **Website changes:** Additional feedback was being sought from the electorate on how to make the website more compatible with cell phone formats. \$1,550 was allocated for the changes.

#### NEW BUSINESS

- **2021-2022 Treasurer’s Report-Peggy Thiel:**  
Budget discussed and passed for 2023; Lapsable fund was voted approved to save money for future needs.
- **Commissioner Elections:** Gil Steffanides and Peggy Thiel elected to 3 year commissioner terms
- **Other Issues brought up from the floor:**  
Gary Frank is looking for additional dock sections for the boat landing pier  
Lake B and boaters need to observe the wake rules so as not to interfere with swimmers
- **Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am**
- **Minutes for the June 20, 2022 meeting voted for acceptance and approved**

### **3. 2022-2023 District Chairman's Report: Rob Adams**

- Rob presented a graphic outline of the elements of the District Strategic Plan
- We need to be following the rules of Chapter 33 in all of our
- Rob detailed the responsibilities of each Board Member and the need for additional volunteers to help

### **4. 2022 - 2023 Treasurer's Report: Peggy Thiel**

- Referred to the Newsletter as to the individual numbers of the report
- Annual Assessment came in under the budget due to delinquent taxes... we expect more on that
- The DNR grant for the final portion of the pre-drawdown grant was received
- \$193 interest was collected
- There were no capital expenses this year
- Harvester labor was favorable to the budget
- Operating expenses and supplies & parts were in line with the budget
- Insurance was higher due to the change to the payroll accounting service;
- Website improvements were not needed and we saved \$1550.
- We have not yet spent the \$20,000 for the toe drain expenses.
- Cash Balance \$116,000... \$20,000 of that is in the non-lapsable fund.
- Treasurer's Report was voted for acceptance and approval

### **5. AIS & DRAWDOWN PRESENTATION: Eddie Heath, Onterra LLC. Environmental Consultants (1 hour)**

- Summary of his background and the services offered by Onterra in lake science management resource.
- Our partnership with Onterra goes back to 2006
- Curly Leaf pondweed is now considered a non-invasive species... there is no support for its treatment
- Lily pads will come back in the future
- Eurasian Water Milfoil will rise and fall in severity each year, and will change its location
- Creative ways to use the harvester to control vegetation is the strategy for the future
- Eddie's PowerPoint Presentation is included on the District website for more reference

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### **1. SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **a. Harvester Payroll and Labor Management-Kathy Croft and Peggy Thiel**

- Labor management was costly, and the committee's purpose was to investigate tis.
- Out-of-scope issues like safety, hourly rates, vacations, bonuses, and where the harvester was used were not covered by the committee
- Using USTF, we paid out \$24,000 in wages, and \$20,000 in fees to USTF
- Kathy explained what options were discussed:
  - Staying with USTF but doing payroll weekly. This was not an option with USTF.
  - Using another employment agency but none wanted to take on our harvester project
  - Having the Town of Mt. Morris employ the harvester operators was presented to the Town Board. The Board reviewed the proposal, and at the next Town Board meeting we were told that the town was not interested in this approach (they felt that they would have to do this for the other town lake districts.
  - Using a local accountant at approximately \$6,400... a savings of \$14,000 per year. These options will increase the workload of our volunteer treasurer, but she was willing to take on the additional responsibilities.
- It was recommended to the Board to go with the local accountant, and the Board (with one No vote exception by Joe Slezak) voted to transfer the process to Ideal Accounting in Wautoma for the current year as an experiment subject to review during the year.

**b. Harvesting and basin point person volunteer recruitment-Mark Stratton**

- Mark detailed a series of events that impacted the harvesting operation at the beginning of the year.
- Harvester dock was repaired and painted for slip hazards...more work remains to obtain a safe operation
- Since our current tractor was not repairable, we secured another tractor on loan from Kronos America
- Lake monitors/volunteers will be the contact points to keep Mark informed as to where the harvesting needs to be done. Contact Mark if you want to volunteer for this task.
- The harvester needs to be given a 200 foot range of clearance.
- The vegetation dumpsite was repaired by Leman Excavating for no charge to clean out a sink hole at the site as well as sloping the site, and making road repairs up to the pavement.
- The harvesting crew attended the Aquarius seminar on safe, operation and harvesting techniques.

**c. FOMML Report: Bob Jozowski & Kathy Croft**

- A first annual garage sale results raised \$1,700 from the rummage, and more from T-Shirt sales
- Fund balance is now at: \$95,000 and will fluctuate over the years as market conditions change.
- Bob Jozowski-Introduction of Kathy Croft as new committee chairman
- Bob thanked people involved in working and supporting the rummage sale: Tom and Terry Koslowski, Karen Tschurwald, Carolyn Davis, Gil and Sue Steffanides, Matt and Jolene Lewke, Mary Roth, Jay and Jennifer Dispensa, Charles Rank.
- Bob announced that he is retiring from the FOMML Committee along with Clem Maslowksi
- Bob was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his efforts. Clem left the meeting prior to this part of the presentation, but was given a Certificate of Appreciation as well.
- Rick Walters, Mary Rohr, June Schroeder are the committee members
- The group is looking at ways to generate donations, as well as reviewing fund management.

**a. Communications & Website: Karen Tschurwald**

- Karen has assembled a book for those who are renting their cottages containing essential information about boating rules, shoreline regulations, local business establishments
- We will be adding a Facebook page in addition to the website that will alert when changes to the website are generated.

**b. Dam and toe drain repair project-Delivered by Rob Adams for Gil Steffanides**

- Rob explained the function of the toe drain, where it was located, and its importance to be repaired.
- Becher-Hoppe engineering was the consultant for the project, but will not bid on the repair work.
- Gil Steffanides has secured another contractor to execute the work
- Up to \$20,000 has been budgeted to complete this project, to be finished by the end of the summer 2023

**c. Referendum Vote - Rob Adams, Paul and John Jarvis**

- The referendum process that evolved from last year's motion was explained to the audience.
- A motion was made at the annual meeting last year that Lake B be made into a no wake lake
- People, other boats, canoes, and swimmers in Lake A were at risk from full wake boats... the boating law requires 100 feet clearance, but boats traversing through the lake were not observing the law.
- This motion was explored with the Town of Mr. Morris... which precipitated the referendum.
- The referendum was sent out as a binding referendum. The results as voted by the electorate are final... pending Town approval.
- The Town received many inquiries, and told the District that it had to resolve the question at an Annual Meeting... which will be done today. When you vote, you will either endorse (ratify) those results or not. Vote YES or NO that you want Lake be to be a slow-n-wake lake. This is a binding vote.
- At this point in the meeting, there were several questions, opinions, observations, and comments posed by the electorate questioning the purpose, impact, and background of the referendums. Meeting order was restored by the meeting parliamentarian, and the question was called.
- A motion was made to delay the vote and form a sub-committee to further conduct a study on the lake to accumulate data and return to the electorate with a recommendation for further action.
- The motion was ruled out of order, due to the fact that discussion on this issue was already held last year, or should have been held last year. Town Board Representative John Jarvis concluded the discussion with comments representing the future plans of the Town Board to hire a Town Recreation Officer to enforce the rules.

- The meeting then returned to the task of voting on the original motion to vote on the referendums that were sent out. The secret written ballot using the voting cards was conducted, and the referendum votes were cast by electors.
- Further comments were exchanged regarding voting rights. Rob repeated the voting rules: 2 votes per property, voters must be on the tax role, and voters must be present at the meeting.

## 2. NEW BUSINESS

### a. 2023-24 Budget presentation – Key highlights as presented by Peggy Thiel

- Last year we established the non-lapsable fund, which came in use for this year for the tractor
- Peggy detailed the current expenses. We have a failed tractor situation... we are using a loaner tractor.
- A first pass at 10 year capital plan was presented
- It was recommended that we buy the loaner tractor for \$6,000 to last about 6 years.
- We will need to replace the harvester #1 conveyor in about 3 years at a cost of \$30,000...it may qualify for a 35% State grant.
- A major overhaul of the harvester is expected in about 10 years at \$100,000...which may also qualify for a 35% grant. This will put the machine in like new condition.
- The total dollars we expect to need over the next 10 years is \$117,000
- We will save money on the toe drain repair... we only need to budget \$10,000 instead of \$20,000
- We can apply a cash savings of \$30,000 to our budget next year.
- Harvester labor is about 15 weeks per year... the budget is \$42,000 for labor consisting of a lead operator, assistant operator, and a trainee.
- We are saving \$10,000 on labor compared to last year's budget.
- Normal dam maintenance is about \$2,000-\$3,000
- Additional \$5,000 is allocated to other harvester dock repair expenses
- Based on the budget cost details provided by Peggy, the grand total District Budget is \$114,000
- Budget was voted and approved by the electorate as presented

### b. Lake "Slow-No-Wake" Referendum Vote Results

- The referendum for Lake A and Lake B "Slow-NO-Wake" referendums were ratified by the electorate in attendance. The referendum asked electors to vote YES or NO for each lake to become a slow no wake lake.
- Lake A -Alfson Lake, was voted to be designated as a "SLOW-NO-WAKE" lake.
- Lake B – Russell Lake, was voted to remain as a full wake lake. The vote totals as verbally reported were:
  - LAKE A - ALFSON LAKE: YES-46 Votes... NO-35 Votes
  - LAKE B - RUSSELL LAKE: YES-22 Votes... NO-39 Votes
- The results will be presented to the Town of Mt. Morris Board.
- In 1995, District electors voted Lake A as a no wake lake, but it was not recorded as a Town ordinance.

### c. Commissioner Election Results:

#### Written secret ballots were cast. The two highest vote counts win the election

- There was a change in the District Board membership due to the election results. Jolene Lewke was elected as a new commissioner to the Board, and Karen Tschurwald was elected to another 3 year term on the Board.
- Joe Slezak, who has served the District as a District Officer since 1988 (35 years) was not elected to another term on the Board.
- Voting was conducted by written secret ballot. Vote totals verbally reported at the meeting were:
  - Jolene Lewke - 55 Votes (New Commissioner to the Board)
  - Joe Slezak - 29 Votes
  - Karen Tschurwald - 63 Votes
- These results will also be presented to the Town of Mt. Morris Board.
- Joe was thanked by the electorate with a round of applause for his 35 years of service to the District.

**d. Other Issues that came from the floor**

- Beavers and muskrats can be eliminated if they are doing damage to your property
- People who rent their properties are responsible for violations of the new fireworks ordinances made by their renters.
- Please fill out the survey on high speed internet in Waushara County
- There is a consortium of lake districts to discuss and act upon boating regulation violations

**3. MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 2:45 pm**