COVID-19 VIRUS UNCERTAINTIES CANCEL DRAWDOWN VOTE

Comments from the District Chairman, Tim Dahlstrand

What a year we have had! The lakes district board started the 2019-2020 fiscal year with a plan to obtain a DNR grant (to offset some of the engineering and investigation needed to conduct drawdown activities), conduct a member drawdown educational and Q&A meeting in May and then culminate the year with the July 2020 annual meeting vote to select a drawdown alternative.

While we successfully obtained the DNR grant, the coronavirus pandemic has interrupted all our other plans. When the governor's emergency order imposed meeting size limits and travel restrictions for in and out-of-state members, the board determined the May member educational meeting could not be legally or safely held. Video teleconferencing would not support a legal voting procedure under current Chapter 33 laws.

The in-person Q&A and educational meeting will be rescheduled for a future date. It is important that we have this face-to-face discussion.

Due to travel restrictions, the May 9, 2020 quarterly board meeting was conducted via a Zoom video conference call. Eight board members and guests attended the meeting. The board discussed open meeting and lakes district annual meeting requirements, considering practical and legal implications.



44thAnnual Mt. Morris Lakes District Meeting Saturday, July 18, 20120 World War II Veteran's Memorial Hall – 440 W. Main St., Wautoma DISTRICT BREAKFAST: 8:00 – 9:00 AM ANNUAL MEETING: 9:00 AM

MEETING AGENDA

Pre-Meeting RSVP

Requested

Please Contact Joe

Slezak at

jeslezak@earthlink.net

or call 920-787-7111

to allow an accurate

breakfast food count &

and meeting

preparation.

- Call to Order, Agenda Approval, & Intros Commissioner & District Members
- 2. Minutes: 07/20/19 Annual Meeting, Joe Slezak
- 3. Chairman's Report Tim Dahlstrand
- 4. 2019-2020 Treasurer's Report Peggy Thiel
- 5. Endowment Fund Report –Bob Jozwowski
 OLD BUSINESS

Lake Drawdown Next Steps: Rob Adams

- 2. Aquatic Invasive Species Update Rob Adams
 NEW BUSINESS
- 1. Presentation & Approval of the 2020-2021 Budget- Peggy Thiel
- Election of Commissioners Nominees are Karen Tschurwald and Joe Slezak for 3 year terms; Other nominations can be taken from the floor
 - Other Topics for discussion as brought up from the floor Adjournment.

Video Information Posted On Website

In light of this limitation, we requested our consultant, Onterra, to prepare a video to advise and educate our members about the drawdown alternatives and drawdown impact to our lakes system. This video is posted on the district website and I encourage everyone to take time to view it. Although the video is excellent and informative, it is not a substitute for a face-to-face meeting with Q&A. The in-person Q&A and educational meeting will be rescheduled for a future date.

The board unanimously voted that the drawdown secret ballot vote will be postponed until the July 2021 Annual Meeting to allow time for an in-person educational and Q&A member meeting prior to the vote.

The board also discussed the possibility that an in-person annual meeting, held within the statutory time window of May 22 to September 8, may not be possible due to coronavirus disruptions.

In this case, the board plans to hold a video conference annual meeting as we must be able to conduct lakes district business. This business includes: 43rd Annual Meeting minutes; 2019-2020 treasurer report; endowment committee report; 2020-2021 budget approval; and the election of two commissioners (Joe Slezak and Karen Tschurwald). No other business will be conducted.

UPDATE: At this time, the July 18, 2020 44th Annual Meeting will be held as a LIVE AUDIENCE MEETING (NOT A TELECONFERENCE) at the WWII Veteran's Memorial Hall, 440 W. Main St., downtown Wautoma, beginning at 9:00 am. This facility has space to observe social distancing guidelines. Keep consulting the District website for any further updates.



IN REMEMBRANCE Adaline Robbins - 1931-2019 Past Mt. Morris Lakes District Board Commissioner

Adaline will always be remembered for serving as a District Commissioner and for leasing portions of her farm land to support a base for the District's weed harvesting operations and vegetation disposal. We thank her, she will be missed.

ENDOWMENT FUND **A Til **CHI 1997 **CHI

FRIENDS OF MT. MORRIS LAKES "A Time of Survival" – Bob Jozwowski

Current balance: \$52,561. The past few months have had a slower than usual contribution rate. Our committee has created a tri- fold brochure which we intend to use to tell the story of Mt Morris Lakes in order to solicit donations to the FOMML Endowment fund from individual property owners and area businesses.

Our plan was to approach area businesses in 2020 with this brochure as a tool to solicit donations to our fund, but many of our local businesses are in survival mode at this time. As a committee, we now feel we will need to delay our promotion activity until the local economy recovers from the recent pandemic shutdowns. Current members of the endowment committee are Clem Maslowski, Geoff Farrell, June Schroeder, Paul Brinkman, and Bob Jozwowski (Chairman).

Our District By-Laws have not been revised since 1996. Values and perceptions have changed drastically since then, and we need to bring our procedures up to date.



By-Laws define how our meetings are run, how budgets and policies are developed, and who can vote. We need a few people to volunteer to be on a committee that in a few meetings can read, and evaluate the laws to determine where changes need to be made that are in line with today's thinking and mores. This work must be finished this year. Please call or contact Joe Slezak (jeslezak@earthlink.net) to volunteer.

GET AN INEXPENSIVE WEB COMPUTER!
The computer is now the mandatory household tool for conducting personal affairs. Plan on more upcoming District news & messages to come faster to you by web sites rather than by printed mail. t's inexpensive, and it's the future!

If you can receive your District news & information by e-mail, please send your e-mail address to: jeslezak@earthlink.net

The budget shown below will be voted upon at the Annual Meeting. It was developed after the May 9 Board meeting postponed any drawdown activity to 2021. The budget assumes a normal 2020 District summer expense period.

MT. MORRIS LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT						
PROPOSED 2020-2021 BUDGET						
BUDGET	AF	PROVED		ACTUAL	PROPSOSED	
ACCOUNT	E	BUDGET		SPEND	BUDGET	
DESCRIPTION	20	19-2020	2	019-2020	2020-2021	
AIS MONITORING & CONTROL	\$	6,000	\$	4,985	\$	8,000
A-P HARVESTING						
CONTRACT LABOR	\$	14,500	\$	18,150	\$	25,298
ARTS/EQUIPMENT	\$	5 ,000	\$	5,202	\$	5,000
FUEL/OIL	\$	580	\$	515	\$	400
STORAGE & LICENSE	\$	3,000	\$	3,075	\$	3,152
INSURANCE	\$	2,690	\$	2,592	\$	2,632
COMMISSIONERS	\$	1,250	\$	1,150	\$	1,250
ARCHIVES & WEBSITE	\$	500	\$	1,200	\$	1,200
DAMN OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	\$	10,000	\$	10,213	\$	15,000
GEN OPERATING	\$	1,750	\$	3,430	\$	2,329
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$	45,270	\$	50,513	\$	64,261

NEWSBITS FROM THE SHORELINE

- A study in a northern Wisconsin lake revealed that a good fish catch masked the decline of fish in the lake.. "What comes out of the water is not always representative of what lies beneath the surface," said study co-author Chris Solomon, an aquatic ecologist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York. "Even if the fish are biting, this doesn't mean there are many of them." This is known as "Hyperstability."
- For a current Wisconsin lakes outdoor conditions and fishing summary, type in this link: https://dnr.wi.gov/news/or/
- Some Wisconsin counties have requested visitors to limit travel to summer homes to prevent spreading COVID-19.
- The Wisconsin Lakes Convention was cancelled and held virtual workshops by a ZOOM meeting format last month.
- Virtual District Meeting Voting: Methods for <u>legal</u> voting on line by lake districts have been discussed but not determined. While meetings could be held on-line, voting could not.

SATURDAY, JULY 18, 9:00 AM District Meeting
WWII Veterans Memorial Hall, 440 W. Main St. Wautoma
BREAKFAST: 8:00 AM – 9:00 AM MEETING: 9:00 AM

WHY IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOU TO ATTEND:

The District has to conclude important business – Voting of Commissioners, passing a 2020-21 budget, and set next year's drawdown agenda. A quorum of 20 people is needed to do so. Other items impacted by the COVID-19 virus:

- Mt. Morris Parade will not be held due to lack of available coordination
- Pontoon Boat Parade: Line up for parade only at 4:00 pm, 07-25-20
- Joe Slezak & Karen Tschurwald are Commissioner nominees; Other nominees for three year terms can be made from the floor before the election process. This election can't be done by video teleconference.
- For harvesting attention, call Joe Slezak at 920-765-0772
- Thanks to the Town of Mt. Morris for investing considerable funds to completely renovate the Mountainview Community Center: New sloped roof, heating, AC, windows,, walls, insulation, & room upgrades
- The Mt. Morris Town Park & Beach is closed. The boat landing is open.

Editor: Joe Slezak - W6346 Bighorn Lane, Wautoma, WI. 54982

The Official Newsletter of the MANAGEMENT DISTRICT MANAGEMENT DISTRICT Number 68- June, 2020

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