

MOUNT MORRIS LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING
JULY 16, 2022 - 9:00 AM
Mountainview community Center

1. District Breakfast: 8:00 am – 9:00 am

2. Call to Order: 9:00 am

3. Board introductions... Present: Rob Adams, Joe Slezak, Peggy Thiel, Karen Tschurwald, Gil Steffanides

4. Member Lake Introductions: recorded about 125 in attendance

5. Agenda reviewed and passed

6. Secretary's Report of Annual Meeting, 2021: Joe Slezak

- Minutes read and discussed by power point presentation
- No changes made; Minutes were approved and passed by membership vote

7. Chairman's Report & Comments: Rob Adams

- Purpose and mission statement read to the District: The district will conduct research, gather information, share the information with the electorate to make informed decisions, and vote on the information for action.
- Explained the steps needed to get the DNR permit for a drawdown
- Explanation of moving the annual meeting to be closer to the end of the budget year
- Changes in the by-laws were necessary t(such as referendum procedures) to keep up with current events
- Anything done on the Lake has to be approved by the DNR
- Commented on the recent post-drawdown lake tour taken with Ted Johnson, Peggy, Mark, Joe, and Rob
- New commissioner - Gil Steffanides: Invited to take over Tim's position until the end of Tim's term this year.

8. TREASURER'S REPORT: Peggy Thiel, District Treasurer summarized the expenses

- Drawdown Grant: \$7,496.87 is the first payment received... one more to come
- Harvesting labor under-budget; Harvester repair expenses were up due to outside maintenance
- Received insurance refund of \$682 for workers' comp insurance and liability insurance
- Dam Operations and repairs over-budget by \$1,700
- Harvester questions from the membership were answered:
 - Cost of drawdown; Weeds as fertilizer value; Future land purchase for the harvesting operation;
 - Harvester storage: \$2,000 lease for farmland
 - Harvester pier needs repair for safety purposes
- Motion to approve the report: seconded, voted, and approved.

9. FRIENDS OF THE MOUNT MORRIS LAKES ENDOWMENT FUND: Bob Jozowski

- Explained the historical origin and purpose of the fund
- Over viewed current investment results and balances... mostly down for the year, but expected to improve.
- Overviewed what the fund would be used for in the future; Nothing has been withdrawn from the fund
- Bob Jozowski recognized the contributors and asked for 2 more committee members

10. SERVICE AWARD PRESENTATION: To Tim Dahlstrand for Service to the District: Joe Slezak & Rob Adams

- Presentation of a two sided laser etched wooden service plaque to Tim Dahlstrand for his 32 years of Service to the District
- The plaque was presented on behalf of all District Members and District board officers
- Dahlstrand family has been involved with the District for 50 years
- A Packer's Jersey and cap presented to Tim by Rob Adams

UN-FINISHED BUSINESS

1. AIS REPORT: Rob Adams

- Explained the history of the AIS program and how the expansion of AIS occurred over the years.
- The impact of the drawdown on EWM and Hybrid EWM will not be known until the end of the year
- A lake depth measurement was taken before the drawdown, and will be measured after the drawdown
- Soil compression & silt sediment will also be measured... data currently being collected
- When chemical treatment stopped in 2017, AIS came back in 2018, but the DNR stated that EWM should co-exist with the native plants in the lake and would probably have denied further treatment grant support.
- Chemical treatment is an average of \$35,000 per year.
- Animal impact of the drawdown: We have asked for the DNR do a fish survey.
- A 30 foot wide corridor harvested around the lake for ingress and egress; Debris collection is on-going
- Algae is a result of nutrient loading. When plants die, they release nutrients. With less plants, the algae is absorbing the excess nutrients. As native plants come back and absorb that excess nutrients, the lake will become clearer.
- We have a DNR grant to conduct the research this summer... the DNR will absorb \$10,000 of the \$18,000 cost.

2. HARVESTING ACTIVITY REPORT: Joe Slezak

- Joe overviewed the harvesting plan for everyone's piers and reinforced 30 feet out to the lake
- We are restricted from going inside the pier and disturbing the lake bottom.
- The Clean Boats-Clean Waters program can be conducted by volunteers at the piers.
- We have volunteer "rules" advisors" on the lake like Steve VanAirdale to advise boaters of rules violations

MOTION MADE: Tim Lewis motioned to change Lake B a "No Wake" Zone to prevent problems with large wakes in addition to safety concerns with fast boating and the frequent use of Lake B for swimming.

Some comments and discussion occurred on the positives and negatives of making Lake B no wake.

Motion modified: The motion was seconded, carried, and voted for approval. Rob Adams will first verify procedures with the town Board before canvassing the entire electorate for their.

- Towing people through channels with kids on a tube is not a safe behavior, There is a legal rule regarding maintaining 40 feet between boats in a channel... so tube towing would not be allowed.
- \$7,000 has been located in the budget for harvester maintenance.
- There was some discussion of the USTF surcharge for payroll administration for labor

MOTION MADE: Cathy Kroft made a motion to form a sub-committee to investigate alternative options for paying labor and to also review insurance coverages to identify any payroll service alternatives. Motion made and passed. People were invited to contact Cathy to join the sub-committee. The sub-committee will report its findings to the quarterly board meetings.

- Joe explained data sheets used to track harvester progress and will post them on the website at season's end.
- A video showed how a new plastic collector belt can more easily grab and collect duck weed and debris.
- Joe outlined the future "collector-cutter" strategy and total equipment needed that will be an equipment cost of \$328,500 in the next few years. Securing a grant and preparing a budget for this will be started in the 2024 .
- The DNR is planning fee increases for harvesting and chemical treatment that can impact our future costs.

3. The Dam Toe Drain Repair: Gill Steffanides

- Gill explained that the toe drain was not functioning. A video scan revealed it was clogged
- Tim Dahlstrand provided some background on the function of the Toe Drain
- he drain has to be repaired because we can risk a wash-out due to excessive water.
- Expense to repair it would be about \$10,000 which has been placed in the budget.
- We are currently looking at repairing it in the fall or next spring.

4. CHANGES IN THE BY-LAWS:

A. Referendum Procedure: Rob Adams

- Purpose: Send information to the entire electorate quickly at less cost outside of the Annual Meeting
- Use a binding referendum method by mail to approve budget changes
- Motion was made to accept the By-Law change as stated. Motion passed

B. Quorum Change: Motion to eliminate quorum passed by electorate vote.

5. WEBSITE MODIFICATION AND CHANGES: Joe Slezak & Karen Tschurwald

- Joe overviewed the home page home page and explained how users are tracked and where they come from.
- Key design changes that would be made to the website for upcoming needs were explained.
- MunicipalOne, a web provider out of Madison and provider for the town website could be the new website provider at a cost of \$1,550 per year. We currently pay \$164.00 for domain name and services under WIX.com
- The website will be owned by the District. We will transfer what we have on WIX to the new provider.
- A motion was made and passed to approve the website expenditure and move ahead with the changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2022-2023 BUDGET PRESENTATION: Peggy Thiel

- Post draw-down expenses are \$18,000 over the next two years which will be funded by the grant. Other expense items were explained line-by-line. Major budget points outlined:
- Harvesting expenses are based on 22 weeks of harvesting
- Budget includes the 8% wage increase for the labor as recommended from advisory sources.
- Increased the assistant operator to 30 hours per week... which increases the harvesting expense by 18%
- We have \$7,000 in the budget
- We will purchase higher grade hydraulic oil at more expense; diesel fuel oil expense is higher
- Dam operation expense includes \$10,000 for toe drain repair expense
- Total budget is \$90,624 which... is close to last year's budget
- A modification to the budget needs to be made to correct harvester labor to \$45,420 instead of \$38,850
- The toe drain repair expense will be increased to \$20,000.
- A motion was made and seconded to approve the budget including both the harvester labor and dam maintenance modifications. The motion was approved.

2. ESTABLISHMENT OF A NON-LAPSABLE FUND: PEGGY THIEL

- Set up a non-lapsable fund by combining the current capital fund with the dam maintenance funds
- The lapsable fund will allow us to do plan for expected future capital expenditures
- Motion made to create the non-lapsable fund was seconded and passed

3. CHANGE TO THE ANNUAL MEETING DATE

- June 24th is the proposed change.
- We need a final audit and close the books at the end of May... the annual meeting should be closer to that date.
- Motion made to change the date to June 24... seconded and passed by vote.

4. COMMISSIONER ELECTION FOR PEGGY THIEL & GIL STEFFANIDES

- Additional nominees closed... Peggy was elected to a new 3 year term
- Gill Steffanides: No additional nominees.... Gil was elected to a first 3 year term as commissioner.

5. OTHER COMMENTS AND ISSUES:

- Gary Fisher asked for any old or used piers can be made as a donation to the District
- Gary also pointed out that "power loading" was the cause of damage to the old boat landing.
- Discussion of no-wake definitions, how to report rules violations by calling the DNR
- Boaters need to watch out for and respect swimmers.
- Onterra writes grants as part of their consultation with us.
- Address lists for the district.... Addresses available on government information sources

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 11:25 AM