

**MOUNT MORRIS LAKES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
QUARTERLY COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES**

Mountainview Community Center  
Saturday, December 3, 2022 – 9:00 am

**1. Call to Order: Rob Adams**

- Present: Rob Adams, Joe Slezak, Peggy Thiel, Gil Steffanides; Gary Frank, Bob Jozwowski, Tom Kasubaski, Kathy Kroft. Karen Tschurwald was unable to attend.

**2. Public Comments & Questions**

- Gary Frank commented on the Kusel Lake Fisheree intake of funds
- \$36,000 expenses made, \$26,000 spent of fish stocking.

**3. Approve Meeting Agenda**

- Two Items added by Joe Slezak: Gas Company request for easement and archiving procedures
- Items added to the agenda

**4. September 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes: Joe Slezak**

- Presented to the Board by email prior to the meeting; Read & reviewed by Board members
- The minutes were voted and accepted

**5. Treasurer's Report: Peggy Thiel**

- Presented to the Board by email prior to the meeting to be read & reviewed by Board members
- There is room in the budget to get through to the spring
- Labor savings costs will be realized due to the reduction in assistant harvester operator hours
- The Treasurer's Report was voted and accepted

**6. Sub Committee Reports:**

**a) Harvester Payroll and Labor Management Sub-Committee: Peggy Thiel, Kathy Croft**

- The payroll sub-committee only addressed the question of payroll processing. Questions raised about harvester safety and wage administration (salary vs. hourly pay, Cory's vacation, etc.) will be addressed by the Labor Management portion of the Committee, After considering several payroll processing alternatives, the committee identified three viable option:
  1. Continue with USTF as the District employer and payroll administrator
  2. The Town of Mt. Morris becomes the employer and administers District payroll.
  3. The District becomes the employer and an outside accountant administers District payroll.
- The Committee's cost comparison chart was distributed, showing the approved budget revised USTF costs, and local accountant costs.
- Discussed the comparison chart explaining costs, advantages/disadvantages of each of the options
  - Option 1: Joe Slezak contacted USTF and we were given a reduced rate, saving the District \$4,000 per year. The USTF fee covers Social Security, Medicare, Unemployment, and Worker's Compensation.
  - Option 2: Rob pointed out that the Town of Mt. Morris can be a potential employer, but that option has not yet been on the Town Board Agenda and discussed. Timing and costs of this option were not available yet.
  - Option 3: Social Security, Medicare, Unemployment, Worker's Comp and accountant fees are all paid directly. It was pointed out that it would be best to transfer the payroll in January to make a clean year start for payroll administration and complete year end reporting. We can implement a bi-weekly payroll frequency as an option to save money.
  - Option 3 requires some extra work by the Treasurer. Peggy is willing to take on this responsibility. There will be an annual savings of over \$14,000 if we go with the local accounting service.

- The option recommended by the committee: Hire an independent accountant (Ideal Accounting LLC in Wautoma) to do payroll, starting January 1, 2023. Continue researching the Town employing the harvester operators. Costs, pros/cons, and procedures will be reviewed and if favorable, the change to Town employment could be made.
- In the interim, we can evaluate Ideal Accounting LLC as an experiment, while the Town is discussing its ability to take on the harvester employees for the District.
- Rob proposed a motion: “The Board will run the experiment of transferring our current payroll to Ideal Accounting on January 1, contingent on the results of the meeting with the Town Board to address the HR responsibilities at the March Quarterly Meeting.”
- Motion passed by the Board with four “Yes” votes and one “No” vote. Objection by Joe Slezak who prefers to wait until the discussions and decision of the Town Board are concluded and that we can know what scope of action they want to take on this issue will be.
- Joe asked if there should be a motion made to decide if the District should become an employer as the first step before any actions are taken to secure an independent accounting service. The Board did not respond to this.
- John Jarvis will be given the information about the District payroll to give to Paul Jarvis, our Town Rep, to place on the agenda of the Town of Mt. Morris Board meeting on December 13, Tuesday.

**b) FOMML Endowment Report: Bob Jozowski**

- Annual appeal results have not been received and will be reported at the March Meeting.
- Now is a good time to invest in the fund given current market conditions
- A garage sale as a fund raiser was proposed by Tom Kasubaski
- Tom Kasubaski cited other fund raising activities that would provide fund income such as a “fifty/fifty” drawing and the selling of raffle tickets. Gary Frank volunteered to assist Tom in getting a State license for the drawing. Alan Anderson could be contacted to use the Community Center for the garage sale
- Further discussion occurred regarding the organizational mechanics of holding a garage sale.
- A proposal for late May or June 3 would be a time to hold the sale.

**c) Harvesting Maintenance Sub Committee: Peggy Thiel & Mark Stratton**

**HARVESTER:**

- We met with Chad Lese from Aquarius. His assessment of the harvester is that it is in overall good condition.
- The stainless steel barge provides a strong foundation and the work that was done last winter corrected many issues. Aquarius has a limited number of machines available for rent and he recommended leasing if the harvester would go down unexpectedly. No additional work is needed this year although Chad advised that we should cover the operator console, engine, and the new \$400 seat.
- We are on the waiting list to store the harvester at the Waushara County Fairgrounds, cost is \$600 annually. Chad says storing indoors adds 5 – 10 years of life.
- 2024 - 2025 budget: end of season, budget to replace the #1 conveyer (the metal is wearing thin), budgetary cost is less than \$40k and all old parts will be returned for use as spares.
- 8 – 10 years (2030 – 2032): plan for major overhaul, \$100k+. Grants are currently available to cover 35 – 50% of the cost but must keep machine 10 years. Compare to a substantially higher cost for a new machine, same size with only a few additional features. A major overhaul includes engine, hydraulics, and wear components, basically a new machine. It should extend the life another 15 years **with proper maintenance.**
- We need a volunteer for future grant research and filing, Rob Adams volunteered to do the research.

**TRACTOR REPAIRS:**

- Very old but no major problems were seen and current usage is very low, estimated < 100 hours/year. Budget to replace with comparable equipment in 5 – 10 years due to parts availability.
- A Service Technician from Krone America Sales and Service came onsite twice this fall
  1. Replaced the leaking hydraulic valve block
  2. Fixed the sticking throttle (linkage removed, disassembled cleaned, lubed, reinstalled)

3. Installed a bolt to keep the seat from moving and put new rubber mounts under the seat
4. Removed parts from the right side door (not used) to fix the left door
5. Wired new flashers to work on the upper left and right side of the cab (necessary if we decide to store the harvester indoors at the fairgrounds)
6. Cost was \$4,586.92. \$7k budgeted for outside maintenance with no other spend this year.
7. Plan for hydraulic hose relocation with quick coupling.

#### **DOCK:**

- Wood is in good condition. The dock was power washed to remove accumulated moss and slime. It was then painted with sand added to porch paint and a steel mesh screen was stapled to the downhill section. Cost was \$157 for paint, staples, and Krud Kutter. Labor was not an additive cost. The dock should be safe for next season.
- Cinder blocks had not been leveled in recent years causing an uneven surface and trip hazards on the walkway. Blocks were leveled using jacks and a come along. Thanks to Karen Tschurwald, donated posts will be added when they become available. This section will eventually need to be replaced. We have a \$4k budgetary quote from Blackhawk for two 16' sections. Suggest budgeting \$4k in each of the next 3 years to replace two sections each year. It should not be necessary to budget for post removal.

#### **CONVEYER**

The conveyer is parked at public landing in summer. There is danger of the conveyer falling off from the broken cinder blocks that it sits on, damaging the conveyer and the barge. We would like to replace the cinder blocks with a larger Jersey barrier type block. Lehman Excavating provided a budgetary estimate of \$1k including installation. **This is township property**, and a permit by the owner is needed.

**Gary Frank: Main public boat landing pier repairs:** We need another pier section due to the improvements at the landing. A 16 foot section (or two eight foot sections) with a set of wheels is needed to properly set it into the lake. • Gary Frank pointed out the problem with the current pitch of the new main landing impacts the pier in that it does not reach the water securely. We need 16 feet, or two 8 foot lengths with a set of wheels. Norton dry dock has some pier sections for 16' for \$2,500. We would install it ourselves. Gary will let the Board know about the details of securing the donated dock sections.

#### **Additional Spending Approval**

A motion made to approve \$3,000 to cover the additional repair items and materials for the harvester, tractor, and the pier and main dock repairs. The motion passed.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

##### **1. Dam Toe Drain Repair: Gil Steffanides**

- Gil met with Erin Wahler from Becher Engineering, Nick Peschel, and Maverick pulling met to determine the condition of the toe drain. It appears that the toe drain up to the road is fine. The rest of the toe drain on the west side of HWY 152 has multiple clogging problems to be addressed.
- All of the repairs were estimated at \$4,500 -\$6,000 in the short term. Becher Engineering, Archie Becker will endorse the repair. He said that Nick Peshel suggested that we implement the easy repair first. The clearing out of the toe drain is the major issue
- Gil explained the details of the potential immediate repairs for the toe drain. It was believed that roots were clogging the upper toe drain and muskrats may have clogged the lower toe drain
- The toe drain is on the coffee shop land...we need to get permission from the coffee shop to use their land to access the toe drain.

##### **2. Website Migration:** Karen Tschurwald was not present to report

- Mechanics of friending on Facebook will be covered
- Other than investigating the hiring of the UWEX website provider, there was no action at this time.

##### **3. By-laws master text document /Archiving Update: Joe Slezak**

- Revised master text document emailed to all Board members
- Approval of edits and master text document... will be converted to a PDF and archived.
- Archiving procedures to be outlined in an email and discussed at the March 3 meeting.

#### **4. Referendum: Lake B “Slow No-Wake” Draft: Joe Slezak**

- Motion made to accept the By-laws as edited and mastered... Motion passed
- Motion to approve the resolution as written... Motion passed.
- Voting options section needs to be added to the referendum when mailed.
- Information to be sent out in January with the resolution and with plans to run a garage sale.
- Resolution test mailed prior to the Board meeting, reviewed and edited...Approved
- Town Board Presentation to be made at the December 3 meeting
- Discussion occurred as to where to place additional “no wake” signs and buoys when the Town Board passes the motion.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Mt. Morris Township News: None**

- Town of Mt. Morris has approved roads where ATV's can be used
- Official signs have yet to be posted by the Town of Mt. Morris

#### **2. Waushara County News: John Jarvis**

- ATV rules explained
- John Jarvis discussed the details of the placement of WDNR lake water enforcement officer during holidays to monitor Morris Lakes.

#### **3. Miscellaneous and Other Items for Discussion**

- Comments made about patrolling the lakes for boating violations. Other issues of water law enforcement were brought up.
- Drawdown did not appear to do much but we will have to wait until next year. Rob has talked to Onterra, and they will need another year to outline the final results and how it impacted the AIS. We have to prepare to apply for chemical treatment based on their information and analysis.
- We have been using a 2006 harvesting map when we were concerned about spreading of AIS around the lakes. Our next Lake Management Plan will be revised according to the results of the drawdown. The end of 2023 will have a new harvesting map.
- Rob pointed out that two people have indicated an interest in running for the open Board Commissioner position of Karen Tschurwald and Joe Slezak. Rob will form a Nomination Committee to between now and the March meeting to place those nominations on the ballot for the June Annual District Meeting as outlined in the nominations section in the District By-laws. This will enable a secret ballot election to occur

### **ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

#### **1. WE Energies Gas Line Easements: Joe Slezak**

- Joe presented documents he received from WE Energies regarding the need to secure approval of a gas line easement along the east side of HWY 152 that will be installed under the lake in front of the dam flume.
- Joe will email the documents to Rob... Rob will give them to the Town Meeting or further action.

#### **2. Archiving Procedures: Joe Slezak**

- Discussion of the archiving procedures to be tabled to the March 3 meeting.
- Joe will send out archiving instructions were discussion at the March meeting with a demo.

**MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 11:27 AM**