

45th Annual Meeting Agenda

July 17, 2021 - 9:00 am

Mt. Morris Lakes Management District – Veteran’s Memorial Hall, Wautoma, WI

1. Call to Order: By Tim Dahlstrand, District Chairman

- Present: Joe Slezak, Tim Dahlstrand, Karen Tschurwald, Rob Adams, Peggy Theil, Bob Jozwowski, Paul Jarvis
- A meeting quorum was declared and the meeting was convened at 9:00 am
- Meeting Agenda Approved by Unanimous Vote with colored red and green cards
- Introduction of Commissioners and New property owners in the District
- Acknowledgement of attendance of a Past Commissioner: Bob Behling
- About 130 people in attendance counted at start of the meeting

2. Minutes from July 18, 2020, 44th Annual Meeting - Joe Slezak

- Presented as a Power Point presentation: New and Old Business along with Budget Presentation
- Summary of key points occurred and discussed at the meeting
- Joe Slezak and Karen Tschurwald, nominees, were elected as commissioner for another 3 year term
- Minutes Seconded and Approved by vote

3. Treasurer’s Report and District Budget Presentation For 2021-2022 Peggy Thiel (Agenda Order Changed)

- **2020-2021 Audited Financial Report Treasurer’s Report – Peggy Thiel**
 - Expenses for consulting and testing in preparation for the upcoming drawdown was explained
 - 2020 – 2021 Report voted for acceptance
- **Presentation of Proposed 2021-2022 Budget – Peggy Thiel**
 - Proposed drawdown expenses and possible grant sources to offset expenses explained
 - Consultant and drawdown activities explained
 - Basis for Harvester labor expenses and operational expenses were reviewed and explained
 - Newsletter, website, and mailing expenses reviewed and explained
 - Peggy Theil was recognized for her efforts to deal with difficult budgeting mechanics
 - Budget for 2021-2022 approved by vote

4. Chairman’s Report – Tim Dahlstrand

- Tim recognized the efforts of the officers and the specific expertise and work they do for the District
- The emergency action plan and maintenance plan for the dam has been updated
- Encouraged people to know what they can and can’t do with lake properties

4. Endowment Fund Report – Bob Jozwowski

- Committee members acknowledged: June Schroeder, Geoff Farrell, Clem Maslowski
- Bob presented power point slides to outline the growth of the endowment balances over the years
- The balance of the fund at the end of 2020 was \$74,337. Current balance: \$84,407.00. The fund is doing well.
- 62 donors have contributed out of 210 owners (Wall of Supporters)
- The FOMML committee is planning a year end appeal letter. Mailer/postage costs will be taken out of the fund.

5. Lake Drawdown Q & A – Rob Adams, Ted Johnson-DNR, and Scott Bunde, DNR Fish Biologist) (Agenda Order Changed)

- September 14 boats need to be taken out, September 15 drain out begins.
- Refill will occur around May 1 per DNR rule
- Spawning of bass and bluegill will not be impacted by the drawdown
- Turtles snakes, frogs are need slow refill to re-establish habitats
- Fishing will have to be restricted by the Town with voluntary signs at the boat landings
- 10 cubic feet (100 square feet) of soil can be removed at your shoreline without a DNR permit
- As a rule, drawdown result in an improvement in the decrease of invasive species
- Studies and tests of our lakes indicate we are “internally loading” our lakes with dead plant sediment
- Dredging results in high cost with minimal benefits; We have a DNR stated water level to maintain
- Fish cribs and addition of lake structure projects can be done to improve fish habitats through grants.

5. Drawdown Referendum Results – Tim Dahlstrand and Joe Slezak

- Cathy Croft had written to the Board asking the question about the validity and flexibility of the referendum vote. Her question to the meeting was stated by her as: “Can the membership vote on the drawdown directly rather than vote to approve the results of the referendum?”
- After discussion, it was agreed that there was no conflict in doing this because the same result would be accomplished. However, it was agreed that there were two issues needing two separate votes: One vote to retract the vote on the referendum approval, and then a second vote to directly approve the drawdown plan.
- It was requested and agreed by Cathy Croft that she should put forth the first motion to retract the referendum approval vote. Cathy made the motion, it was seconded, discussed, and passed.
- A second motion was then made by Tim Dahlstrand, to vote directly on the question of the drawdown approval and not on the approval of the referendum results. The motion was worded as:

Should the District membership approve a drawdown of all the Mt. Morris Lakes by six feet, per the provisions of the DNR permit, between September 15, 2021, and May 1, 2022?

- At this point, a report of the referendum results was requested before a vote was taken on the motion. Joe summarized the vote referendum results, demographics, and opinions of the District. We had a 70% vote in favor of a drawdown, and 30% not in favor. Tim then explained the proper voting procedure that would be followed, and that 2 votes were allowed per property.
- Tim re-stated the new motion and called for a vote. The vote was seconded, taken, and tallied with colored cards.
- The motion was passed by an overwhelming majority of the members present at the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Boating Safety and Etiquette – Joe Slezak

- Joe pointed out the differences in rules for PWC’s and boats.
- Stay away from the weed harvester to prevent large wakes from causing.
- Laminated placards can be given out and displayed in cottages who rent and describes the general boating rule
- People operating boats or PWC’s have to be over 12 and have a boaters’ certificate
- Conditions on our lakes make it difficult to go full wake when another boat is anchored for swimming
- There was discussion about various bad practices by boaters in our lakes and how to prevent them

2. Aquatic Plant Harvesting Equipment Planning – Joe Slezak

- Joe showed slides of various weed harvesting equipment strategies for cutting and collecting weeds
- Types and costs for equipment were discussed: The FB-120 Debris Collector and eventually a new Tractor to spread the weeds, new offloading conveyors; and eventually the purchase of a new Harvester and transport trailers for the equipment; There are some costs that can be offset with some specialized government grants;
- We face \$439,500 of equipment purchases in the next seven years. There are some grants that can reduce this to us paying 35% of this cost as a District.
- Please think about the upcoming costs as we start to look at future budgeting liabilities we face.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Election of a Commissioner

- The nominee for a three year term as commissioner was Rob Adams for another 3 year term.
- There were no other nominees, and Rob was unanimously voted in for another term to serve on the Board

2. Other topics for discussion

- Volunteer help is always needed for projects in the District
- Volunteers were taken for the By-Laws revision committee: Jennifer Dispensa, Peggy Beaver, Caroline Davis, 787-0553, Cindy Lewis, and Rick Voss all volunteered to serve on the for the By-Laws Revision Committee
- Discussion: What does the dam operator do? It was explained that the dam operator has to be alert for major rain events, adjust gates, watch for dam seepage, and regulate the water level per DNR specifications.
- Gary Frank asked for people to join the We Really Care Fishing Club.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT: 11:02 AM

- The meeting was logged as the largest attended and longest lasting meeting in the history of the District.