

**Meeting Minutes – Mt. Morris Lakes Management District**  
**Quarterly Commissioner Meeting – May 8, 2021 – 9:00 am - Mountainview Community Center**

**CALL TO ORDER: 9:05 AM**

- Approve Meeting Agenda: No additional items to be included; Agenda Approved
- Public comments and questions: None
- Present: Tim Dahlstrand; Peggy Thiel; Joe Slezak; Rob Adams; Bob Jozowski; Karen Tschurwald; Paul Jarvis
- Agenda approved by vote

**1. Secretary's Report – Joe Slezak**

- Review of March 6, 2021 Board meeting minutes as sent to all Board Members prior to meeting
- Report reviewed by, modifications were made, and the corrected minutes were all voted for acceptance.

**2. Treasurer's Report – Peggy Thiel**

- Little activity; \$737 for drawdown mailing; Water testing; Cash Balance is \$74,967.00
- In audit for Workers' Comp
- Cash balance to last year is that we are pretty close to last year after impending expenses come in.
- \$80,033 was last year's cash balance at this time.
- The bill for the dam inspection will be submitted in by the end of the fiscal year.
- All Board members should start to submit their final budget numbers.
- Discussion about labor for draining down the dam... no real expenses expected to occur.
- Drain late, fill early fill early to follow Onterra LLC recommendations for handling fish habitat
- Harvesting expenses will be more for cutting... fall will involve drain down activities and letting the Town know about the drain down.
- Submitted before the meeting to the Board: Report was read, discussed, and accepted
- Paul confirmed that work will be done on the Lake B channel boat landing

**3. FOMML Endowment Fund Report – Bob**

- Balance was \$80,105.00 on March 31. We are waiting for more incoming dollar data.
- Approval of FOMML Letter to be sent... probably sent as an insert page to the newsletter.
- Contribution list will be a part of the newsletter in some form... Joe will determine.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**1. Referendum vote results and discussion: Joe Slezak**

- Vote was 70% YES and 30% NO;
- Joe remarked that many people did not realize it was an advisory referendum
- Discussion about how this result will be handled at the Annual Meeting: Tim will handle this as part of the agenda with a focus on explaining the referendum results and moving on to the future action or this year.
- Tim remarked that we were able to listen to far more people input than we might have had at any special meeting. All we are doing is reporting the results and direction of the opinion of the District.
- Our mail return was very good.... More than 90%

**2. Harvest Operations Report – Joe**

- Aquarius will modify the FB-120 barge and collector cutter into an RP-120 and test the design.
- Joe discussed when we could expect to see the new equipment in operation. We would be the first to see this new equipment in operation. Joe explained the unique parts, including a special plastic chain gripping material, and the rotating drum with a variable pressure to pull roots out
- We also need to consider when a new harvester will be bought. After viewing the test prototypes, then we could call a special meeting to approve the purchase of the machine with the grant period. Our equipment is 17 years old and will need to be replaced. We should get a resolution from the membership to get a grant for the purchase of this equipment.
- Aquarius recommended that we not buy a bigger harvester... the current platform size will work well.
- There was some discussion regarding how the harvester operates and why there are more floating weeds than last year. More aggressive boat hull design was cited as one reason why celery weeds are uprooted.
- Buoys will be put in by Memorial Day weekend. Normally we try for the first Saturday in may for the official
- We need to lay out the equipment plan and the drawdown timing at the annual meeting.

### **3. Drawdown and AIS Update – Rob**

- Rob has consented to run for another commissioner term; He wants to see the AIS project through
- There will be some experimental work done in the lake to pilot some AIS control projects.
- We will focus that the vote is to approve the referendum results, not vote on the drawdown itself.
- Discussion occurred on drawdown details. We will determine when to draw down probably after Labor Day, and we need to put together a timeline and send out a notice in advance.
- Questions about shoreline frontage modifications will be answered by an invited DNR representative.
- Anyone with a rocky frontage can repair it... but you can't take a mechanical device to dredge or move the lake bottom in any way.
- Moving silt from one point to another is a device built by one of the lake residents. There was a concern that moving the mud out to the lake would be contributing to the problem of a shallow lake bottom in that area. This would be illegal... they need to get a permit from the DNR through Ted Johnson.
- There is an on-line application that covers the details to apply for a dredging permit.
- You are limited to modifying 30% of your frontage. There is a natural 35% easement to the shoreline.
- Tim suggested that we put together a timeline so people can plan what they will do to their shoreline.
- Tim got a few questions about procedural question about the draw-down; What will happen to the fish population, turtles,, etc.
- It was suggested that Ted Johnson be invited to explain what can or can't be done to the shoreline per DNR rules.
- Karen directs people to the DNR with these questions when they buy a home.
- Joe will put a note in the Newsletter to find out what they can or can't do.
- Enforcing the "boat out" date will be a matter of owner responsibility
- Paul Jarvis suggested that a sign be made and put on the boat landing warning about the upcoming drain out... Paul will take this up at the Town Meeting to put a general sign at the Morris Lake boat landing. Probably put up a sign after the July 17 meeting.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **1. Dam Inspection Contract: Tim Dahlstrand**

- Details of the dam inspection process that would be conducted by Becker-Hoppe were discussed
- A motion was made to contract for the dam inspection by Tim for less than \$5,000.

#### **2. Town and County News: Paul Jarvis**

- Modifications made to the Community center; Road improvements were made, a new Town Treasurer (Samantha Nowak, now elected) has been appointed to replace Virgil Cole who passed away this year.
- The Community Center has a new roof, new furnaces, new roof tiles, and updated with LED light.
- There is now a Town Clerk's office in the Community Center... this will now eliminate people to come to Alan's house for voting. Town Board meetings are now held in this office and Alan works in that office.
- Parts for town equipment are hard to order. Paul explained the timing road improvements and seal coatings amounting of 2 miles of roads out of 56 miles in the town.

#### **3. Lake Numbering System**

- Joe explained the memo he got from the DNR about a lake numbering system. Our lake names do not fit in with the databases in the DNR.
- The question is do we want to have our lakes individually number the lakes. Tim was concerned that a numbering system of all the individual lakes might impose a technical limit on water skiing if all the lakes in our system were separately numbered.
- It was decided not to pursue any action to number the lakes. The issue was tabled.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT: 10:10 am.**