

Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District #1

Minutes as of 04/10/2021

The Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (HLPRD) meeting was called to order by Chairman Deb Bursik at 10:04 AM.

Members present:

Chairperson:	Deb Bursik
Treasurer:	David Averbeck
Secretary:	Kevin Collins
Town Board Commissioner:	Absent
County Board Commissioner:	Absent

This meeting was conducted electronically via Google Meet. All referenced documents in the meeting notes can be found on the web shared storage Google Drive (https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RA8z41p8N2j6ki0GRgYltwa5_oJLbOwW?usp=sharing). You can request access to the files by contacting Kevin Collins and providing your email address.

- Larry Hoffman was absent as he was receiving his COVID-19 vaccine at the time of the meeting. Mitchell Ives has not attended a HLPRD commission meeting in quite a while (last meeting 8/17/2019), Deb will be contacting him to find out if there is an issue.
- Motion to approve the agenda for the meeting by Dave Averbeck, seconded by Kevin Collins, approved unanimously.
- One line was struck from the 11/23 minutes, "In addition, the Onterra study suggested that additional sampling be conducted for hardness, nitrates etc.. This comment was incorrect as quoted. Onterra did NOT suggest additional sampling. Motion to accept the revised minutes of the November 23rd meeting by Deb Bursik and seconded by Dave Averbeck, approved unanimously.

Reports:

- Chairperson:
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- Deb brought up a procedural point regarding the agenda. Deb has organized the agenda so that reports portion is for reporting ongoing items and the Business Items portion of the agenda is where we discuss/approve major work or new work to be done. Everyone agreed.

- Deb gave an update on how we are applying our bidding process. The process is very confusing as described in the statutes. We are currently putting a notice for bids in the local newspaper as well as contacting vendors we know of. She contacted our lawyer by email and followed up with him by phone regarding this process. The lawyer indicated that he had not looked it and would get back to Deb. After discussion, it was agreed that we do not need to proceed with any clarification with our attorney. It was agreed that we do not need to proceed with any clarification with our attorney. Kevin asked about documents confirming posting official call for bids in the newspaper. Deb has created a folder in Google docs containing these affidavits.
- Deb has contacted Dan Peters (WDNR) regarding repairing the boat launch and the parking lot striping. Residents would like to remove the parking stripe that is the closest to the ramp in order to allow larger trailers room to maneuver around the parked vehicles. She had contacted the DNR in the fall and they wanted to wait until spring. She also would like to add signs for no power loading and for fish stocking. She will put reminders about power loading in the email and newsletters to the members. Kevin asked if the DNR is planning to replace the ramp with a concrete ramp. Deb did not know if the ramp will be replaced. She agreed that we should check with the DNR on that.
- Weed Harvesting. Deb reported that we have a new contract for harvesting this year. The contract is with the same company as last year. We can cancel the contract any time if we need to. Deb will have a committee traverse the lake to see if we need to conduct weed harvesting.
- Secretary: Nothing to report.
- Treasurer:
 - Dave reported that Jim Watters had a bypass operation and is not doing well.
 - Dave modified the format of the treasurer's report (attached). Deb did not see the reimbursement for weed removal newspaper ad. After researching the number, it was determined that the amount was included line item "*Deb Bursik...12/29/20 -\$65.12 Web Hosting (correction)*". Dave will revise the report. Dave will also add a column for where we are versus budgeted. Motion to accept the treasurer report with the line

correction by Deb Bursik and seconded by Kevin Collins, approved unanimously.

Citizen's Input Opportunity:

- None

Business items

- Lake Water Quality – A quick review of the UWSP (Paul McGinley) report found that the Onterra analysis and the UWSP summary were very consistent. The UWSP report provided charts that quantified various parameters (P, Chlorophyll, Secchi values) over the years and over the summer months. Deb summed it up “we have a delicate balance of these parameters which keep the lake in a clear state”. Dave brought up a concern that wake boats and other similar craft have been reported to stir up the sediment on the bottom of a lake, although we do not have a problem on our lake, yet. Another discussion point was the possibility of using aeration during the summer to reduce sedimentation, however, in lake studies it has been found that this process is not very effective. Deb suggested that we keep track of ice on and ice off the lake and ice/snow depth during the winter. Dave pointed out that ice variability due to climate change has an effect on fisheries. It was decided that we would add an ice conditions data to our tracking of lake water quality and ask the members to provide any history of ice on/off and ice depth.
- Aerator - Dave has contacted Nicole Hayes (WDNR) regarding the permits for our aerator system permit requirements. The DNR could not find a copy of the permit application as referenced by in the permit approval letter. Dave contacted the aerator supplier (Aquatic Biologist's Inc.) to see if they have a copy of the application, he was told that their records don't go back that far. Dave is still waiting to discuss this personally with Nicole Hayes. Kevin pointed out that the land use permit expires in 2022. Dave will talk to Nicole about the land use permit. Dave is working with Zack Woiak WDNR regarding moving/upgrading the aerator system. Finally, Dave will be rebuilding the one failed compressor and replacing parts as needed this summer. Dave had a question regarding DO data for last year, Kevin to provide Dave with the short-cut to get to the google drive.

- Comprehensive Plan – Dave put together the summary of management plan below (and attachment 2). Deb stepped thru a review the bullet points for the management goals (current actions underlined):

Management Goal 1: Preserve and Enhance the Ecological Integrity of Horsehead Lake.

1. Monitor water quality through the WDNR Citizen Lake Monitoring Network – Kevin conducting testing
2. Inform HHL property owners about importance of natural shorelines and septic system maintenance – Cheryl gave a presentation 2 annual meetings ago, Deb to include a paragraph in the next newsletter.
3. Work with WDNR fisheries staff to determine if current aeration system is sufficient to prevent winter fish kills in Horsehead Lake. – Dave working with DNR

Management Goal 2: Manage Current Aquatic Invasive Species Populations in and Prevent Further Introductions to Horsehead Lake

1. Perform Clean Boats Clean Waters inspections at public access ramp- In the past, this work (CBCW) has had volunteers to check at the boat launch. Currently, it is difficult to justify having someone at the ramp to monitor. There is a sign at the ramp. No activity planned.
2. Conduct periodic qualitative and quantitative vegetation monitoring- Deb to solidify the contract for monitoring and start working on the grant process with Onterra. Deb described a conversation with Tim Hoyman(Onterra), where Tim felt, based on our lake type) that we will never have a significant amount of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM). However, we are conducting these studies based on the member survey where a significant number of lake members felt that EWM is a problem. We need to keep in mind for the next plan moving forward. This looks to be an education issue with the lake members.
 - Early-Season AIS survey every 3 years (plan says 3 years in a row 2019-2021!)
 - Point-Intercept survey every 3 to 5 years (completed 2017)
 - Community Mapping every 7 to 10 years (completed 2017)
3. Manage Eurasian watermilfoil in Horsehead Lake.
 - Use early season mapping (as per above) to locate and divers to remove every 2 years

Management Goal 3: Maintain navigation and other recreational opportunities on Horsehead Lake

1. Create committee to manage weed harvesting. Deb to obtain volunteers for committee for this years weed harvesting
2. Contract for weed harvesting Deb has contract for weed harvesting should it be needed

Management Goal 4: Improve communications with Residents and partner with other Management Entities

1. Stakeholder education – Deb to send out email blast on current actions
 - Maintain district member Email list
 - Develop New Neighbor package Kevin completed initial new Neighbor package

- Potentially create Education, Communication and Volunteer committee to develop & distribute regular educational communications Deb to set up annual meeting
- 2. Participate in Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention
- 3. Continue involvement with other management entities (government and volunteer organizations)
 - Town of Lake Tomahawk
 - Lumberjack Resource Conservation & Development Council – not familiar
 - Oneida County Lakes and Rivers Association
 - Oneida County Land & Water Conservation Department / Committee – not familiar -
 - DNR - Fisheries Biologist / Lakes Coordinator / CLMN
 - University of WI Extension Lakes Program
 - Wisconsin Lake

Fish Stocking - Deb has obtained the stocking permit. We are getting 5000 3-5" bluegill and 3000-4000 3" black crappies.

- Gollons Bait and Fish Farm is planning on being up after the 15th of April. Deb will be checking with the DNR to see if we can put up signs, she will let Kevin know what can be done. Kevin will obtain signs from ACE Hardware.

Misc.

- Dave attended a presentation on loons. The crux of the presentation was that the loon population is declining due to climate change. There is also lower survival rate of young loons. Dave recalls seeing one nesting pair this year, there used to be two pairs on our lake.
- There is a new eagle's nest just south of Watters resort and a second nest on the north bay.

Next meeting is July 3rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25AM

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Collins

Secretary

Horsehead Lake P&R District #1

Attachment 1 – Treasurers report

[..\treasurer\20210410 HLPRD Treasurers Report.pdf](#)

Attachment 2 – 20210410 HLPRD Comp. Plan Objectives and Goals

[..\Lake Studies\20210410 HLPRD CompPlan Management Plan Objectives & GoalsDJA.docx](#)