

Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District #1

Annual Meeting Minutes - 8/15/2020

The Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (HLPRD) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Deb Bursik at 9:02AM at the Snowshoe Outdoor Pavilion, Lake Tomahawk, WI. Meeting was conducted outdoors following Wisconsin DOJ Advisory guidelines for Government meetings during COVID-19 for social distancing and facemasks.

Officers present: Co-Chairperson: Deb Bursik & Dennis Batchelet
 Treasurer: David Averbeck
 Secretary: Kevin Collins
 Town Board Commissioner: absent
 County Board Commissioner: absent

- Members present are listed in the attached attendance sheet. Sixteen members were present. Each member introduced themselves and their history with the lake and district.
- Meeting agenda – Dennis Batchelet moved to accept the agenda. Linda Delius seconded. Motion passed.
- Last year's meeting notes - Bev Fagan made a motion to accept the minutes from last year, Hallie Moline seconded. Motion passed.
- Announcements. Deb Bursik reminded everyone to enter their names in the attendance sheet. She requested that any attendee interested in volunteering for a committee, please see her. Committees are Audit, Clean Boat, Clean Waters, Attendance at WI Association of Lakes and Rivers, Nominating Committee, Water Sampling, Dissolved Oxygen testing and Weed Harvesting. HLPRD are rules driven governmental organization. As a governmental body we need to follow the WI statutes and the People of the Lakes guidelines. We use the Onterra Lake Management guidelines for maintaining our lake. If you make a motion, please state your name so the secretary can record it.
- Chairperson Report (Deb Bursik):
 - HLPRD would appreciate it if members would provide their email addresses on the sign-up sheet. This will allow the district to electronically send notifications and newsletters to the members rather than sending the information via the postal service.
 - Last year, we elected co-commissioners for the secretary and treasurer roles. After reviewing the regulations, we discovered that we are limited to 3 voting commissioners. Kathy and Nancy volunteered to resign as commissioners in order to bring us back into compliance.
 - Weed harvesting. Deb Bursik, Dennis Batchelet and John Ricchetti conducted a survey to determine the need for weed cutting in 2020. The process of weed cutting has to get an approval from the WI DNR. Deb obtained a permit which allows cutting 60-80 acres of our lake. This approval is contingent upon the weeds

are impeding navigation of boat traffic on the lake. A question was raised of why we have not seen more weeds in the lake? We believe that we have had better weather in the last few years which has contributed to the lowering of total phosphorus. Phosphorus is bound to iron, calcium, etc. in the sediment of the lake, the amount controlled by the chemistry of the lake water. If the bottom of the lake becomes devoid of oxygen, some of the phosphorus is released back into the food chain. We have not seen the phosphorus amounts increase in the last couple of years.

- Fish Harvesting. The committee is proposing to stock blue gill and crappie in the lake. (Attachment 2) Deb investigated fish hatcheries and found one that raises the fish from eggs rather than buying from another supplier. She proposed 5000 3"-5" blue gill and 5000 4"-6" crappie fingerlings with the plan to introduce the fish in April. At the recommendation of the hatchery, the HLPRD is recommending a 3 year moratorium on harvesting blue gill and crappie from Horsehead Lake. Tom Niebler asked about other fish stocking? The DNR does not stock pan fish, they only stock game fish. We have had 40,000 bass stocked in our lake between 2012 and 2016. The DNR did not recommend adding more bass into the lake, at present.
- Secretary Report (Kevin Collins) – none
- Audit Report (Bev Fagan and Hans Delius)
 - Bev reported that she and Hans have looked over the treasurer's books and found that all was in order.
- Treasurer's Report (Dave Averbeck)
 - Dave provided a handout of the current status, see attachment 3. HLPRD currently has a balance of \$39,539.57 in our account.
- Old Business:
 - Aeration System: Dave has been working on the aeration system and trying to understand if we have the right type of aerator. There are other aerators that would need to be installed and removed every year which would require that we contract out the work. He had talked to the DNR of installing a second aerator, they were cool to the idea and suggested that we provide more information on why we need an additional aerator or improve what we have. We have installed new blowers which provide 20% more air than the original equipment. We are now looking at improving the diffusers. We are looking for approval to the budget for expanding from four to six aerator pumps and expanding from eight to twelve diffusers. Linda Delius asked if we had enough money to support expansion in the budget? Dave replied that we do have the money in the budget. Mary Hansen asked how old is the system? The aeration system was initially installed around 1999. We have replaced all of the blowers (moving parts) as of last year. Some of the diffusers are from the original design. There are a couple of newer diffusers that look like domes. Dave is thinking that we would need to add additional electrical service to

the doghouse if we expand. Paul Evert offered that we could locate on the south end of their property (500+lakefront footage). HLPRD would need to apply for a new permit if we relocate.

- Lake Testing: Kevin provided a synopsis of the lake chemistry. The overall water quality is good for a shallow headwater lake. Total Phosphorus needs to be monitored to verify that the phosphorus levels are not increasing which could result in more algae growth during the summer. During the winter, dissolved oxygen needs to be monitored to determine if aeration is sufficient to minimize fish kills on our lake.
- New Business – Commissioner’s recommendations/motions/discussions/actions:
 - 2020-2021 Budget proposal: (Dave Averbeck) Format has been changed to match the lake districts recommendation. (Attachment 5) Under Administration and Operations, the increase is due to the requirement that we obtain workman’s compensation insurance even though we do not have employees, which caused our insurance bill to increase. The Information and Education section, we increased the amount for conventions so the new committee members can attend and get up to speed on lake districts. Under lake management, the big item is for lake mowing and fish stocking. We will remove the roping and staking monies based on opinion from DNR that it is not required for our aeration system. We have an item for early season aquatic invasive species study to be done by Onterra as part of the comprehensive lake management recommendations. Finally we have a contingency section, where the recommendation is 10% of the annual budget. We also have Non-Lapsable Funds (which was for capital expenses) section which is handled separately. We were projecting about \$21,630 of carry over and \$7,952 capital carry over. Tax levy estimate would be would be \$13,150.
 - Kris Niebler moved to accept the 2020-2021 budget and Paul seconded the proposal. Question raised about putting in maximum amount of fish rather what was proposed. A discussion ensued over type and quantity of fish to be added. Deb explained her experience with various hatcheries. Question raised over watching the stocking. It was agreed that someone from the HLPRD should oversee the stocking. Everyone agreed that we should have a moratorium for 3 years after stocking. Dennis recommended a second motion for catch and release. Motion passed unanimously.
 - Dennis made a motion for catch and release from 2021 through 2023, Dave revised the motion to include to post a sign at the launch. Hallie seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - Election of a commission. Deb Bursik was the only person seeking election. Ballots were distributed and collected. Kevin Collins counted the votes. Deb Bursik was unanimously elected to the commissioners.

- Dennis Batchelet outgoing comments. Initially, the meetings were just a spot for people grinding their axe. He is happy that the meetings are moving forward with a congenial atmosphere. He thanked a number of people for their assistance and lending a hand to make the district successful.
- Presentation of plaque to Dennis and Kris Batchelet.
- ***Question was raised about the boat launch. DNR has dropped gravel in the launch. The DNR has plans to improve the launch permanently but it needs to be approved. Also parking is an issue which prevents others from maneuvering around the parked vehicles. Another question was posed about letting people know about boating regulations.***
- The next meeting is August 14, 2021. Meeting adjourned 10:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Collins, Secretary