

Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District #1

Commissioner Minutes as of 11/20/2021

The Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (HLPRD) commissioner meeting was called to order by Chairman Deb Bursik at 10:07 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.

- Motion to approve the agenda for the meeting by Kevin Collins, seconded by Dave Averbeck, approved unanimously.
- Motion to approve the minutes of the August 14th commissioner meeting by Deb Bursik, seconded by Dave Averbeck, approved unanimously.

Reports:

- Chairperson:
 - All reports are listed as business items and will be discussed as part of the agenda.
- Secretary:
 - Kevin has been in contact with Paul McGinley, UWSP regarding water testing during the summer. Kevin provided water samples (temperature and secchi readings) from the 10ft. depths for 4 quadrants of the lake as well as the deep hole. Dr. McGinley also asked if we could provide any additional information regarding the algae problem on the west side of the lake. We will provide any reports that are public information.
 - One of Kevin's neighbors, Charles Konsitzke is the Associate Director of the UW Biotechnology Center in Madison. Charles group is testing some

new protocols relating to environmental DNA. The Konsitzke's address is 6461 Soyck Ct.

- Treasurer:

- Dave reported that we are in a slow period of the fiscal year. As a comparison, period 5 last year income was \$3328, period 1 this year is \$1.61. Expenses for period 5 were \$475, for period 1, it was about \$2000 mostly for insurance. The tax levy was \$8,831 for this year. Dave has filed the two key documents, one with the Dept. of Revenue and a certification letter to the town of Lake Tomahawk. These documents can be found in our records. Corrected budget has been provided to file (see attachments). The HLPRD did not spend \$22,000 last year, mostly because we did not need to perform weed cutting and underspent on fish stocking. This period's major expenses were insurance (\$1444) and donations to the WI Assoc. of Lakes and the River Alliance (\$450).
- Treasurer's duty document follow-up discussion - Dave pointed out that for purchases by the treasurer, significant items would need to be approved by the chairperson or in the chairperson's absence, the secretary before reimbursement. Items purchased by the other commissioners under \$250 would be approved by the treasurer. Record keeping question, Dave proposed that he would create a file structure to put on the Google drive. Dave also created a yearly calendar to document activities that the treasurer needs to complete.
- 1099 discussion – Discussed was the need to avoid having to create a federal 1099 form each year for anyone earning over \$600 annually. The chairperson's position is the only affected. A proposal was made by Deb Bursik to reduce the chairperson meeting stipend from \$150 to \$149 per meeting to avoid the extra paperwork. Seconded by Kevin Collins. Approved by all.

Citizen's Input Opportunity:

- None

Business items

- Grant status – Grant was submitted successfully for both Early Season AIS and vegetation point-intercept surveys for next year. The cost of the surveys will be \$7925 and the grant portion would be \$5309.75 of that total. We expect to hear from the DNR by March, if we are

approved for the amount. We will have a meeting with Tim Hoyman in the fall as part of the survey. Dave pointed out that he is observing that we have different types of weeds than back in 2010. His observation is there is more coontail and cabbage than in the past Deb provided a picture of her observation of coontail in the fall. She also noted that the water was very clear.



Figure 1- Coontail in October

- DNA Analysis of Milfoil - During the last survey, Onterra found some suspicious weeds that they could not readily identify. They submitted a sample of the weeds for DNA analysis fearing that we had a hybrid northern milfoil from northern water (native) and Eurasian (invasive) milfoil. The results of the DNA analysis was that the plant was northern water milfoil and no further action is needed.
- Review Comprehensive Plan –Kevin Collins asked some questions regarding the scope of the project and when the work would be done. Deb Bursik referred to the email proposal dated 2/18/2021 where the total cost of surveys were \$11,665 minus the ESAIS work conducted in 2021 of \$3740.
- One of the implementation items in the Comprehensive plan that we haven't done is about providing septic system maintenance information to the residents. Kevin volunteered to create an article regarding septic system requirements and the benefits to the district. Next requirement in the plan is “community mapping” which is 3 to 5 years away. Based on what we are doing, we are on schedule with what we are doing.

- Weed Harvesting – Deb Bursik is going to start work on seeking a contract for weed harvesting in January 2022. She received a complaint from one of the residents that we did not harvest weeds this summer. She informed the complainant that we have a process (obtain a permit, contract the service, verify the need, etc...) and resolved the issue.
- Annual Speaker – Ty Krajewski, DNR. Ty is an expert on weed harvesting and the processes involved. Deb felt that we could have a zoom meeting with Ty and post the meeting to our web site so residents can understand the steps. She also researched weed harvesting and found that cutting weeds also kills a significant numbers of fish that reside in the weeds and this will conflict with our process of stocking. Other negative points is that harvesting weeds disrupts the lake environment and negatively impacts the zooplankton in the lake based on the Onterra report. Dave Averbeck’s observation was that the weed population has changed since 2010 with more algae present. Deb’s view is that we have a delicate balance between plants and the quality of the lake water.
- Water Quality – Deb Bursik reported that Tim Hoyman’s observation was that all lakes in the area had algae problems during 2021 because of the hot weather during the summer. She indicated that Onterra (Hoyman) met with our district leaders at the time the comprehensive study was done. She felt that Onterra is not responsible for re-educating new committee members after the study was done. A discussion ensued over what our lake requirements and needs are. Dave’s viewpoint is that we should discuss our lake quality concerns with Ty Krajewski in the spring and ask Onterra in the fall conference call which is in the scope of the current study.
- Dissolved Oxygen (O₂) testing – Kevin has the instrument to conduct the testing. During the summer, testing is not necessary as the air above the lake mixes with the water sufficiently to saturate the water O₂ at all depths. During the winter, O₂ decreases when ice covers the lake due to plant decomposition. He intends to further sample the water this winter when ice conditions are safe.
- Aerator status – Deb provided a study from Barron and Polk counties regarding aerators. She asked Scott VanEgeren (DNR) if he could help with the aerator issues. Deb felt that Scott did not seem interested in

helping, perhaps because it is not his area of expertise. She suggested that Dave attempt to contact the DNR people in the Barron County study to see if we could get an expert to help us figure out what we need to do. Deb also brought up that there was an HLPRD aerator committee formed in the past but they never met together. Dave responded that he could not get a time schedules for the individuals to line up. Dave will follow-up with the DNR.

- Fish Stocking – Gollon’s Bait and Fish Farm can provide the 5,000 bluegills for next year’s stocking effort. They do not have crappies to stock. Deb will be looking for a different source for the crappies. Gollon’s is the preferred source for bluegills since they have the Wisconsin strain which is required by the DNR. Deb will email the other commissioners about the stocking information.
- Weed Contract/Permit – Deb will be contacting weed harvesters to set up the work for this summer. She will also be applying for a permit from the DNR in January.
- Signage at Boat Launch - Deb is planning on sending an email to Zak Woiak (fisheries, DNR) to request a no fish harvesting sign for bluegill and crappie. Kevin asked if we should put up a no parking sign on the inbound and outbound lanes at the boat launch. He has encountered times when someone parks in those locations which makes it difficult for others to get their boats in or out. Deb suggested that we wait for complaints before doing this.
- Annual report mailing – It was agreed that we can use an 8.5 x 11 inch envelope for future mail when sending out the annual report and related information.
- Distribution of Shoreline Magazines – Dave suggested that we bring the brochures to the annual meeting and allow people to pick one up if they are interested. He also suggested that Kevin can send out a brochure with the mailing to new people on the lake. This would occur after Kevin receives the new tax list.
- Deb will purchase a ZOOM meeting license in the spring so we can record our meeting with Ty Krajewski (estimated late February and March). We will be using Zoom for our April meeting.

Next meeting is April 9th, 2022 which is the Saturday following the Annual Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention. The Convention runs April 6 thru 8 at Stevens Point.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10PM

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Collins

Secretary

Horsehead Lake P&R District #1

Attachment 1 – Treasurers report

[..\treasurer\20211115 HLPRD Treasurers Report.pdf](#)

Attachment 2 – Treasurer’s calendar

[..\treasurer\20211120 HLPRD Treasuers Calendar.pdf](#)

Attachment 3 – Treasurer Duties

[..\treasurer\20211120 HLPRD Treasuers Duties Draft.pdf](#)