

Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District #1

Annual Meeting Minutes - 8/14/2021

The Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (HLPRD) meeting was called to order by Chairperson Deb Bursik at 9:04AM 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
 Treasurer: David Averbeck
 Secretary: Kevin Collins
 Town Board Commissioner: absent
 County Board Commissioner: absent

- Introduction of members present. Each member was asked to introduce themselves and provide a brief background of their residency in the Horsehead Lake District. Members present are listed in the attendance sheet (attachment 1). Twenty members were present.
- Deb Bursik announced that we had a zoom meeting/conference call with Zac Woiak, the fish biologist from the DNR which we discuss the results in this meeting.
- As a governmental body, we need to follow the WI statutes and the People of the Lakes guidelines. As part of the meeting format, we follow the Roberts Rules of Order. Anyone can make a motion to close debate, if needed. We are using the Horsehead Lake Comprehensive Management guideline document for maintaining our lake.
- **Meeting agenda – Dennis Batchelet moved to accept the agenda. Dave Averbeck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.** Filed as: “20210814 HLPRD annual mtg. agenda.pdf”
- **Last year’s meeting notes – Linda Delius made a motion to accept the minutes from last year, Nancy Collins seconded. Motion passed unanimously.** Filed as: “20200815 HLPRD annual meeting notes.docx”
- Announcements: Deb Bursik reminded everyone to sign the attendance sheet and anyone interested can sign up on the volunteer list. Voting can only be done if you are a property owner in the district.
- Chairperson Report (Deb Bursik):
 - Email addresses: HLPRD would appreciate it if members would provide their email addresses on the sign-up sheet. This will allow the district to send notifications and newsletters electronically to the members rather than sending the information via the postal service. The annual meeting information must be sent by mail per government regulation. All other communication can be sent by email.
 - Weed Harvesting: Deb and volunteers have surveyed the lake for weed cutting and determine that the weeds did not require cutting.
 - Fish Stocking: We had stocked 5000 bluegill and 750 black crappie on Earth Day, April 22nd, 2021. The number of crappies were less than the target of 5000 because that was what was available. Timing of the stocking is critical as the water

temperature of the stocked water and the lake need to be close. The difference in the waters was 1 deg F.

- Onterra performed a survey of aquatic invasive species (AIS) this spring and found curly-leaf pondweed (CWP) on the north end and near the south end of the lake near the boat launch. Their findings were different from the 2017 study which found CLP along the east shore of the south portion of the lake. We do not know why this has changed. Another anomaly that Onterra found was near the boat landing, a plant that looked like a hybrid of northern water milfoil and Eurasian water milfoil (EWM). EWM is considered an invasive species which we do not want in our lake. Onterra removed the plant for DNA analysis, we will send out an email regarding their findings when it is available.
- Secretary Report (Kevin Collins)
 - Regarding the Zak Woiak meeting, one suggestion from Zak was that you could harvest any northern pike that you catch and provide them to the animal habitat / recovery facility so they can feed their raptors. Kevin visited a facility called Wild Instinct on Apperson Drive, approximately 9 miles south of our lake off of Route 47. There you can drop off your pike in coolers outside the facility. Their address is: 4621 Apperson Dr., Rhinelander Wi (715) 362-9453.
 - Kevin is working with UWSP professor and is conducting surveys on various locations in the south bay of the lake.
- Audit Report (Bev Fagan and Hans Delius)
 - Hans reported that he and Bev 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 budget status, see attachment 2. He summarized the income and expenses. The big expenses was to cover the Onterra survey. Filed as: 20210731 HLPRD Treasurers Report.pdf
- Old Business:
 - Aeration System:
 - Dave turned on the aeration system on October 24, 2020 and turned off the system on March 21,2021. One of the blowers was not operating, cycling on/off with thermal overload. He had to replace the blower. In investigating the cause, Dave found that one of the diffusers was completely clogged and the safety valve was corroded shut. He felt that this caused the blower to fail due to overpressure. He also found that a second diffuser was disconnected from the hose. He suspects that someone snagged the hose with an anchor. More maintenance can be expected as the system is pretty old.
 - We have obtained a temporary land use permit from the state for the land where we sited the doghouse enclosure containing the blowers. We have applied for the permit, but the state needs to fill the position before any a permits will be issued. We do not know when or if the position will be filled. Q1: When was the original system installed? A: approximately 20 years ago. (approx. 1999)

- We had a zoom meeting with the DNR last Tuesday. In the discussion with Zac Woiak (DNR), bubblers/aerators for permanent docks are also beneficial as a harbor for oxygen starved fish during the winter.
 - Lake Testing:
 - Kevin asked if any residents have historical data regarding when the ice comes off the lake, please provide it to him. He is trying to chart the winter ice season.
 - Kevin provided a synopsis of the lake chemistry. The overall water quality is good for a shallow headwater lake. Numbers indicate that our lake is Eutropic meaning that it is a mature, weedy lake supporting fish that are warm water species (northern, perch, crappie and bluegill). People have noticed that there are more bullhead in the lake this year. Bass fishing is currently non-existent. It was pointed out that bass fishing was good until a winter freeze out a few years back. It was asked if we could contact the DNR and ask if they could stock the lake again with bass. 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.
 - Fish Stocking:
 - Some of the discussion with Zac Woiak (DNR) included pumpkinseeds which are found in our lake. They do well in low oxygen lakes. However, pumpkinseeds are hard to obtain from fish stocking companies. Zac Woiak (DNR) recommended 5,000 bluegills for 3 years in our lake. Deb asked what fish stocking should be done in 2022. Jodi Long indicated that they have seen bluegill by their dock, Deb also has seen bluegill.
 - A question was raised if the DNR can stock bass in our lake? Records indicate that approximately 90,000 bass fingerlings were stocked between 2012 and 2016. There are very little bass, if any, present in the lake now. Deb stated that the commissioners will discuss this with the DNR. Kevin pointed out that with 90,000 fish stocked over 5 years without success, the DNR probably would look at other lakes with better success rates. Deb also pointed out that would stocking bass be detrimental to stocking bluegills.
 - **Motion to stock 5,000 bluegill for 2022 was made by Nancy Collins and seconded by Kris Batchelete. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - **Motion to stock 5,000 black crappie for 2022 was made by Terry Moline and seconded by Nancy Collins. Motion passed unanimously.**
 - Deb will contact suppliers for bluegill and crappies.
 - Kevin asked what the growth rates for bluegills and crappies. Bluegills will grow to 6 inches in 5 years and to 8 inches in 8 years. Crappies will grow to 9 inches in 5 years and 12 inches in 10 years.
 - Signage for fish stocking. General discussion of rules for fish moratorium on bluegills and crappies. Kevin pointed out with the small number of stocked crappies, we should not have a moratorium on crappie fishing. Deb called

for a motion to continue with catch and release for bluegill and crappie. The decision was we do not need to have a motion as it was approved last year. Kevin made a motion to allow crappie to be harvested from the lake. Nancy Collins seconded. Dave Averbek felt that we should not remove any fish if we are re-populating the lake. After discussion that only a jerk would take crappies from the lake and that the resolution is not binding, Nancy Collins withdrew her second. The motion dropped. Tony Ellis motioned that we put a sign at the boat landing regarding catch and release only for crappies and bluegills. Paul Evert seconded the motion. Motion passed 19 to 1 against.

- Jodi Long pointed out that there are seven otters on the lake, how does that affect the stocking plans. Deb will ask Zak for guidance.
- Point Intercept – Early Season Aquatic Invasive Species (ESAIS)
 - Deb pointed out that our comprehensive plan calls for both a point-intercept survey and an Early Season Aquatic Invasive Species (ESAIS) survey is to be conducted next year. We are planning on working with Onterra for these studies. A question was raised as to why we conduct these studies, \$8000 seems to be an awful lot for this work? Deb responded that this is to follow the approved comprehensive plan and be able to obtain water weed cutting permit. Another question was asked if we could have a presentation or a zoom meeting to discuss the needs for a survey with the consultant? Deb indicated that she thought it was cost prohibitive to have someone come out but a zoom meeting may be possible. Another question, who did we use last year? TSB was the consultant conducting the ESAIS in 2020. Question, Where is Onterra is located? DePere. Dave pointed out that we have and will follow the state requirements for contracts and Onterra was the only consultant that responded. Kris Batchelet stated that Onterra is highly respected with the DNR. Did Onterra come out for the weed cutting assessment that was done in July? No, that was done by volunteers, Dennis Batchelet and Paul Evert along with Deb Bursik. Onterra would not come to our lake for that function. What part of the lake can be harvested? Deb referred to our management plan map indicating the DNR approved areas that can be cut. Dennis Batchelet indicated that our lake history has shown that the survey is conducted in July because by then we have a good idea whether we need to cut the weeds. If we wait until August, we are only cutting for a couple of week period. As the season progresses the nights get colder and the weeds start dying down. So we are balancing the cost versus the benefits.
- New Business – Commissioner’s recommendations/motions/discussions/actions:
 - 2021-2022 Budget proposal: (Dave Averbek) presented the proposed 2021-2022 budget. Dave walked thru the budget draft line by line. He pointed out that the fish stocking totals would be changed from \$6,500 to \$13,000 based on the motions approved in this meeting. The budget for lake management would rise from

\$32,890 last year to \$36,175 in the proposed budget. The proposed budget total would be increased to \$45,275 over last year's budget of \$42,730. The budget will be offset by the carry-over of funds from this year. Thus the actual tax levy would be \$9,000. **Deb Bursik made the motion to accept budget with the addition of the stocking cost for crappie. Seconded by Nancy Collins.** One question was raised over are we at risk if we need to replace the existing aerator system? Dave replied that we have sufficient backup components and contingency monies to cover any problems. Another question was how do you plan for large purchases? Dave's response was that we would borrow from the municipal fund and then apply the payments going forward to future land owners. Kevin Collins asked if we could budget for Onterra to come out to give a presentation on the aquatic plant issues with our lake. Deb will contact Onterra about a presentation. Dave moved to close discussion.

Motion for budget was then approved unanimously. The final budget can be found in attachment 3.

- Election - Dave Averbeck is running for re-election as a commissioner for 2021 - 2024 period. Deb asked if anyone else is interested in running for a commissioner position. **Motion was made to close the nominations and seconded by Dennis Batchelet.** Paper ballot were collected and tallied by Kevin Collins. There were no other candidates and Dave was re-elected 17 to 0.
 - County and Town Commissioner: Mitch Ives and Larry Hoffman. Mitch has not been heard from for several years. Larry Hoffman has been checking in with Deb but had other commitments today.
 - Volunteers needed who would be interested in helping out with the Lake District. Dennis asked about clean boats and clean waters. Deb responded that we have so few outside boaters that it was not necessary.
- The next meeting is August 13, 2022. It was reported incorrectly in the agenda.
 - Meeting adjourned 10:55 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Collins, Secretary