

Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District #1

Annual Meeting

August 19, 2023

Lake Tomahawk Park Shelter, Lake Tomahawk, WI

Commissioners Present:

Deb Bursik, Chairperson

Lenore Lopez, Lake Tomahawk Board Commissioner

Dave Averbeck, Treasurer

Jim Winkler, Oneida County Board Commissioner

Laurie Barrett, Secretary

Meeting was called to order at 9:07a.m. by Deb Bursik. Deb reminded everyone that no additions to the agenda are allowed per the WI Open Meeting law. Deb also stated that Roberts Rules of Order are followed. Making motions, seconding motions and voting are only to be done by eligible voters. She asked that people state their name when making or seconding a motion so the secretary can record their names.

The Commissioners introduced themselves and then the twenty-two attendees introduced themselves and mentioned how long they had been Lake Tomahawk property owners.

Deb asked for a motion to approve the Agenda for the Annual Meeting. A motion was made by Kevin Collins and seconded by Nancy Collins. Approved unanimously.

Deb asked for a motion to approve the Minutes (included in the package each person was given) of August 13, 2022 Annual Meeting. Motion made by Dennis Batchelet and seconded by Laurie Barrett. Approved unanimously.

Guest Speaker: Stephanie Boismenu, Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator and Conservation Technician, Oneida County Lane & Water Conservation. Stephanie shared that she and others from the Lake District did an informal survey on Horsehead Lake this June. No Eurasian Water-Milfoil was found nor was Curly Pond Weed. She did note that there are several areas along the lake that have batches of Yellow Iris growing along the shore. She informed that Yellow Iris is a poisonous plant to humans and animals and needs to be removed. She recommended replacing it with native plants such as Blue Flag Iris. Stephanie said one can cut the flower heads off after they have bloomed to stop the seeding process. She recommended wearing gloves to do that. She passed out handouts regarding invasive snails and spoke about Zebra Mussel invasion noted in a few lakes close to here. No Zebra Mussels were noted in Horsehead Lake yet. She spoke about the importance of cleaning off equipment and boats before entering into another lake. She also said there is an over-abundance of Northern Pike in Horsehead Lake

and would recommend people catch them and not release them. There are Raptor rescue places locally that can take them as food.

Reports:

Deb Bursik, Chairperson

- Deb asked for people who have not submitted their email addresses to do so as it saves money not having to mail out as many newsletters and notices.
- Deb reported that according to the survey of weeds that she, Tom Niebler and Dennis Batchelet did on the lake in early July, no weed harvesting was needed. She stated that weed harvesting, especially on a shallow lake such as Horsehead Lake should only be done if the weeds are impeding boat travel. She stated that weed harvesting stirs up the lake bottom disturbing fish and other animal/insect breeding grounds and can give invasive plant seeds that are in the lake bottom a chance to re-seed.
- Onterra Early Season Aquatic Invasive Species survey and Point to Point Survey of 2022: Onterra reported that overall the lake is healthy and more diverse native plant life was found on the lake than in prior surveys. There are four native plant types that are dominant. The Point-to-Point survey looks at plant life every 52 meters and contained 500 points, so it is possible that there is Eurasian Water Milfoil in the lake but it hasn't taken off in the lake. The next point intercept and community plant surveys will take place in 2027. We need to keep those on target to keep our mechanical harvesting permit.
- It is recommended that we do early season aquatic invasive plant surveys every two to three years. We could do one in 2024.
- The District has received complaints of jet skis going around the island at high rates of speed. Wisconsin Statute 30.06 (3) (ar) states: **No persons may operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of slow-no-wake within 200 feet of the shoreline of any lake.** The distance between the island and the shoreline is less than 400 feet, so this would be a no-wake area. Please refrain from operating faster than a no-wake speed around the island on a jet ski, aka "personal watercraft".

Laurie Barrett, Secretary:

- 62 newsletters were sent by regular mail
- Annual report notice and packet sent by regular mail to all Horsehead Lake property owners on August 1, 2023.

Han Delius, Audit Report:

- Audit period of July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 All records looked complete and accounts did balance.

Dave Averbeck, Treasurer

- The budget tracker for 2022-2023 approved budget with projected spending is enclosed.
- Approved budget with actual full year spending for 2021-2022 is enclosed.

Old Business:

- Dave Averbeck: Current Aerator System – Aerator was refurbished by manufacturer, Aquatic Biologists on October 12, 2022 for a cost of \$3315.35.
- Aerator operated through the winter as it should. It was turned on October 12, 2022 and turned off April 24, 2023 which was a bit later than usual due to weather.
- Power cost this fiscal year was \$1780. 27.
- Preventive maintenance service will be done by the manufacturer before it is started this fall.

New Business:

- Deb Bursik reported that there were bluegills and black crappies stocked in the lake this spring. Spring of 2024 is slated for the same amount.
- Deb asked the participants if they wanted to discuss a catch and release only policy for black crappies and blue gills through 2024. Discussion ensued and a motion was made by James Watters, seconded by Paul Evert to extend the catch and release only policy. Unanimously approved.
- Deb said that there would be another early season aquatic plant survey in 2024.
- Dave Averbeck presented the project update for the new aerator system and funding needs. He stated that the project and funding was actually approved at the 2022 annual meeting, but we need to vote again in compliance with the Wis. State Statue 33.30 and 33.31 notification and wording requirements. He talked about what grants were received for this new aerator, how much would be financed for 5 years, and where the aerator would be located. Discussion ensued regarding the location of the aerator; all being satisfied with the proposed location.
- Dave notified all that the aerator installation might not be completed until 2024. The Permit and Grant would allow installation in 2024. Best case scenario would be that grant funding, financing, signing contractor contracts would all be done in time for the system installation to be complete in October.
- Dave reiterated that the loan would be \$45,000.00 paid back in four equal payments with a current interest rate of 5.75%. With interest, the loan payback would \$53,081.49. There is a possibility the total would be lower than that due to grant funds and earlier funding from District tax levy cash flow, allowing an earlier payback therefore reducing total interest expense. Discussion ensued.

- Laurie Barrett read the required notice: “To comply with Wisconsin Statutes 33.30 and 33.31, we are hereby providing notice that this annual meeting will include a discussion and possible vote on borrowing money and implementing an irrevocable tax levy to make loan principal and interest payments when due. The purpose of the loan will be to purchase and install a new 2nd aerator. Details of the budget are enclosed and summarized in the attached materials.” She then repeated the notice. A vote was taken to approve the application for the loan and was approved unanimously by the members present.
- Dave presented the proposed 2023 – 2024 budget and noted any differences including the loan and grant funding for the 2nd aerator.
- Han Delius made a motion to approve the proposed budget including the loan for the 2nd aerator. Dennis Batchelet seconded the motion. Motion unanimously approved.

Election of (1) Commissioner for a regular 3 year term.

Laurie Barrett asked if there were any nominations from the floor to add to the ballot, twice.

There were none.

Ballots were completed, collected and counted by Laurie Barrett and recounted by Hans Delius.

Twenty-one (21) ballots were counted. There were twenty-one (21) votes for Dusten Tornow. Dusten Tornow was elected to the Board of Commissioners for Horsehead Lake Rehabilitation and Protection District No. 1 for a three-year term.

Optional Comments: Jim Winkler, Oneida County Board Representative spoke for a few minutes about wake board boats and the possible negative consequences of those boats operating on a shallow lake like Horsehead Lake. He said the County is aware of the destructiveness to the bottom of the lakes and to the shorelines. They are in discussion about a recommendation to Lake Districts regarding this. He also complimented the Horsehead Lake District Board of Commissioners members stating that this District was particularly well run.

Lenore Lopez, Town of Lake Tomahawk Board member said they had discussed the wake board issue also. She presented Deb Bursik with their policy recommendation which will be reviewed at the next Board of Commissioners meeting.

Deb Bursik said that a volunteer list is needed so that when extra help is required, we would have a list of people willing to volunteer.

Charles Konsitzke volunteered to replace Hans Delius as Auditor.

Final Comments: Attendees gave a round of applause for the excellent work that Dave Averbeck and Kevin Collins have done regarding the aerators. Another round of applause was given for Deb Bursik's excellent leadership in her term.

Meeting adjourned at 11:17 a.m. Laurie Barrett, Secretary