

Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District #1

Commissioner Minutes as of 11/16/2024

The Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (HLPRD) commissioner meeting was called to order by Chairman Dusten Tornow at approximately 9:16 AM.

Members present:

Chairperson:	Dusten Tornow
Treasurer:	David Averbeck
Secretary:	Kevin Collins
Town Board Commissioner:	Lenore Lopez
County Board Commissioner:	Lenore Lopez

- This meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom. All referenced documents in the meeting notes can be found on the web shared storage Google Drive. (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GI9zCafcsZJFGR5SJup1n8YAIL7cD1K7?usp=sharing>). You can request access to the files by contacting the HLPRD secretary and providing your email address.
- Motion to approve the meeting agenda by Kevin Collins, seconded by Dave Averbeck, approved.
- Motion to accept the August 3rd meeting notes and refrain from reading them was by Kevin Collins, seconded by Dave Averbeck, approved unanimously.

Reports:

- Chairperson:
 - Dusten is working on the web site, updating past and future agendas and meeting notes. He had to get Deb Bursik involved with straightening out the web site authorizations and access.
- Secretary:
 - Kevin sent out the fall newsletter to the HLPRD members, approximately 100 emails and 70 mailing envelopes were sent.
 - Dave had requested for access to Kevin's lake camera. This camera is looking west across the lake. Contact Kevin for access. Dusten stated that he also has a lake facing camera.
 - Citizens Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) coordinator for Oneida County, Sandy Wickman, has retired and is replaced by Chastin Harlow (chastin.harlow@wisconsin.gov) out of the Woodruff office. CLMN is a volunteer organization managed by the DNR to perform water sampling on the Wisconsin lakes.
- Treasurer:
 - Dave completed the close out of last year's budget. Our spending for normal things, administration and operations was just under budget. For lake management, our actual spend was \$13K as opposed to \$42K because we did not spend money on weed harvesting or fish stocking. Our capital budget was on target, we made the loan on the aerator

system of just under \$21K. Income was below budget, partially due to the final payment from the state of \$3K that is not scheduled until 2027.

- Fiscal audit was completed without issue by Chuck Konsitzke.
 - Dave uploaded the 2024 treasurer files to the Google Drive.
 - Our budget is lower than last year, but the carryover was much lower than last year, so our portion of the tax levy is higher.
 - Kevin asked what our fiscal year is? Dave explained that our fiscal runs from September 1. This was the way he inherited the books. There are pluses and minuses to the fiscal starting on September 1. Dave indicated that he would like to change it to a calendar year sometime, but it would take some work to do.
 - Dusten asked what the aerators are costing us? Dave stated that it is much more because the new aerators have longer lines to the bubblers, which causes more backpressure against the pumps. *Dave offered to look it up.*
 - Dave had sent out an email concerning joining a wake boat alliance group. Dave questioned whether we can decide without an agenda item. *Dusten will make a note to include this item on the agenda for next meeting. Dusten will also create a logo for our lake district.*
- Citizen's Input Opportunity:
 - None

Business items

- Fish Report
 - Discussion of fishery in the lake. We all believe that blue gill, perch and crappie are coming back. Northern population seems to be stable but size is increasing. *Dusten made a note to plan to get a permit to stock fish and get the DNR input during winter. He will also obtain a weed harvesting permit.* Dave reminded the commissioners that, by law, we need to go through the bidding process for any contract over \$2,500. This includes publishing a public notice for bids. This adds about a month to the bid process.
- Water quality report
 - Kevin corrected an entry error for the July CLMN data. The subsequent revised report for 2024 shows that our lake has trended toward the mean for shallow headwater lakes in northern Wisconsin for both secchi depth (clarity) and total chlorophyll. Phosphorous has improved but is still high compared to other headwater lakes. Kevin attributed the improvement to stocking pan fish into the lake which consumed the algae and zooplankton. Our lake seems to be moving toward the "tropic cascade balance" that Susan Knight (UW-Trout Lake Station) presented in her talk at the annual meeting. Dave commented that the lake was much clearer than previous years. Dusten asked "did we make the right call on weed harvesting?". Dave and Kevin agreed that we made the right call to not cut weeds. We noted that the lake was weedier, especially on the north end, but the boat driver could also be at fault by not navigating around floating weeds. "Horsehead Lake P & R\Lake Water Testing\2024116 HLP RD CLMN_report_443111.pdf"
- Bank Account signatories

- Dusten is planning on going to Nicolet Bank to add his signature to the HLPRD bank account next time he is up at the lake. He also asked Dave if he could do it remotely via a notary process. *Dave indicated that he would check with Nicolet.*
- Lake Study Calendar.
 - Dusten asked whether we had made decision on a schedule for future lake studies. Kevin stated that we decided on two years for Early Season Aquatic Invasive Species Study and five years for the point-intercept study. *Dave to put together a schedule that can be published and reviewed on next commissioner meeting.* Once we have a schedule we can set plans with the vendors and the DNR. Dave pointed out that Wisconsin Pond & Lake Resource (WPLR) , our aerator contractor, also does the water quality studies like Onterra. He stated that WPLR was about the same price as compared to Onterra.
- Remote DO Sensor status
 - Kevin deployed one of the two DO sensors in the lake at the Deep Hole. The second sensor bounced out of his boat and disintegrated on Rt. 47. Kevin did purchase a second sensor but could not get to the lake to deploy it. The plan was to deploy 2 sensors at the same location but at different depths. The sensor that was deployed looks to be at the 7 foot depth. The long term plan is to evaluate the data and determine if one of the two sensors should be deployed at a second location approximately 500 ft. south of the deep hole. The permit for the sensors was applied for with that contingency.
- Aerator status.
 - Aerator annual maintenance was contracted to WPLR and work will be done in the next week. Dave is planning on turning on the aerators the week of Thanksgiving.
- Evert Property Easement
 - Still have not received a signed property easement. Dusten indicated that he will follow-up with Paul and Deb. Kevin volunteered to take that work over.
- Future meeting dates
 - April 5,2025 @9:00 AM commissioner mtg. - virtual meeting (fish stock)
 - June 21, 2025 @9:00 AM commissioner mtg. - Sloan Center (weed harvesting assessment)
 - August 2, 2025 @10:00 Annual meeting, Sloan Center
 - August 2, 2025 following annual, commissioner meeting
 - November 15, 2025 @9:00 commissioner meeting - virtual meeting (aerator)
- Review Oneida Cty. Comp. Plan
 - Kevin downloaded the comprehensive plan and summary of changes. The only thing that really could impact us is the encouragement of mining operations in Oneida. Mining would be impacted by state and federal regulations and with our water shed being so small, Kevin could not see a significant risk. Lenore further clarified that she would hope that all stakeholders would comment on that section as it has potential impact in degrading environmental qualities. Dusten asked, as a lake district, is there anything we can do to support the environmental concerns? Lenore indicated that sending an email to the environmental committee voicing a concern. A resolution that was raised was voted down because 200 emails and 60 citizens expressed concerns during the public comment period. *Lenore to send out an email following the December meeting of the Oneida Cty*

committee. Dusten summed it up by stating that we should relate this to our members by stating it could impact property values and to keep our lake healthy. (ref. [Lynne Mine](#))

- Send out Aerator Operation Letter
 - Kevin sent out the “winter operation of aerators in Horsehead Lake” notification to residents in the HLPRD district as required by law. This is a US POSTAL mailing and approximately 100 letters were sent.
- Town of Lake Tomahawk
 - Proposed ordinance to regulate mosquito treatments due to potential health and environmental impacts.

Dave asked Lenore if she knew of any plans for Lake Tomahawk or other towns to annex property. She did not know but would bring it up at the next board meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:48 AM

Respectfully submitted:
Kevin Collins, Secretary