

Minutes of the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Potter's Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held Saturday, August 27th, 2010 at Town Hall, East Troy, Wisconsin.

Present: Commissioners Barry Bonneau, Christine Celley, Bob Rice and Jack Basso

Also Present: 15 Electors.

Chairman Bonneau called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:00a.m.

Christine went over the treasurer's report explaining the 2011 budget and the current year to date numbers. She stated that if anyone had questions about the line items or what expenses were paid that she would be happy to share a more in depth break down. She explained that Payroll has been included under Lake Projects in the past and moving forward we are breaking out those expenses under Payroll. Payroll up until now has been minimal and with the expected harvesting those expenses are going to increase. A constituent asked about current wages being paid for the guys that run the harvester. Barry explained that depending on the skill level that it could range from \$9.00 for general labor up to \$20 per hour if someone is experienced and able to fix the harvester as well. Skilled labor although it is more saves us money for higher repair and maintenance on our equipment as well as less down time. Christine brought in a picture board showing the launching of the harvester. Jack commented on the talent of Rich and Elroy and how they are able to save us money with their knowledge and connections as they know how to repair the equipment. Jack also commented about Elroy having a bucket on the harvester to scoop the fish and turtles back into the lake as the weeds are being harvested. Someone asked about where the weeds were being dumped and the relationship we have with the local farmers was mentioned. Jack asked about the budgeted amount for Equipment, Tools, & Vehicles and if the 2012 amount included the anticipated new trailer for the harvester. Christine talked about the fabricated wheels that are currently used to haul the trailer and the danger of launching the harvester with our current system. The current quote we have is for \$27,640. Barry called around to other sources and we now have a preliminary quote for \$13,500. We are budgeting for the worst case scenario but anticipate that the new trailer will come in significantly less than the budgeted amount. Christine stated that last year we did use some of the budgeted money for the purchase of a new used truck for weed hauling. A constituent asked about the 2012 budget and asked why when we have only spent \$30,000 year to date are we budgeting \$90,840. Christine explained that under our bylaws we are required to have our budget approved in order to spend money. We know that we may be over budgeted for the trailer and labor but we are budgeting for what we expect to be worst case scenario. Barry commented that the DNR has approved a harvesting permit because we are not able to chemically treat the natives. This is going to drive up our wage expenses. A constituent asked about the \$12,000 tax that is in the 2012 budget even though we have over \$280,000 in the bank. Barry explained that this is a judgment point and until next year when the weed situation is reassessed we will not know exactly where we are at. In the past we have had some bog problems. Lake Lorraine had a bog break off and they

are running into tremendous expenses to remove it. The board thought that it is prudent to build our reserves on the front end but is open to waiving it for another year if those in attendance wanted it waived again. Bob commented that in order for our current budget to work we would be taking money out of the savings account. The \$12,000 tax would affect his household about \$60 per year. He also commented that we have had grant money in the past and those funds are very limited so we are having to use more of our own money than we have had to in the past. We were cut from the DNR fish stocking program this year and if we want to stock, the fish will have to be purchased from our funds. A constituent asked about the possibility of getting a smaller cutter to cut in between the piers. Barry answered and said that we are not currently planning on getting another cutter nor is the district going to cut in between piers to the shoreline that the home owners would need to take some responsibility for their own shoreline. Motion was made from the floor to have the district tax remain in the budget. 19 were for and none against. The board was asked how much was spent on the truck. Christine stated that we purchased the truck for \$10,000 and about \$2,000 was spent on modifications. The board was asked if the people who worked for us were employees or subcontractors. Christine explained that we do carry a workers comp policy and the town does the payroll for us. We were asked if it may be more cost effective for us to hire an independent contractor which would also limit our exposure. Bob commented that if we were to do that the contractor would have to carry their own insurance which would drive up the cost to the Lake District. Christine updated the Landmark Credit Union balance to approximately \$104,000 bringing our total reserves to about \$381,000. A motion was made to rescind the prior motion for the \$12,000 tax. The board explained their stances on the tax Christine stated she could go either way, Jack was for keeping the tax, Bob for keeping the tax, and Barry abstained. Another vote was taken for the \$12,000 tax and the motion was passed 12 to 5 and 2 who abstained. Constituent asked if we were going to audit the books again this year. Christine stated absolutely and if anyone wanted to attend all are welcome. Barry introduced Carol Cole (who is also on the audit committee) and commented on her tax and accounting background. A motion was made from the floor to approve the presented budget for 2012. Budget was passed and approved unanimously.

Minutes from annual meeting 2011 were handed out to those in attendance. There was no discussion and a motion was made from the floor to approve the 2011 Annual Meeting minutes as presented and passed unanimously. Budget was commented on and people were given the opportunity to ask any questions from the approved 2012 budget.

Letter from Kathy Aron.

This has been a very unusual summer. We had very cold temps until mid-June, and then temps were very warm, with no storms. This quickly raised water temperatures and led to bumper crops of plants and algae in most lakes in this region. For instance, Wind Lake has plants covering almost every inch of the lakebed from the shoreline out to 18 feet deep, and filamentous algae blooms along ½ of the 9 miles of shoreline. Eagle Lake has plants to the surface on more than 50% of the lake requiring extensive harvesting to let anyone reach open water to boat.

Potters Lake appears to be undergoing a shift. This is not completely unexpected, as lakes seem to take longer to adjust to major management activities than we would expect. It has now been six years since the whole lake treatment.

Potters Lake has gone from a lake dominated by two exotic species: Eurasian watermilfoil and curly-leaf pondweed, to a lake now dominated by two native plants: elodea and slender naiad. Although milfoil and curly-leaf are still present, they are not controlling the plant community. A native milfoil was also found around the lake, further complicating the plant management options.

When native plants flourish, they too can impair recreational use. This is especially noticeable in the boat launch bay on the SE end of the lake. Another area needing management to provide recreational access is the NW corner of the lake.

Generally, the DNR does not allow chemical treatment of native plants, except to provide minimal access. Because of this, the District has opted to begin harvesting. Although harvesting is also controlled and permitted by DNR, there is a little more flexibility with using the harvester to keep areas open.

Because we do not know whether this is a “blip” or the beginning of a new pattern of plant growth, the District will need to be flexible in its approach to balance the lake’s interests with the residents’ interests. Native plants are very important, and it is very encouraging that the lake can support a more diverse plant community. Over time, I would expect the plant community to become even more diverse. This will decrease the problems caused by single specie communities, since most natives have an open architecture and grow in the middle of the water column.

We will need to develop a new plant management plan for the lake that will be used to issue the multi-year harvesting program. We will need to complete that in 2012 so a new, 5-year harvesting permit can be issued in 2013. Annual chemical permits will still be used to allow the District to treat areas with curly-leaf and milfoil.

Barry commented about things addressed in Kathy’s letter including weather changes from very cold to hot, water level from high to low due to lack of rain. This year’s conditions raised water temperature causing weeds and algae blooms that were not seen in prior years. Other lakes experienced floating bogs and solid weeds in water up to 18ft of depth. Our problem has shifted from invasives to overgrowth of natives. We still have invasives which were treated chemically this spring. The natives pose a different problem as the DNR will not allow us to chemically treat them. We have been issued a permit to harvest through 2012 in order to help control the natives. We are looking at a 5 year harvesting plan going forward. We don’t know what next year will hold but we need to be prepared to chemically treat or harvest.

Barry commented on the timber structure program for fish by the marsh. After further research if we attached the timbers to the marsh and we had more bogs break loose the logs could come with it causing a hazard for boaters. If we were to secure the timbers to the shoreline it would only be in about 8 inches of water thus being ineffective for the

fish. Barry commented on his research from fishing trips that structure in shallow waters does not attract the fish as well as fallen trees that branch out into deeper water. Based on this it is Barry's recommendation to abandon the project. He will contact the DNR and offer up the fish cribs and logs to a lake that may be able to use the supplies.

Barry commented about this year's fish stocking program. We were scheduled to get 520 Northerns. When Barry called Doug Welch to check status on the stocking he was told that due to budget cutbacks that our lake along with 13 others were cut from the fish stocking program for this year. The options given to us were to wait till 2013 or use our own funds to stock the lake. Northerns 9"-10" in length would cost us \$7-\$12 per fish. The cost is higher for this size of fish but the survival rate is also much higher and also results in a legal size catch sooner. The cost to the lake would be \$4,500-\$6,500. The other option is to wait till 2013 when we are tentatively scheduled for stocking again by the DNR. The risk to that is the DNR is in a contracting mode and they cannot promise that just because a request is made that it will be fulfilled. Barry asked those in attendance what plan of action they would like us to take. One constituent stated that he spends a fair amount of time fishing on our lake and has not caught a single Northern this year while in past years they have been very common. Barry commented that we have had Northern stocking of about 500 fish every 4 years going back to the 80's. The last time we stocked was 2005 so with natural mortality and what people are removing from the lake we are over due for stocking again. There was a fish survey taken this spring which shows large mouth bass, bluegill, crappie, and some northern. Bass population is doing well with 37% of the population being 14-15 inches. The bluegill population has grown but the size has stayed the same at about 4.8 inches. The crappies are growing and size is at about 7-8 inches. Northerns population is way down and size between 16-28 inches. Adding northern will reduce our bluegill population and increase the average size. A motion was made to move forward with the fish stocking for this year with funds of \$6,500 being allotted under special projects. The motion was approved and fish will be stocked in the fall of 2011 or spring of 2012. A question was asked from the floor about stocking and when the harvesting would end. We are planning to harvest through September or weather permitting and the stocking would be in early October so they would not interfere with each other.

Christine commented that the district did purchase a new used truck this year for our harvesting operation. Some modifications were made to the truck so that it would work for our application. We purchased the truck for \$10,000 and spent about \$2,000 for modifications. We are hauling the weeds to a few local farms as we are trying to stay green in our operations.

Barry went over a diagram of the lake and what area's we are able to harvest (The bay by the boat launch and the North West end of the lake by the large log home along with areas where home owners are being limited to access). He explained the limitations of the harvester in shallow depths with the paddle wheels. We average about 6 truck loads per day when harvesting. At this pace we feel that we will be able to maintain the lake. Jack commented that the maximum depth the harvester can cut is 6ft. Barry circulated the permit around the room for those in attendance to review. A constituent offered to

allow us to store the weed cutter in front of her home over the holiday weekend. Someone asked if we were going to be picking up the loose weeds from peoples piers or shoreline as we have done in the past. Barry commented that as of now we are not going to be offering that service as it has been noted that there is not a large problem with loose clippings. The home owner lives across from the boat launch and the harvester could not get in to pick up anyway due to the shallow water. He said that he did have other ways to get rid of the weeds. Bob offered that if he were to trailer them to the launch we could load them on the truck.

Barry addressed the group on the purchase of the trailer for the harvester. We allocated \$27,640 but have another bid in at \$13,500 but may need some more for modifications to the harvester. Bob expressed concerns about the harvester not having an anchoring system in place if it were to break down to prevent damage from drifting. It was later confirmed that the blades can be lowered without the use of the engine to prevent drifting. Barry did let the group know that there may be grant money available for help in purchasing the trailer. We are too late for this year and the program has restrictions. The restrictions being that we would have to wait till next July until they have made a decision one way or another to enter into a contract with the trailer supplier or to allocate real money towards the purchase of the trailer meaning we would have to continue with our old system. If we were approved it could mean up to \$5400 for us. There is also no guarantee that there will be funds available next year for the program with cutbacks. Barry asked for comment from the floor. It was decided that we would forgo the grant application and move forward this year with the building of a new trailer. It was also asked if we could use grant money for other things fish stocking, harvesting operations, or maintenance. Barry informed the group that it would need to be used to acquire something new not to fix or maintain.

Barry addressed the group about the vacant position for the Walworth County appointed official for our lake and asked for interest from the floor. Dale Marciniak was approached and expressed an interest. Dale introduced himself and said he has been a resident since 2004 and has a background in real-estate. His hobbies include fishing, waterskiing, kayaking, and wave runners. Barry asked again for others who are interested and no one else stepped forward. A vote was taken and Dale was voted into the position, subject to approval from Walworth County.

Christine's board position is expiring in 2011 and she has offered to continue her role on the board for another 3 year term. Barry asked if there was any one else interested in being on the board. No one else stepped forward and Christine was elected to serve another 3 year term on the board.

Bob went over the resolutions for 2012. There were handouts for each to follow along. Each one was gone over and summarized. A constituent commented on where labor was calculated in resolution 11-4. It was decided that \$20,000 would be added for labor bringing the total to \$45,500. Resolutions were passed as amended. Date for spring meet is set for May 5th 2012 at 9:00am. Annual meeting was set for August 25th 2012 at 9:30am.

Public comments were addressed and there was a question about Mukwonago's deep well. Barry commented on the meeting on July 16th that he attended. The well would be in closer proximity to Phantom and Beulah. Barry also talked to Jeff Thornton from Sewer PAC who thought that we were not likely to be affected by it. This is preliminary as we won't know the true effects if any until it is up and running. The well would be located in Walworth County for the benefit of Mukwonago. Christine noted that we are a town, where as Mukwonago is a village and can do things pretty freely as far as annexing land and taxing. Barry feels that we are in a reasonable position at this time and we should all keep up to date on it as new information is printed in the local papers.

Christine was approached by someone who asked about reinstating the carp out and asked if there was any interest from the group. A constituent commented about how it used to be run with booths and prizes. Bob asked if there was any interest from the floor in helping to run this. No one came forward. Barry commented that if anyone wanted to run this program we would be willing to help. A motion was made and the meeting was adjourned at 11:25am.