

**Minutes of the 2011 Special Meeting of the Potter's Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
held Saturday, May 7, 2011 at Town Hall, East Troy, Wisconsin.**

Present: Commissioners Barry Bonneau, Christine Celley, Jack Basso and Roy Lightfield

Also Present: 30 Electors, Kathy Aron and Audrey Greene

Chairman Bonneau called the meeting to order at 9:05am. and the commissioners introduced themselves.

Our aquatic consultant, Kathy Aron, from Aron & Associates, reported on the condition of Potter's Lake. Based on cooler weather patterns the water temperatures are much cooler than normal and we are running 3 to 4 weeks behind. We need to do a plant survey this year so that we will be able to apply for a harvesting permit. This would enable us to harvest should weeds become a problem beyond what we would be able to chemically treat. A constituent asked if we were going to be able to do spot treatments for this year and if sonar would be considered again. Kathy replied by saying that we have been able to contain the weed problem so far by doing spot treatments and that the DNR is not likely to issue a permit for a lake wide treatment. Barry clarified that we have been granted permission from the DNR for shoreline treatments extending 200ft from the shoreline. We are using Aquathol K which targets Curly Leaf but will also control Milfoil when done early in the year. The bay by the boat launch is experiencing problems with Allodia which is a native plant and treatments will be done to keep navigation paths clear. Barry asked what property owners' rights are. Kathy said that the home owners would be able to apply for their own permits with the DNR but it would be unlikely that they would be granted based on the fact that the district already has permission to treat those areas. Kathy said that property owners can manually remove a 30ft path of weeds in front of their property. Barry stated that chemical treatment has been the most effect way of controlling the weeds and we have budgeted \$10,000 for treatment for this year. The actual may be more or less depending on this years weed problems. We have not taken action on purchasing a new truck for harvesting as we have not had to use the cutter yet. DNR has been supportive and cooperative with our treatments.

A constituent asked about the bogs that come loose from the marsh and end up by the boat launch. Kathy said that the Lake District has often removed them for home owners. Barry clarified that as long as the bog is the size of a picnic table or swim raft the district will pay to have it removed. Barry asked about the shifting of responsibility within the DNR. Kathy commented that they are pressured for time and resources and we need to do our best to work with them. The DNR has 4 days to respond once we say we need a treatment. They have the right to come out and look at areas prior to treatment, at treatment time, or waive their rights totally and allow for the requested treatment.

Audrey Greene from Walworth County came and spoke to the group. She talked about Geese problems and how shoreline buffers deter geese from coming up on your property. Audrey made comment about a link on Walworth County's website A Homeowners Guide to Making Shoreline Gardens. This will help homeowners with plant choices and preparation. Note if you alter your shoreline you will need to contact the county for approval. Barry commented on the geese removal program that we have used in the past and based on the current adult population we do not have enough (7) to go forward as of yet. We do have until June 1st to determine if we will participate in the program again.

Audrey said that in addition to geese prevention the Shoreline Gardens help with erosion as well. There was open conversation about the geese and how to report problems. It was decided that any problems were to be brought to our attention via PottersLake@gamil.com email. A constituent commented about how well the buffer has worked for them noting that the geese swim by their property and go up on the neighboring lawns that have no buffer.

Audrey talked about invasives in our lake (Zebra Muscles, Curley Leaf Pond Weed, and Milfoil). Audrey noted new law NR40 which has 2 parts prohibited and restricted. Audrey had handouts in the back of the room for anyone to take that offered more clarification for the attendees. Audrey talked about the Clean Boats Clean Waters program and how the program has changed. In prior years we had to ask people to remove weeds from boats and trailers now we have the right to demand removal as it is the new law. She stated that some car washes have large bays that were conducive to washing boats and it would be a good thing to hand out locations of those carwashes at the launch so people traveling to different lakes would be able to stop and wash their boats off before relaunching into another lake. The Clean Boats Clean Waters program has been the most successful way of getting information out on invasives.

Barry brought the Kayak Club idea back up for discussion and there was no interest from those in attendance. Barry also asked that anyone who is interested in working the launch contact Bob Rice.

Christine updated the constituents on the Spring Audit. Christine Celley, Carol Cole, and Bob Rice met in Feb. and went through all transactions that took place in the year 2010 and verified that the books were in order. Christine commented that last year we moved some money to Landmark Credit Union so that we were protected under the government insurance regulations. Christine said that if anyone had any questions about the audit or books that they could contact her directly and she would share all financial information that she had. Barry asked Carol Cole to comment on her experience with taxes since she was part of the audit. She shared that she has done taxes for the past 30 years and works for Deloitte. Christine also invited anyone who was interested to attend the audits.

A constituent asked about the assessment on the tax bill and if it happened or not. Barry stated that it did happen and it will be open for discussion again at the annual meeting in August. There was some question as to the line items on the tax bill and which ones applied to the Lake District. We did waive one and collected the other. When we meet for the August meeting the board will be making a recommendation as to if we should waive or collect the tax for the following year.

Commissioners voted on their roles going forward with Barry being the Commissioner, Christine the Treasurer, and Bob as Secretary.

Christine briefed the group on the beaver problem that some have commented on. She stated that the district had hired a trapper to remove the problem beavers and Richard has been keeping the dam clear of any mud and logs. Christine commented that if you are having problems that wrapping your trees with wire is a good deterrent for them. Jack commented that he had problems with the beavers and after protecting the trees with wire the problem was solved. One of the constituents provided photos of the damage that the beavers had caused and recommended removal of the lodge, replanting of the trees, and more trapping as the beavers continue to be a problem for home owners in the bay by the boat launch. Barry stated that the DNR would have to approve any plantings that we would do. He also had conversation about removal of the lodge and that would also have to have DNR approval which we may be able to get. The problem being the way the lodges are constructed and the difficulty of removing them. Barry's recommendation was to bring back the trapper and wrap the trees. This would take care of the problem as the beavers would move to a more desirable site and the lodges would become vacant.

Another constituent brought up a concern that if we did not have the trees and the root system to hold the dirt in place what is protecting the shore line from eroding to the point where the lake could empty? Information was shared that if the lodge were to stay even if we get rid of the current beavers the lodge would attract new one's that would build upon the current lodge. Barry said that we would consult with the DNR on ways to control the beavers and lodge removal. Christine offered to pass out the name of the trapper for those who are having problems with beavers.

Barry addressed the group about the planned fish cribs. Doug Welch from the DNR is going to conduct a fish survey this year and has committed to the stocking of 520 Northern. This would be of no cost to our lake district. Barry passed out handouts provided by the DNR of sample fish cribs. The cribs would provide needed structure in our lake to help the fish population. Our plan meets the DNR and insurance requirements. The cribs would be placed in the slow no wake zone and be marked by buoys. Barry passed out handouts of our plan with marked areas for placement for cribs and logs. There was conversation about how to secure the logs and different ideas. A description was given of the cribs that were built over the winter. The DNR has approved our proposed plan. The East shoreline is the only viable shoreline to place the structures as it is the deepest part of the lake and the only place where we would be able to get the clearance of 6' over the top of the cribs. A constituent expressed concern over not having enough depth and that it proposed a danger to swimmers and boaters. She stated that buoys have been moved in the past and what if someone moved one of the hazard buoys and someone got hurt. Barry stated that the cribs would be marked with submerged hazard buoys and we could also remove some layers of the cribs to reduce the height of the cribs. A question came from the floor about our insurance and if we would have to raise our liability coverage with the increased risk. Barry did get bids for umbrella coverage over and above our current limits as well as researched what other lakes carry for coverage. It was suggested that the cribs be placed in the deepest part of the lake and eliminate the buoys. With the studies cribs are only effect in certain depths and if placed in 20ft of water the cribs are ineffective. It was also asked how home owners would be notified of placement. Notification would be through email and regular mail for the residences we don't have email addresses for. Barry stated that the life span of the cribs would be 30 to 40yrs. No permits would be needed as long as we were within the guidelines and we do have email approval form DNR to move forward. Christine made comment to the amount of work and research that Barry has done on the project and thanked him for that. She did have concerns about the size of the cribs and the amount of cribs we are proposing based on our lake size. She noted that even though we are on a small lake we have a good amount of activity. In order for insurance to cover us the cribs must be marked and according to DNR we can not attach a buoy to the cribs only near them. Right now we only have \$1 million in liability coverage which we could go quick if we were to be sued. As commissioners it is our job to look out for the best interest of the lake and its property owners. Jack made comment that the only place the cribs could go would be on the Eastern shoreline as it is the only place we have the depth. Liability of the cribs is a major concern as well as recreational safety. Barry responded that as a lake district our limit of liability under state law is \$50k. If a lawsuit were to go over that amount it would have to be a federal case. Another way to protect ourselves as board members would be to give up our compensation. Jana suggested that we move forward with the log structure instead of the fish cribs on the East shore. This would put the structures in an area with little boat traffic. There was additional conversation both for but mostly against the cribs. A vote was taken and the crib project was abandoned and the logs on the West end of the lake were tabled till the annual meeting in August.

Independence Day Celebrations – the boat parade to be held on Sunday July 3rd at 7:30pm with a rain date of Monday July 4th and will begin at the boat launch. A vote was taken to choose the theme for the Boat Parade and the winner was Rock and Roll and as always traditional Patriotic. Flares for the “Lighting of the Lake” will be sold by the people hired for the Clean Boats Clean Waters program at the

boat launch on the weekend leading up to the 4th of July. Flares are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The lighting of the lake will follow the boat parade at 9:00pm.

Meetings – The annual meeting will be held Saturday August 27th, 2011 at 9:30am with the budget meeting starting at 9:00am. The meetings will be followed by the district picnic.

Christine commented about boater safety and the fact that anyone who was born after 1989 is required to take the DNR boaters safety course before operating a motor boat. She saw many boating violations last year and noted that it is up to the home owners to make sure that we inform our guests of the rules when they visit. We will put a link up on our website for the course.

There was additional comment from the floor about the erosion coming off the farm field on Stone School Road. The land has been regarded to a point where more run off is going to occur. Barry explained that the board has been down this road before and there is not much that we can do. He will contact Brian Smetna to let him know about the regrading of the land.

There being no further business, on proper Motion, the Special Meeting was adjourned at 11:35am.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C Rice
Secretary