

MINUTES

Special Meeting of Board of Commissioners
The District of Powers Lake
January 15, 1992

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm. Present were Don Werner - Chairman, Dennis Maki, Gerald Christensen - treasurer, George Pelcher and Rowland Laughlin - Secretary, constituting all members of the Board. Also Attorney Richard Lehman.

Don Werner presented a list of property owners of the wetlands, totaling 853 acres, 457 of which comprise the wetland drainage area of Powers Lake, also maps of the area.

Attorney Lehman outlined the legal aspects and available options for protecting the wetlands including acquisition by purchase, donation of acreage, agreement to conservancy easements and option to buy with right of first refusal. It was agreed that in approaching the owners they should be thoroughly informed of their options, the procedures and benefits. Also discussed was creation of a fund inviting donations by District residents.

Donations of land could be treated as charitable contributions up to 30% of gross income and to reduce estate taxes. Also the District can apply for state stewardship grants to aid in acquisitions.

Mr. Lehman also pointed out that if the incorporation of the Village of Powers Lake is approved the District will survive as is. Any acreage acquired will belong to the District and not to the County or Township.

It was agreed that professional help will be needed and that the best approach, as recommended by Dick Lehman, would be to retain Nature Conservancy, a national organization specializing in acquisition of sensitive land. Dick will contact them at their Madison office and try to set up a meeting as soon as possible. A closed session of the Board was suggested for February 5 at 3 pm. It was also agreed we should aim for an approved plan by April or May at costs

