

Minutes of the District of Powers Lake Annual Meeting, August 5, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. Neal Kuhn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Neal Kuhn, Mark Halvey, Jim Michels, Brooke Jensen, Judy Jooss, Dan O'Connell and Dave Anstett were present.

Guest Speaker, Mary Knipper, President of Board of Directors of the Wisconsin Lakes Association:

Neal Kuhn read Mary's extensive resume.

Times are changing for lakes and the money is no longer there for lake projects. Federal programs are no longer in existence. County and state options are available. Lake owners need to know who their legislators are and what the budget cycle includes for the next year. Under the Public Trust Doctrine, all waters belong to the people. The trustee of those waters would be the DNR which is the state agency tasked with protection of the waterways. The legislators conduct their business regarding waters with bills and laws. The legislators write the laws. The DNR writes the administrative rules which would cover implementation and enforcement of the laws.

Lakes are cared for by districts, associations and The WI Lakes Association {WLA}. The partnership can be viewed as a 3 legged stool. The DNR have science and regulatory knowledge and are the boots on the ground. The UW WI Extension educates and produces materials and handles outreach. These 2 legs cannot do policy work, lobby or legislate. WLA partnership in this has value in that as a nonprofit they can do policy work. WLA cannot be partisan or support political candidates. WLA can discuss policy and brief legislators on issues that affect the lakes. The WI model is the model that is held up as a fine model nationally and other states are encouraged to implement it to protect their lakes. Minnesota is now adopting the exact model now.

In the last 3 budget cycles, the trend has been to reduce staffing and work for the DNR. The burden of boots on the ground now falls to districts and associations. The DPL has been a strong member for many years and is appreciated. Act 55 in latest budget removed funding from natural resources. Capacity grants from the state help to fund our 13 conservation organizations. 2/3 of the WLA budget was also cut. Staff @ the WI Lakes Partnership {WLP} and the DNR Science Center were cut as were natural resource educator positions. The state of WI also no longer funds state parks and will now rely on funding through entrance fees. Legislators left the floor in April and will return in January. The WLP will be having advocacy workshops in all regions of the state to be a strong voice. In the last session, there were 28,000 calls and visits to legislators regarding water issues. AIS are the most costly for associations and will continue to be. 3 new invasive have arrived: water pennywort, sacred lotus and yellow floating heart. These also are spread from boats going lake to lake. It is not just fishing boats. To be included are kayaks, wave

runners, sailboats, sailboards and paddle boards during inspections of Clean Boats, Clean Waters. Lake protection grants, lake planning grants and AIS grants are still well funded. One bill's provision could permit all riparian owners to dredge 30 cu. yds. {3 truckloads} every year with a general permit.

Changes at the county level affect incorporated towns such as Randall which fall under the county shore land zoning. Under a 10 year review, revisions make shore land zoning not a budget item. All minimum standards we work with have now become maximum standards and the county has been removed from the process and management of shoreland. Work is now being done to repeal these changes. There will be a fall advocacy workshop in SE WI and DPL will be notified.

All high capacity wells will be granted without regulation or monitoring in perpetuity. Central WI has huge problems with these. Part time residents can participate in the advocacy.

With regard to questions from the audience:

Clear cutting of trees on shore land is still prohibited in shore land standards.

Zebra mussels have cycled out and do not mature. They are no longer accumulating.

Timing for this will vary from lake to lake as far as the cycle is concerned. Mussels are outcompeted and run out of food source. Estimated 10 yr. cycle which diminishes quickly and they will self regulate.

Treasurer's Report and Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting:

A change in the treasurer's report was for the investment account amount to be approximately

\$42,190.00 The 4 wetland cds were \$42,480. Neal made a motion to change the amount to approximately \$42,190. Dan O'Connell seconded. Motion carried.

Jim made a motion approve the 2015 annual meeting minutes with changes, seconded by Dan. Motion carries.

Chairman's Report:

To recap this year, the board had 2 resignations and 2 new commissioners appointed.

Nancy Michael was hired as a recording secretary. We want to thank all for their volunteerism. Mark Halvey has done the weekly water level reading and water testing. We enjoy a close relationship with the Town of Randall and Village of Bloomfield. We know the players and are well positioned. Randall and Bloomfield amended **Chapter 20** this year and consulted the DPL regarding this. There are new water patrol officers and leadership. More officers have been added to increase our safety.

AIS treatment has leveled off to about 7 acres vs. the 70 plus acres 9 years ago. We now manage to keep it under control. Now we are treating spotty pockets rather than large beds. The hybrid version is also being treated. Results will be published after the post

treatment survey in August. This survey will be employed to determine treatment next year.

We are updating the **website** after forming a committee to obtain bids. When the new site is set up, please sign up for information and notices to keep you informed.

Relative to **the water level**, we are trying to install an electronic monitoring device to measure levels in order to feed into a database and then onto the website. This should create an historical perspective. This is our 4th year of tracking with the new gauge and will continue. Meetings with the DNR and Bloomfield have investigated the outlet and nothing has changed. We are in a below normal rainfall/snowfall period. A dam project would require 100% agreement of all riparian owners. Volunteers can take on that challenge and the DPL would support their efforts. Our lake feeds Benedict/Tombeau and all downstream lakes. It is not just the culvert. It is a whole ecosystem that is interrelated. There is a low water level now. Water flowed freely at the inlet this spring. No water flowing in now. Rainfall is 6" below normal this year. We are precipitation dependent. Lake Benedict/Tombeau has a board/outlet control structure but that does not affect our lake levels. Our lake flows to Tombeau with the outlet control structure which then backflows to Benedict. There is no hydraulic connection between these 3 lakes due to an approximately 10 ft. difference in elevation. Their levels do not affect us. Our levels may affect them. Possibly debris was removed when our outlet was rebuilt. Purchase of wetlands continues to be a strategic goal. Possible use of a drone could give an aerial view of conditions in the wetlands and we could see if there is a blockage. Dredging of individual property shorelines is discouraged as it disrupts our ecosystem. This would also require a permit. Our permits for the JIC were obtained through Hay and Associates.

Treasurer's Report:

Brooke reported:

\$27,947.53 in checking account

\$66,399. in cds/money market The cd figures could be amended.

\$90,143.10

Our goal is to keep our budget and tax levy consistent.

Dave made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Mark Halvey seconded. Motion carries.

A lengthy discussion and explanation of expenditures followed.

Presentation of the proposed 2017 budget:

Judy noted that the **administration** budget was decreased and **information/education** included the website work. Once the **website** is up and running this will not be an ongoing annual cost. Design and back end work will then allow automatic emails and pertinent news flashes on an ongoing basis. **Monitoring station** information can be on the website manually or electronically. The estimated cost ranges from \$1,500 to \$5,000

for monitoring lake levels. In the future, we could monitor wetlands but that is not included in this amount. **Lake management** has no new studies. We have contracted with USGS for over 20 years and are one of their oldest continual customers. Their lake level is not based on any sea level reading. Also included in this management are the e coli tests. We always need a financial buffer to prepare for the unexpected. 10% of the budget is put into a contingency fund which could be reallocated. **Next year's budget is \$49,000.**

Stephanie Reidy made a motion to set the budget as proposed. Shari Gillespie seconded. Motion carries.

Stephanie Reidy made a motion to approve the \$12,500 amount for the APM. Jack Dickman seconded. Motion carries.

Neal indicated that the board is cognizant of the tax levy and do their best to hold the line. Everyone's opinion matters.

Set 2017 Annual Meeting Date:

Dan made a motion to set the annual meeting date for Friday, August 4th, 2017 at 7 p.m. Dave Anstett seconded. Motion carries.

Election:

Jim conducted the election. Neal and Dave are up for the offices. There were no nominations from the floor. Bob Miller requested candidates introduce themselves. Both made statements regarding their experience on Powers Lake.

Bob Miller nominated Neal Kuhn and Dave Anstett. Stephanie Reidy seconded. Unanimous vote to close nominations.

John Peterson motioned for the election of these 2 candidates nominated. Amy Caruso seconded. Neal Kuhn and Dave Anstett elected by acclamation.

General Q and A:

Nancy Crabtree noticed a colony of purple loosestrife near the Cagann property. Judy suggested Nancy contact owners since they are restoring wetland and inform them so they can take action. They may not recognize it.

Bob Miller inquired if anyone else had noticed an increase in commercial air traffic over the lake. Dan will ask Matt Danaher who is an executive at O'Hare.

Motion to Adjourn:

Neal made a motion to adjourn. Dave seconded. Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Nancy Michael