

Minutes of the 2023 District of Powers Lake Annual Meeting, August 4, 2023

Randall Town Hall, Bassett, WI 53105

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. Neal Kuhn led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Judy Jooss, Neal Kuhn, Dave Anstett, Jim Michels, Ken Vesely and Lou Manfredini were present.

Neal thanked everyone for coming and informed attendees that at this meeting they are part of the board and have a vote. Neal then introduced and thanked each board member and recording secretary and had them indicate their office, duties and length of time on the lake and time on the board.

Approval of the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting:

Ken made a motion to accept the minutes. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report as of 8/03/2023

Beginning Balance Checking Account = \$16,447.68

Receipts =

Disbursements = \$ 2,948.29

End Balance Checking account = \$ 13,499.39

Total Money Market = \$23,481.90

AIS-BCS Money Market portion = \$ 406.50

Wetland Money Market portion = \$23,075.40

Total Cash = \$36,981.29

Jim made a motion to accept the report, Lou seconded. Motion carried.

Chairperson's Report:

Neal again thanked all the board members and volunteers who helped the District.

He restated the mission to preserve and protect Powers Lake and restated issues that prompted his Chairperson's Letter this year. Residents putting chemicals in the lake puts the whole lake at risk.

Neal recapped the wetland purchases by the DPL over the years stressing the strategic nature of the purchase. Money has been set aside over the years to take advantage of a possible future availability of wetlands to the DPL.

Water Treatment/ Aquatic Invasive Species {AIS}:

Eurasian Water Milfoil is down to 2.75 acres. The invasives will never be eradicated but we have come a long way from the 79 plus acres we once had. We have gone from large beds to specific spots. We have 17 species of healthy plant life. Our severe drought led to the low water levels allowing more sunlight to penetrate deeper. We will continue with this successful initiative to control the invasives. The post treatment survey will once again be done this fall to create a map to indicate success and areas that will need treatment next year.

Mark Halvey volunteers to perform our weekly e coli testing and then results are posted on westofthei.com for the Knolls Beach. No warnings or closures this year so far.

Lake Levels:

A graph from 2013 – 2023 was handed out. We have had readings with the logger for 10 years and visual readings before that. The logger is @ Ken's house, Wi-Fi enabled and the graph is compiled as shown on the charts distributed. Water levels can be observed at the outlet measure in tenths of feet, not inches. A graph axis explanation followed. The Town of Randall determines when whole lake SNW for Powers and Benedict and Jefferson Bay SNWs. Powers Lake is in 2 counties {Kenosha and Walworth} and 3 towns {Randall, Wheatland and Village of Bloomfield}. Randall is the governing entity for lake management.

Jim gave a recap of the sources of water for Powers Lake – 35% groundwater, 40% precipitation and 25% runoff.

The drought means we need to be smarter boaters. You can trim your motors in the shallow bays especially those boats with ballast. The bottom of the outlet is 0.6. Judy mentioned we lose more water through evaporation during hot, windy summer days than we do with water flowing through the outlet.

Wake Surfing

The Town of Randall owns the ordinances for the lake. Last year, Neal attended their meeting to give them a heads up that this issue is coming and hopefully, we can get ahead of it and formulate a plan between the Town and the DPL with an ad hoc committee. A new ordinance will take time. We need to make an informed decision. We are hoping for a stopgap solution. Surf boats need the deeper water to create a rideable wake and avoid churn on the bottom of the lake. This is a national issue. Hopefully a win/win solution can be reached with the town. The goal is not to take things away from people. The water patrol is working with our board on this issue.

A surfer going 10 mph is a problem for a skier going 30 plus mph with the current pattern. This new pattern puts the surfer where they need to be which is what has been happening organically for the last 5 years or so. The water patrol can work with us to encourage people to use this pattern. This is NOT an ordinance now. No tickets will be issued. You might be pulled over and encouraged to go deeper. This is a stopgap solution and a win/win for everyone- the surfers can still surf and everyone else can do what they do. This is a work in progress. The sailboats can have their couple of hours for races, the water patrol can educate boaters and everyone can be accommodated. Be courteous!

Please look into attending the WI Lakes Convention in the spring in Stevens Point, WI which covers answering all the hot button lake issues. With the Town, the DPL will update these changes on our website, update signage at the launch, hand out updated fliers to the Chief and include in our next mailing for October. Powers Lake has something for everyone. Please educate your visitors or airbnb/vrbo visitors by posting information. This is all we can do. There will always be newcomers with no knowledge so do your part in educating them. Blaming off lake people is only part of the problem. Many thanks to the new Randall Town Chairperson, Paula Soderman, the RTBoard, our new Water Patrol Chief, Dave Ferger, and Linda Brand, Ordinance Enforcer. Thanks also to our board and volunteers.

Powers Lake Action Committee

Discussion:

Discussion was had regarding boats with ballast, prop wash, U of MN study, plant damage/algal bloom, boats w/ enhanced wake too close to sailboat races, awareness of shallow areas in lake, 10 lake bans in WI, Conservation surveys in Dane County and handout of a graphic.

Other information was provided indicating that not all surf boats create the same prop wash at 45 degree angle. Studies also show that a 3-4 ft. wave will dissipate at a more rapid speed than a 30 mph skier would create. Surf waves are low energy and create less damage than a 20 mph wind on a shoreline. There was concern that off lake boaters will be attracted to Powers Lake due to the surf pattern. Twin Lakes also has a surf pattern. Powers Lake has a much smaller pattern that would not be attractive to off lake users.

Other speakers spoke about ballast emptying, short run on the surf pattern would not be a magnet and if in less than 10 ft. of water, your surfer will fall.

Neal asked surfers attending the meeting to submit surf patterns that would apply.

Another speaker stressed that surfers care about the safety, water quality and plant and animal life also, not just non surfers.

Sailors stressed consideration for races.

We need to share the lake, water patrol is working with us and there is no harm in working to put the surf boats in deeper water.

Literature was available and printed showing new links to ballast emptying for every make and model of boat.

Paula Soderman stressed that we can self police also. See something, say something. There are certainly plenty of phones out there that could be used to photograph incidents and get boat numbers. Use incidents as a teaching moment.

Lake levels and water patrol coverage were questioned. Actions taken by the DPL were noted, water patrol coverage addressed. Water patrol officers are police with other jobs, they work many shifts which vary. Twin Lakes and others in the area have NO water patrol. The Town is not required to have a water patrol so we are lucky to have what we have now. DPL has also made sheriff's phone number available to call.

Questions about Jefferson Island Channel answered.

All of this input was valued and all statements and questions were covered.

Amend the By Laws

The DPL needs to change current by laws to agree with the new state law which allows more than 1 vote for a trust if a letter is presented indicating who may vote.

Dave made a motion to adapt our current by law to agree with the current state by law. Ken seconded. Motion passed.

Electors showed their ballots if in favor of the change. 24 in favor, unanimous vote.

Presentation and Approval of the proposed 2024 budget:

Consideration of a 4th of July Fireworks Committee was introduced. Discussion involved possible budget and how taxation would work Should DPL be more about stewardship was brought up. Several possible costs were mentioned. Those interested will form a committee to look into costs/feasibility. The 2024 Budget will be the first of 10 budgets which will include the \$10,000 per year mortgage on the new wetland purchase.

Money was allotted to update signage at the launches for \$1,000. Image Management safe senders list was discussed also with regard to the new budget.

Jim made a motion to adopt the operating budget of \$44,057.00, Dave seconded. Motion passed.

Neal made a motion to approve the projects costing over \$10,000, Lou seconded. Motion passed.

Jim made a motion to approve the levy of \$54,057, Lou seconded. Motion passed.

Ken made a motion to approve the amended 2024 Annual Budget and expenditures over \$10K of:

- \$ 44,057.00 Operating Budget Tax Levy
- \$ 10,000 for Capital Budget Tax Levy
- \$54,057.00 for the 2024 Total Tax Levy

Jack Dickman seconded. Motion passed.

New Business

Information was passed out and discussed about the Georges pier issue near Honey Bear Bay. A petition was available for signatures. DPL will be kept abreast of developments.

Set 2024 Annual Meeting Date:

Neal made a motion to schedule the next annual meeting for Friday, August 2, 2024 at 7 p.m. Nancy Kemp seconded. Motion carried.

Nomination and election of candidates for commissioner:

Ken nominated Jim for commissioner. Jack D seconded. Neal called three times for other candidates. Jeff Pearl was interesting in running. Jim and Jeff each gave a presentation. Votes were handed in to be counted. Jim Michels was elected as Commissioner. Jeff was thanked for his participation.

Adjourn:

Neal made a motion to adjourn, Dave seconded. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

**Minutes of the August 5, 2022 Meeting of the District of Powers Lake
Which immediately followed the Annual Meeting
Randall Town Hall, Bassett, WI 53105**

Neal called the meeting to order @ 8:55 p.m.

Roll Call: Neal Kuhn, Bob Stoll, Dave Anstett, Jim Michels, Ken Vesely were present.

Nominate and elect Chairperson, Treasurer & Secretary:

Dave made a motion to leave officers the same, Ken seconded. Motion carried.

Wetland purchase and BCPL State fund application:

Ken presented and read aloud the following Form of Record:

The following preamble and resolutions were presented by Commissioner Ken Vesely and were read to the meeting.

By the provisions of Sec. 24.66 of the Wisconsin Statutes, all municipalities may borrow money for such purposes in the manner prescribed, and,

By the provisions of Chapter 24 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin is authorized to make loans from the State Trust Funds to municipalities for such purposes. (Municipality as defined by Sec. 24.60(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes means a town, village, city, county, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, town sanitary district created under Sec. 60.71 or 60.72, metropolitan sewerage district created under Sec. 200.05 or 200.23, joint sewerage system created under Sec. 28 1.43(4), school district or technical college district.)

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Powers Lake Management District, in the County of Kenosha, Wisconsin, borrow from the Trust Funds of the State of Wisconsin the sum of Fifty Thousand Eight Hundred And 00/100 Dollars (\$50,800.00) for the purpose of financing the purchase of protective wetlands and for no other purpose.

The loan is to be payable within 10 years from the 15th day of March preceding the date the loan is made. The loan will be repaid in annual installments with interest at the rate of 4.50 percent per annum from the date of making the loan to the 15th day of March next and thereafter annually as provided by law.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that at the annual or special meeting, the electors and property owners voted by majority to raise and levy upon all taxable property, within the Powers Lake Management District, in the County of Kenosha, Wisconsin, a direct annual tax for the purpose of paying interest and principal on the loan as they become due.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that no money obtained by the Powers Lake Management District by such loan from the state be applied or paid out for any purpose except financing the purchase of protective wetlands without the consent of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that in case the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin agrees to make the loan, that the chairman and secretary of the Powers Lake Management District, in the County of Kenosha, Wisconsin, are authorized and empowered, in the name of the district to execute and deliver to the Commission, certificates of indebtedness, in such form as required by the Commission, for any sum of money that may be loaned to the district pursuant to this resolution. The chairman and secretary of the district will perform all necessary actions to fully carry out the provisions of Chapters 24 and 33 Wisconsin Statutes, and these resolutions.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that this preamble and these resolutions and the aye and no vote by which they were adopted, be recorded, and that the secretary of the district forward this certified record, along with the application for the loan, to the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin.

Commissioner Dave Anstett moved adoption of the foregoing preamble and resolutions.

The question being upon the adoption of the foregoing preamble and resolutions, a vote was taken by ayes and noes, which resulted as follows:

4 Ayes, Neal Kuhn, Dave Anstett, Jim Michels, Ken Vesely

1 Abstain, Bob Stoll as our Town Representative abstained and is customary

2 Absent, Judy Jooss and Lou Manfredini were not in attendance

Adjourn

Neal made a motion to adjourn, Jim seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.