

DRAFT Minutes of Buffalo Lake P & R District Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 12, 2019 9:00am
Montello High School

PLEASE NOTE: District Members are encouraged to attend meetings and participate. These minutes are not a word-for-word transcription of the statements made at the meeting, nor intended to be a comprehensive review of all discussions. Minutes are intended to make an official record of the actions taken by the Board/ Committee, and to include brief description of discussion points as understood by the minute-taker. Any references to discussion and /or statements are only to provide greater clarity to the public and they may not reference all, some, or any of an individual speaker's comments.

1) Pledge of Allegiance

2) Ro Klecz called the meeting to order 9:00 AM

3) Roll Call –Member

	<u>Attendance</u>
○ Ro Klecz	Present
○ Kelly Cosgriff	Absent
○ Larry Haygood	Present
○ Vikki Trimble	Present
○ Bill Lewis	Present
○ Judy Nigbor, Packwaukee Representative	Present
○ Jon Sheller, Marquette County Representative	Absent

4) Awarding of a check to Endeavor Fire Department for the purchase of a float suit

Ro explained to membership that the Endeavor Fire Department requested the District to fund 2 insulated floatation suits to be used on Buffalo Lake for water rescue when needed. Currently the Endeavor Fire Department must wait for either Briggsville or Montello to assist with a water rescue which could take up to 20 minutes. The Fire Department obtains their funding through donations. Ro stated that the Board approved to purchase one suit not to exceed \$750.00. Al Rosenthal stated that because one nonprofit is donating money to another nonprofit, state statute 33 requires the District to bring this request to membership for approval. Al stated that a show of hand was enough. Ro asked for a show of hands. Membership was unanimous in favor of the District donating up to \$750.00 to the Endeavor Fire Department for the purchase of an insulated float suit. Don Klecz stated that he and Ro Klecz would like to donate the rest of the money needed to purchase the second float suit.

5) Pat Kilbey, Montello County Conservationist

Pat talked about the different Healthy Lakes Grants that are available and the importance of implementing the grants. Pat stated that there were about 14 landowners to do 20 different practices. Pat stated that Karyn and Chris were very helpful pushing the grant information via social media. 9 of the 14 landowners were from Buffalo Lake. Karyn and Chris will be having a meeting on Saturday, October 27, 2019 to talk to people who may be interested in applying for the grants. Grants need to be applied for by January. Pat needs to conduct a site inspection of the property applying for the grant. Please contact him before snow covers the ground. You can apply for more than one grant at a time. Chris stated that between her and Karyn, they have a list of vendors for plants if anyone is interested. Contact Pat Kilbey at 608-296-2815 if you are interested in applying for a Healthy Lake Grant

6) Accept Minutes from the 8-13-18 Board Meeting.

Motion by Larry to approve the 7-13-19 minutes with corrections, seconded by Al, all were in favor.

7) Treasurer's Report

See Item 9

8) Presentation of the Audit

Al Rosenthal stated that he conducted an audit of the District's Books and found everything to be in order for the year 2018. Al stated he is not a CPA but did consult with the District's CPA who has retired to Florida.

9) Budget Hearing

Budget Hearing opened at 9:21am. **Motion** made by Vikki, seconded by Judy to open the budget hearing, all were in favor. Larry explained that he was presenting a balance budget. Larry stated that the budget was \$3000.00 higher over last year's budget. Larry didn't believe that the District would go over Budget in 2020. **Operating Fund:** The district is expecting an income of \$143,010.80 and expenses of \$143,040.00. The District had a lot of expense for equipment repairs this year. Larry asked for any questions on the Operating Budget, with no questions Larry reported on the **Equipment Fund:** The District is expecting \$273,084.68 for income and \$198,084.68 in expenses. The District is purchasing a transporter in 2020 and is in the process of selling the blue harvesting/conveyor combo. The money received from the blue machine will go back into the Equipment Fund. That money hasn't been figured into the 2020 budget due to the fact that the transaction didn't happen before the annual meeting. Someone asked what a transporter was. Larry stated that it is a barge that carries the weeds from the harvester to the shore.

10) Close Budget Hearing:

Motion made by Vikki to close the budget hearing seconded by Larry, all were in favor. Someone asked about the interest on the money that we have in the bank. Vikki stated that the District's money is in a money market account and that she will check at the bank to see if we can get a better rate on our money. Someone asked where the account is, Vikki stated that the Equipment Fund is at Fortified Bank.

11) Budget Approval:

Motion made by Don Klecz to accept the 2020 Budget as presented, seconded by Jim Barton, all were in favor.

12) Dredge Island Discussion:

Ro stated that Rich Brefeld at the beginning of the year, brought up that Dredge Island is eroding away and that he had hoped that the District would take responsibility for the island. Ro stated in order to do that, the District would need to obtain an intergovernmental agreement with DNR. DNR currently doesn't have an interest in maintaining the island even though it belongs to them. This is the island where people pull up their boats and swim. Joe Dion gave a brief history of the island. Al thought that if the island eroded to the point that it would cause damage to the dam, DNR would surely step in to take care of it. Membership likes the use of it but doesn't feel that we should be maintaining DNR property. **Motion** by Collen not to take on the responsibility of Dredge Island, seconded by Joe, all were in favor.

13) Golden Sands AIS Yearly Donation:

Al Rosenthal explained about Golden Sands. Motion by Chris to donate \$500.00 to Golden Sands, seconded by Jim, all were in favor.

14) Election of Two Board Members:

Ro asked each candidate to briefly introduce themselves. Ro stated that Dave Burton requested that his name be taken off the ballot. Ro called 3 times for nominations from the floor. With no responses Ro asked Membership to vote. Ballots were collected and counted.

15) Committee Reports:

- i) **Harvesting:** Larry stated that the equipment was in bad shape this year. Most of the budget you see on repairs was spent before getting any equipment into the water. There was a question as to why that was. Larry stated that the equipment had not been maintained properly for the last two years. Vikki stated that the Board dropped the ball and that we did everything we could to do a better job this year. Larry reported that we had 52 scheduled workdays. The crew worked 49 of the 52 days. We lost two days to weather that were not recoverable because the Fridays the crew was to work were bad and one of the days was a holiday. On the east side we took out 283 truckloads or 566 harvester loads. On the west side we took 140 truckloads or 260 harvester loads. After we got everything in the water, the transporter front conveyor drive shaft had to be repaired along with some welding on the front latch bar. Harvester 1 and 2 had no problems. The Harvesting Committee was told that harvesters 3&4 needed to be scrapped. The Harvesting Committee decided to make repairs to both machines and were able to get them up and running and back in the water. Next year there will be 4 harvesters on the lake. One of the trucks had brake repairs, the two conveyors had belt work and welding done to them. On and off during the year, the crew operated with 5 harvester, 4 conveyors and two trucks. There were no lost days due to break downs after the crew started the season. The little break downs the crew experienced were repaired in hours not days.
- ii) **Personnel:** The District had 8 seasonal employees and 4 short term employees that filled in. Larry stated that he estimated the harvesting crew's efficiency to be about 85-90%. \$56,807.00 was spent on payroll. All the equipment was steamed cleaned after being taken out of the lake. One of the conveyors is going to need a belt and some welding on it. Larry stated that they are working on revising the logbooks to make it easier on the operators to report more accurately. Larry asked for questions. Someone asked if there was a formal cutting plan. Larry stated that there is a map that is submitted to DNR that we follow. We start, up flow and work our way to the dam. We cut that way because the flow of the water helps to flush out floaters. Sometimes it takes 2 weeks to cut the lake other times it can take 3 or 4 weeks depending on the amount of weeds, the height of the water, sunlight, etc. Larry stated that we cycled the lake about 4 times this year. There was a question about bogs. Larry stated that if they are in the cutting path, they will be picked up, otherwise we will not go out of our way. We get as close to the shore without disturbing the bottom or damaging piers. There was a question about volunteers. The District puts out a call for volunteers via Facebook, website and email. The district is always looking for volunteers. Vikki stated that she would look at workers comp for volunteers and that the board should investigate using volunteers to help with harvesting. Someone stated that he felt that laterals were missing on Chy C, a mile west of the Buffalo Lake Lodge. Larry stated that they would look at that for next year. Ro stated that there was a complaint committee set up this year. It was emailed out; it was on Facebook and on the website. There should be no reason for anyone to have any issues with harvesting. The Board has made it easy for membership to voice their concerns all year long. Someone asked about the bogs that collect at the Causeway. Vikki stated that it is the responsibility of the County to remove them. Someone stated that in the past, buoys were used to mark the laterals. Larry

stated that there are 3 kinds of buoys No Wake, Navigation to mark the main channel and Hazzard buoys. Larry stated that there are not enough buoys to mark the laterals. Question was asked if we are using the GPS's, Larry stated that we are working to make them functional. A member stated that he appreciated how transparent we were this year and stated that he hopes that there will be continuing for next year and asked if Larry was going to be on the Board. Larry stated that he has another year to his term.

iii) **Equipment/Operations:** Previously covered

iv) **Lake Plan:** Karyn wanted to talk about communications because it was not placed on the agenda. She stated that if you haven't checked out the new website please do. Judy did an awesome job creating the site, www.buffallakedistrict.org. There is a place on the website where you can sign up for the newsletter/email. We currently have 160 members signed up for emails. Karyn would like to see more people sign up. People are communicating and posting great pictures on the Facebook page. It is wonderful for all of us to stay connected. Chris Meyer stated that there is nothing new for the Lake Plan. The Committee was waiting the election of the new Board members. They will be looking at future meeting dates.

v) **Ecology:** No report

16) Marquette Lake Group/County/Packwaukee Reports:

Marquette Lake Group/Al Rosenthal - for those who are not aware the Marquette Lake Group is made up of 18 lakes in the county that meet twice a year. The Lake Group had the Princeton Dive Team at their September meeting. County/ Jon not present. Packwaukee/Judy stated that the town is still cleaning up after last fall's storms. FEMA is involved so that is why things have been taking such a longtime. Judy stated that FEMA had to approve the debris sites. Rich's Pit and the Recycling Center were two of the approved FEMA sites. Those sites make it costly to transport debris across town. Vikki has volunteered her property and FEMA had to approve the use of Vikki's property which will make it much easier and cost effective for the Township to store and burn the brush debris. The Township will be responsible to remove the ash to an approved landfill per FEMA. Thank you to Vikki and Victor for allowing the Township and the County to store the debris on your property while cleanup is taking place.

17) Next Year's Annual Meeting Date:

Al made a motion to have next year's annual meeting on Saturday October 10, 2020, 9am at Montello High School, seconded by Vikki, all in favor.

18) Closed Session for Commissioner Appointments:

Board did not go into closed session instead the election results were announced: Joe Dion 54 votes, Gary Kershaw 16 votes, Chuck Koepsil 0 votes, Chris Meyer 4 votes, Al Rosenthal 59 votes. Joe Dion and Al Rosenthal are the two new Board members. Their terms will end 2023.

19) Reconvene to open session:

Board didn't go into closed session

20) Audience Comments:

Ro asked Kathleen to talk about her new bakery that will be opening in January. It is located south on 22 next to Freitag & Son, it used to be the old jail house. Kathleen stated that it will be a bakery and a market and is very excited about the opening. Congratulations to Kathleen. Karyn stated that both her and Chris Meyer has done the water clarity training and training to check the water for alien invasive species where they throw the rakes into the water to see what is invading the water. If anyone is interested, please see Karyn or Chris to learn more about Alien Invasion Species. There was a question as to who to call in case of an emergency on the lake, the answer was 911.

21) New Business: - None

22) Adjournment:

Motion by Don to adjourn and seconded by Gary, all in favor. Meeting conclude at 10:25AM

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Ro Klecz

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