

2020 Lake Virginia Management Annual Meeting

September 12, 2020 Minutes

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am. Marti Prorok stated that the meeting was in compliance with **the opening meeting law**.

Roll call: Commissioners Sandy Meyer Swanson, Mike Pariza, Ed Rogers, Excelsior Town Chair Ken Nolden, and Sauk County Representative Rob Nelson were present.

Adopt agenda: Mike Pariza suggested that Jim Scharl be moved from item 8 to 5. Sandy Meyer Swanson moved to accept the agenda with this change and was seconded by Donna Harden. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Approve minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting: Erik Larson moved to approve the minutes and Mark Sadler seconded. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Chairperson's Report: Mike Pariza introduced Wisconsin Lake and Ponds Senior Biologist, Jim Scharl. The service his organization provides is "aeration and vegetation management, making site visits, checking the ice for invasive plants such as curly leaf. It overwinters but we are getting ahead of it; We will repeat procedure in 2021, cleaning defusers in aerators. This year a pipe burst and there was a lightning strike. We were fortunate to find 42 defusers, which is rare. Its been five years since we did an overhaul. We look for nuisance vegetation; however, the DNR controls whether we can treat it. There were none this year; just small pockets, this may be due to previous large scale invasive control. Algae bloom makes it cloudier and it peaks in July, sometimes there is cyanobacteria, some algae can produce toxins. Use caution if you see cloudy structure. This is a typical year nonetheless." Greg Holl asked, "I can't see 3 inches into the water. Could it be fertilizer?" Jim Scharl replied, "Yes, it also could be blue green algae or suspended sediment." Mike Pariza said, "If you don't see dead fish, it isn't blue green algae." Joyce Saddler asked, "How do you determine when a fallen tree is a problem." Jim Scharl replied, "Contract out if you are concerned about it hitting the pier but leave it if it is not a problem as it is fish habitat, even if it is on the bank." Paul Prorok asked, "Is there any science when blue green algae becomes toxic?" Jim Scharl replied, "We test for what type it is; some are more apt to release toxins than others. A toxicity test is more expensive. Threat level is measured in thousands of cells per milliliter." Mike Pariza added, "There is a normal biomass; if frogs are dying or there is a great smell there is concern."

Commissioner's Report: Ed Rogers reported that "engineers were out looking for the leak in the dam. It is hard to get in there; we didn't get it completely solved. Now there is rain. Regarding the aerator on Wakerly, Joe Seep will replace the pipe from the aerator to the water but it won't last long." Ward Utterback asked, "If the leak continues, what is the impact assessment?" Ed Rogers replied, "We have stop logs but they must be packed from the inside. We don't have problems but the water level has to go down." Mike Pariza added, "It is designed as a concrete structure topped by boards. It's ok if it doesn't leak through the concrete which was fixed previously. The engineer couldn't fix it this time." Greg Holl asked, "Do you plan to drop the lake level? I have water in my basement." Mike Pariza replied, "The lake level is set by the

DNR even though it is a manmade lake. It cannot flow over the dam.” Ed Rogers stated, “There is water in the basements of houses that are 25’ above the lake; for example, my neighbor’s. I think there is a spring under there. Two homeowners across from Reynolds Park put tile in their basements; however, water in basements is not due to lake level.” Greg Holl replied, “Drop the water level and the surrounding water level will drop.” Erik Larson explained, “The lake is dryer than it used to be. You could walk over the overflow. Mike’s sign used to be on dry land. It should be documented somewhere.” Mike Pariza said, “I will contact Gale Holloway about this.” Ed Rogers added, “It is backing up into Reynolds Park. We almost lost the road in ‘08 flood. Years later there was a drought and we nearly lost the lake.” Ward Utterback said, “Thank you for this beautiful place to live!” Applause followed. Paul Prorok asked, “Were there any flooded basement complaints when it was not a flood year?” Ed Rogers replied, “People who got water in their basements got it every time. I don’t have water; my neighbor gets it continually. We are twenty feet from the lake.” Paul Prorok said, “So, there is not a correlation between the two?” Ed Rogers replied, “No, Reynolds used to be dry. The water table is high and it is not going down as fast.” Donna Harden declared, “Almost every house on Swan Court has water in the basement. My neighbor spent thousands but I never had water until 2008.” Jeff Fray added, “We’ve had two floods since then!” Ward Utterback reported that he asked a Hispanic family to move their vehicle off the dam. It became apparent that they could not read English so he requested a change in signage.

Metcalf Prairie: Marti Prorok reported that she along with two Master Gardeners manually removed wild parsnip, bindweed and thistle from the prairie this summer. The next task will be to prune trees. She submitted an LRE grant and will receive \$1500 for prairie restoration. The only expenditure thus far has been \$15 for trash bags for the invasive plants. She has also been interviewing the Metcalf family about their origins so we can create a commemorative sign. She will submit an article on LVMD website about how their land became East Lake Virginia in the late 60s. Greg Holl requested that a narrow path be mowed to accommodate fishers.

Reynolds Park: Erik Olson reported the that parking lot has been graded and spread with gravel. Rocks have been placed to prevent vehicles from driving to the shore and getting stuck. Sandy Meyer Swanson added that Gasser will asphalt in two weeks. Erik stated that the park is “Smooth and clean and the dirt has been moved so it looks nice again. The shoreline has been mowed so people can fish. Next, drain tile will be put in and we will trench to the road.” Old railroad ties have been found in the park; they will be buried or removed for safety.

Treasurer’s Report: Sandy Meyer Swanson stated interest rates came down. Ed Rogers moved to approve the Treasurer’s Report and Erik Larson seconded. All ayes, no nays, motion passed.

Sandy Meyer Swanson stated that during the presentation and submission of the annual audit 9/11/20, David Swanson performed spot checks of the report and found no discrepancies.

The treasurer reported that the proposed budget includes “the usual expenditures such as mowing, lights and aerators along with Reynolds Reclamation expenses.” Erik Larson moved that office supplies would be listed as a \$500 single line item that includes postage and Ed Rogers seconded. Sandy Meyer Swanson stated that LVMD contributes to four local investment pools (LGIP) and suggested that \$1000 be moved from the checking account and added to each account, operating, dam maintenance, water quality, and equipment replacement. These accounts hold funds until they are needed. Erik Larson moved to move \$1000 into each fund and Ed Rogers seconded. Sandy Meyer Swanson said that taxes are LVMD’s only source of income. Ed Rogers moved and Ken Nolden seconded to approve the corresponding tax levy, approving the budget with no change in figures. All ayes, no nays, motion carried.

Greg Holl asked about the possibility of adding fish to the lake. Ed Rogers replied, “The DNR will shock the lake again to take a reading of the number of fish next year. We are one of the best bass lakes in Southern Wisconsin, they said last time. We have 140 bass per mile but they were undersized then. We would have to add fish at our own expense”. Mike Pariza wondered if we can accept donations to increase the fish population.

Election of Commission: Mike Pariza called for nominations for a Lake Management commissioner. Mike Pariza was nominated by Ed Rogers and seconded by Sandy Meyer Swanson. Donna Hardin nominated Erik Larson and Greg Holl seconded. Erik Larson declined. Hearing that there were no other nominees, Mike Pariza was retained in office.

Old business: Ward Utterback asked how the tax levy is determined. Sandy Meyer Swanson stated, “It comes from a certain percentage of property tax, \$3 per \$1000 assessment – the same as last year – number of feet per shoreline. Jeff Fray added, “Residents on the shoreline pay 15% more than those who don’t live on lake.” Further questions should be addressed to the assessor. Ian Holloway is no longer assessor and sold his company to three men who would be able to answer questions. Erik Larson stated, “If assessment doesn’t change and the budget remains the same, your tax bill will remain the same. Even if there is more home building, our taxes could decrease.”

In closing, Mike Pariza reminded those present that LVMD has four quarterly meetings in which questions like these can be discussed.

Adjourn: Erik Larson moved to adjourn at 10:00 am and Jeff Fray seconded.

Respectfully submitted: Marti Prorok, Recording Secretary

Those present were: Jim Scharl from Wisconsin Lake and Ponds, Donna Harden, Jeff Fray, Joyce and Mark Saddler, Fred Sparling, Erik Larson and sons Gabriel and Caleb, Paul Prorok, Greg Holl, Dan and Karen Reibs, and C. Ward Utterback