

Lake Virginia Management 2021 Annual Meeting

100 Broadway, Rock Springs WI

September 11, 2021

Call to Order: 9:03 am

Compliance with Open Meeting Law: Sandy Meyer Swanson stated that the meeting was in compliance.

Roll Call: Commissioners Mike Pariza, Ed Rogers, Sandy Meyer Swanson and Sauk County Representative Rob Nelson [via Zoom!] were present. Town of Excelsior Representative Ken Nolden was absent.

Adopt Agenda: Erik Larson moved to adopt the agenda and Mary Clay seconded. Motion passed.

Approve minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting: Erik Larson moved to approve the minutes and Ed Rogers seconded. Motion passed.

Report on lake quality and aerators by Wisconsin Lake and Pond

Resource: Jim Scharl stated that every Spring, the lake is treated for Curly Leaf to reduce its seed bank year by year. "There are 42 aerators in the lake; however, several aerators on the North side were off for a while. The diffusers were repaired and it was necessary to re-sink some lines. It was rough this year due to the extended heat and dryer conditions. It was a perfect storm for nuisance weeds. Managing algae, e.g., cleaning up incoming nutrients, will improve water quality. Cooperation from every source of water in the watershed is very important. The aeration equipment is getting old, therefore, WI Lake and Pond is exploring options. Each blower currently costs \$6000. When an aerator is out, it can backfill in lines. Replacement parts come from Germany so this delays repairs. One option to consider is a smaller system with individual compressors, maybe six which will cost 30-40% less than previously. We can reuse defusers but cannot pull out all the old lines as they would require a bulldozer. The new system would be easier to clean and repair; parts are in stock or can be built locally. The system has electric motors won't need oil change. This is safer for the lake; if one aerator goes down, it only loses 30% of its power." Jim said he wants to first verify a layout. In the meantime, Lake Management can figure out how power will get to aerators. We will discuss this at December's meeting.

Mike Pariza added, "Our representative at the DNR Sue Graham recently retired. Her replacement might be named by New Year. Right now, Maddie Johansen will advise us."

Paul Prorok asked why we don't treat Blue Green algae. Jim Scharl replied, "It is impactful; a large application is necessary and can spread toxins. The natural way to clean water is by having a wider buffer, undisturbed, wetland bog, to minimize runoff."

Marti Prorok stated that establishing a Rain Garden to minimize runoff as well as increasing the buffer with deep rooted vegetation will help keep the lake clean.

Mark Saddler asked if new compressors will be quieter. Jim Scharl replied that it will still be noisy.

Sandy Meyer Swanson asked residents to submit their email addresses and they will be notified about lake conditions and treatments.

Jim Scharl concluded by saying, "The first treatment in Spring is set in stone; later ones are more random."

Metcalf Prairie Report: Marti Prorok reported that a team of Master Gardeners have been working every week since Spring removing invasive plants and identifying plant species on the prairie.

Reynolds Park Report: Erik Larson stated that paving is complete and a 65 ft drain pipe has been installed in the wetland. When the area dries, he will mow the tall grass. He concluded, "This will be years in the works. We will pause on the tile, mow and clean up the area." Dave Buroker offered to donate benches.

Treasurer's Report: Sandy Meyer Swanson presented the summary of the past year's financial status. Erik Larson moved to approve the report and Ed Rogers seconded. Motion passed.

Presentation and submission of the annual audit: Erik Larson conducted the audit and said that he went through every line item and all the bills. He commended Sandy for the efficient organization of the information. Mary Clay moved to approve the audit and Ed Rogers seconded. Motion carried.

Review and consider approval of proposed 2022 budget: Sandy Meyer Swanson stated that WI Association of Lakes offers a subscription that will help residents understand lake management practices. The budget includes spraying aquatic weeds, maintenance, electricity to run the aerators, billing for two street lights, contingency funds, consultant and DNR fees, liability insurance, service awards, and park maintenance.

Dan Rieb asked the total of funds in the capital account (LGIP): He moved to increase the amount to be \$50 in each account and Erik Larson seconded. Motion carried.

Erik Larson moved to include postage expenses in Office Supplies. Ed Rogers seconded. Motion carried.

Dan Riebs stated that it is difficult to navigate Lake Virginia using Google. He moved to change street signs to read Lake Virginia Rd to be consistent. Marti Prorok suggested that the sign "Lake VA Road" should be changed to Lake Virginia Rd because VA is an abbreviation of the State of Virginia, not for Developer Don Ault's wife, Virginia for whom the lake is named. Ken Nolden will look into it. Dan reminded the Board that he had previously requested bilingual signs on the name for Spanish speaking visitors. Erik Larson moved to approve the 2022 budget and Mary Clay seconded. Motion carried.

Review and consider approval of corresponding tax levy: Sandy Meyer Swanson stated that the overall budget is \$46,500 plus \$200 in capital reserves. Erik Larson moved to approve the tax levy and Ed Rogers seconded. Motion carried.

Election of commissioner: Ed Rogers nominated Erik Larson. There were no other nominations; therefore, Erik was named Commissioner. Mike Pariza commended Ed for his ten years of service, saying, "It worked out marvelously; he did a fantastic job."

Old Business – no action can be taken unless specified

Adjourn: Erik Larson moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:02 am and Mary Clay seconded. Motion carried.

Present: Ashley Bentley, Mary Clay, Erik and Shanna Larson, Tom and Barb O'Brien, Paul Prorok, Dan Riebs, Pat Ryczek, Mark and Joyce Saddler, Craig Schalla, Michelle Short, Fred and Linda Sparling, and Ward Utterback.

Present on Zoom!: Jeff Frey

Respectfully Submitted by Marti Prorok, Recording Secretary