

Lake Virginia Management District Quarterly Meeting 12/15/18

Location: Excelsior Town Hall, 100 E. Broadway, Rock Springs, WI

Call to order: 9:01 am

Open Meeting Compliance: Swanson stated that the meeting was in compliance.

Roll Call: Mike Pariza, Ed Rogers, Sandy Meyer Swanson, Erik Larson

Opening Remarks: Pariza expressed thanks for Byron and Evelyn Tetzlaff's participation for the past 29 years. Byron served as Lake Management Commissioner and Evelyn served as Town of Excelsior Treasurer and election judge.

Adopt Agenda: Swanson stated that Glen Johnson's first name is spelled with one, not two "n's." Rogers moved to make the change and Larson seconded. **AIF O NAY.**

Approve Minutes from 06/02/18 quarterly meeting: Rogers moved to approve the minutes and Larson seconded. **AIF O NAY.**

Appoint Marti Prorok to act as Recording Secretary: Larson moved to appoint her and Rogers seconded. **AIF O NAY.**

Treasurer's Report: Rogers moved to accept the quarterly treasurer's report and Larson seconded. **AIF O NAY.**

Lake Report: Rogers stated that last spring he attended the DNR's Spring Fish and Wildlife Conference annual meeting. The number of pan fish that could be caught and kept in a day at Lake Virginia from 25 to 10 will be voted on April 2019. The Fisheries Biologist, Nathan Nye, is in favor of this change and will speak at that meeting. The DNR is also considering reducing statewide bass limits from 14" to 12" with a limit of three kept per day with a protected slot limit of 15-18" and one fish allowed to be kept over 18. The North aerator pump on Lake Virginia has been shut down for winter.

Pariza reported that Gale Holloway, PE, RLS said that he found new products to seal the dam this spring. Rogers stated that water is still going over the top of the dam. "We're four inches over previous limits with standing pools of water in Toeder Park."

Old Business, Convert Melcalf back to wetland prairie: Ms. Both reported on her research, "Metcalf has been mowed but the roots of the grasses go deep, 5-6'. This project will take 2-3 years, especially the flowers. Muffy Barrett, owner of Bluestem Farm in New Freedom, can provide reasonably priced seeds. Marty Krueger agreed to help assemble a work crew. We can apply for a \$5000 grant from the Sauk County."

She distributed a handout from Prairie Nursery and asked the Lake Management Board to determine how many acres they want to convert at first and whether they want a no-till prairie which will save a lot of money or one in which a machine cuts ridges and then the soil is seeded. Planting prairie wetland seed will cost \$159 per acre as opposed to planting established plants at \$1299 per acre. This was done at

Log Cabin who received a grant for established plants.” Pariza asked her to explain the term “matching funds” Ms Both replied, “labor in kind” provided by Sauk County Master Gardeners. They would be happy to help reclaim the prairie as they need to volunteer 24 hours each year to maintain their certification.”

Rogers stated, “We sowed 100# of buffalo grass seed years ago; it was sturdy but slow growing.” Both replied, “The prairie grasses’ deep roots will help prevent flooding. We all should establish borders along our shoreline. After four years, Metcalf will require little maintenance.” Rogers inquired about the existing willow trees. Ms Both replied. “Willows absorb water but they aren’t typical of a prairie.” She suggested a path be made from the street down to the water to avoid walking on the seedlings. Everyone present was in favor of reclaiming Metcalf Prairie. Pariza stated, “Since no money is involved at this time, there is no need to make a motion.” Prorok will draft the grant.

New Business, Town of Excelsior: Larson reported that “the Town of Excelsior changed garbage collection and recycling services from Peterson to LSI starting January, 2019. He stated, “The item is listed on the tax bill as a single item budget item split among the residents which is considerably lower than Peterson’s bid. LSI quoted \$12 per resident per month, which is \$1 in savings. They will follow the same collection schedule; however, they will pick up both garbage and recycling in one truck at one time which would cause less wear and tear on the roads. They will replace the 14-yard dumpster at the Town Hall with one that has a 30-yard capacity. This receptacle is to be used by Excelsior road crew and is not for private use.”

Larson provided an update on ATV use in Excelsior, saying, “A non-binding ATV referendum was recently passed; a proposed draft is currently being considered by the Board. All roads in Excelsior would be open to ATV use; however, if the Sheriff recommends the closure of a road due to safety issues, we will close that road to ATVs. This will be renewed every year. We can put in our own times of operation. In Sauk County, ATVs can be on the road a half an hour before dawn until half an hour after dusk. Operators of ATVs must have a driver’s license and liability insurance. Their vehicles must have headlights, tail lights, and brake lights. Turn signals are not mandatory so be careful when passing them. Sixteen- and seventeen-year-olds must wear protective head gear. We cannot stop them from driving on a frozen lake. The town lawyer stated that a case review would be necessary to prohibit driving on the lake. Dane County prohibits vehicles over 750 lbs. from driving on frozen lakes but the vehicle must have floatation devices. Driving an ATV after dark is not allowed.” Sadler asked, “Isn’t it only battery-operated vehicles on lake?”

New Business, Sauk County: Commissioner Glen Johnson could not attend the meeting and sent comments regarding the county’s draft ordinance on ATV use. He also stated that county taxes would be lower than the previous year.

Communications: Rogers received a thank you note from the 6th grade football team who were allowed to use Toeder Park for practice after their school field flooded.

Adjourn: 10:00 am Larson moved to adjourn and Rogers seconded **AIF O NAY**.

Respectfully submitted: Marti Prorok

