

**SCHOOL SECTION LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES – WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2017**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Frank Arndorfer, John Manthe, Don Solberg, and Chuck Wood

LAKE MEMBERS PRESENT: Nettie Colella, Anders Holm, Gail Norwood, Gene and Rita Fohr, Jen and Norm Habersat, Darlen Harzke, LeRoy Jones, Bill Schaak, Mitch Vogel, Mitzi and Ray Mares, Jennifer and Michael Mass, Ken Connon, Nancy and Marc Brickner, Kathy and Ken Sadowsky, Art Wisniewski, Nina Solberg, Todd Miller, Bruce Bautch, Eric Langford,

1. CALL TO ORDER – Frank called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM. The annual meeting followed a meeting with the DNR regarding the proposed lake drawdown.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Bruce made a motion to approve the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes, Nina seconded and the motion carried.

3. TREASURER’S REPORT – John read the treasurer’s report. There is \$1,206.37 in the checking account, \$25,212.32 in savings, for total assets of \$28,418.69. John explained the line items in the Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual. The budget included \$15,000 which had been budgeted for truck repair, which was used instead for the land purchase and was carried over from the previous year. Out net income was shown as a - \$14,853.10 but when you factor in the \$15,000 which was carried over, we were slight under budget for the year. Don made a motion to approve the treasurer’s report, Marc seconded, and the motion carried.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. Update on lake weeds disposal site. Proposed easement from the County. Planned brush removal. Frank said that the purchase of the land had been completed this April. A committee was formed to study potential uses of land for other additional purposes beyond lake weed disposal. The town and the county are in the process of updating zoning ordinances, and our use of the property may require property rezoning. Frank had met earlier with the Town and it was quite apparent that there was going to be a lot of administrative work on our part to file for a rezoning. It was suggested by the Town that we hold off and get all of our preparation work done. Jerry Smokowski had told Frank that he would no longer be gardening on the Lake District land. Frank mentioned some potential uses of the land: gardening, a picnic pavilion, boat storage, and a storage shed for harvester maintenance. Frank asked that anyone having recommendations should contact one of the committee members. The Town is content to have us continue to use the land as we have in the past without the need for any rezoning at this time. Ken asked why we would ask to have the land rezoned and it was explained that it is the Town that is looking to have the land rezoned. Don advised that the land is currently zoned for an individual property owner and that we would most likely end up with the same zoning as the Town Hall. Ken brought up the possibility of the District retaining a portion of the land for weed disposal and then turning the remainder back into private ownership. Don said that the District had discussed that with the County and they had said that we could not split up the land. John said he had talked with the Town assessor and he is going to be sending John a form to take the land off of the property tax roll. Kathy asked about the status of the sweat lodge on the property and she was told that it has been removed. Frank advised that each year we have to renew our land use permit with the County. In meetings with the County that have discussed granting us a permanent easement for use of the property. This will require County Board approval but provides us with protection in the event of changes in County personnel in the future. Frank said that he would go through this process with the County during the Winter. Ken again questioned if the Board had given consideration to selling the property to a private owner but retaining an easement. Don advised that we would only be able to guarantee our use of the shared easement if we owned the land, and the County was only willing to grant their easement if

the District owned the land. There was a discussion on the portion of the lot that would allow building, which is very small. John advised that we are also restricted on where we can put the lake weeds. Frank said that we will be looking for volunteers with chain saws to help remove brush around the weed harvester.

- B. Update on the weed harvester repairs and maintenance.** Frank advised that we had not had as successful of a weed harvesting season as we had hoped for. There was delay in getting the new engine for the harvester and after we got it we had to make modifications to get the engine to adapt to our hydraulic systems. We had some further problems getting the engine running and we had some mechanical problems with the harvester that we not related to the new engine. The engine that is in the machine now has more than enough power to run all of the equipment. We have however discovered a cracked head gasket on the engine and it has to be shipped back to the company. We need to take a look at our entire weed harvesting operation and see what we can do to improve it. We only have a single operator and there is routine maintenance that needs to be done. Also this year we had more weed growth than normal. Frank is looking to make changes in our operation. He has been talking with other lake districts and based on that he feels that we need to have more management of the operation. We don't have anyone actually responsible for managing the operation. We may have to hire college students but to be able to that we need to have a harvester that is bullet proof. Frank apologized for the weed harvesting problems and presented information on what proposed alternatives had been to replace the engine and the route that we took was about ½ of the cost and we didn't have the funding ability for a turn-key replacement. Frank asked for comments. Don said that the good news was when the engine was running it was quiet and powerful and operation was much better. Frank agreed that the new engine provided much more power. There was a question from the audience about were the harvester cuts. Don asked Frank to clarify what the DNR restrictions are for where we can harvest. We have a 120 acre lake, by DNR permit we are only allowed to harvest 43 acres. There are also some very severe limits on where we can harvest by water depth. Frank further explained that the weed growth this year was unusually bad. Some of the weeds that are cut sink to the bottom and then float to the surface a few days later. Our harvester is not made to pick up these floating weeds. Frank said that Phantom Lake has a similar problem and they are looking to purchase a skimmer, a machine that is specifically made to pick up these floating weeds. This sounds great but the machine costs \$75K. Frank said that we could all do a lot of weed raking for \$75K. Nina asked how long it takes to make one 46 acre circuit. Frank could only guess that it would take five days, cutting part time, or about 40 hours. The productivity also varies by operator. Dan is much more productive because of his experience cutting and his knowledge of the lake. Frank indicated that there was some additional work that would be needed on the harvester once we get the engine back in. This included instrumentation, and making the harvester more operator friendly so that we could expand our available operators. Budget wise we are okay. John said that we carried over \$3,868 from the previous budget, plus we had \$7,868 in this year's budget. So far we are under budget. We can also get \$500 core charge back for the old engine. We are anticipating that the repair/replacement of the engine will be covered under warranty. It is unclear if we have to pay the shipping to get the old engine back for the core charge. If that is the case, we may be better off just scrapping the old engine. Frank said that when the engine is ready, Dan and him may go down to where we got the engine and spend some time with them and then bring the engine back in his pickup truck. He could also then take the old engine down with him. John explained some of the additional costs for the engine replacement. Frank advised that at some point in the future we would also have to replace the hydraulic fluid with the EPA approved, lake friendly, fluid which would cost about \$650. John said that the we can get this in a 50 gallon drum which would be lower cost than buying it by the gallon.
- C. Communication with the district: Boat Landing sign, Web Site, Newsletter.** Don explained that most of these have already been implemented and we are still planning on putting another sign at the Elsa Ave. access. John said we would plan on getting it up this Fall. Don asked if everyone had

looked at the Web page. John asked that we put the contact information for the district land use committee on the Web site. Don said he could do that. Don said he still wanted to get old archive documents on the Web site. Don said that we have been doing two newsletters per year. We have been frequently having Board meetings with a week or less notice, which we can do with the postings but we still want to get information out the residents. The easiest way to do that is with the Web site. Don advised that Nina and he were planning on selling and moving out of the district. If the new secretary wanted help with maintaining the Web site he would help out. Don said that we needed someone to take over as a Newsletter editor. John asked for resident input for the newsletter. A question was raised from the residents regarding the possibility of doing an email notification of meetings. Don said his time was getting less and less and he didn't have a good email mailing list available. The current list only represents about a fourth of the residents. John clarified that the legal notification requirement was the three posting locations, with at least a 24 hour notice. Don said there was nothing preventing him from also doing an email notification. Frank suggested that we consider establishing a monthly Board meeting schedule in advance. Both John and Don felt this wasn't workable. Posting the Board meeting dates on the Web page was Don's recommendation. Ken recommended that an email distribution be done. Don said that the planning and notification for each Board meeting can take up to eight hours. Other districts have paid employees to handle this work.

- D. Lake District picnic planning. We want to hold another picnic. It takes minimal planning and the only expense is a porta potti, which we didn't need this year because Bruce and Todd offered the use of the one that they had for construction. Don hopes to still be here in August, if not someone else will have to pick this up. Potential dates were discussed and August 18th was recommended.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **County draw-down of the lake for dam maintenance and boat landing ramp replacement. Vote on extending the length of the draw down over winter for Eurasian Milfoil control.** A description of the two available options was distributed. One option was a short seasonal drawdown, option two keeps the lake drawn down all Winter. Don asked for a show of hands on whether or not we needed a ballot vote. The consensus was that we didn't need a ballot vote. Marc recommended that we consider drawing down the lake earlier so residents had more time for shoreline improvement. Don said that we had gotten very little time to evaluate the DNR's recommendations but that there was nothing preventing the Lake District from drawing down the lake earlier. A show of hands indicated that only two people were against the Winter draw down, the majority were in favor. A discussion was held on how much time was needed for shoreline work, as it will take awhile for the shoreline to dry out enough to be workable. There was a discussion on what shoreline improvement could be done and what permits were, or were not required. Don made a motion to approve a Winter drawdown with a labor day start. Nettie seconded the motion and it was approved. Ken asked if the lake would be closed for fishing during the draw down. Don made a motion that we request the DNR close the lake for ice fishing and to ask the County to close the access to lake through the boat landing. John seconded the motion, and it was approved.
- B. **Audit Report.** Marc reviewed the treasurer's books on October 11 and said they were all in good order. Nina made a motion to accept the audit report. Don seconded the motion and it was approved.
- C. **Proposed 2018 budget – approval of budget.** A copy of the proposed budget was included with the meeting notice mailing. John had to make a small change. When the budget was prepared he had not gotten the quote back from our insurance company. John will move to change the line item for general liability insurance to be \$2,500.10 instead of \$2,900. John made a motion to accept this change in the budget. Don seconded the motion and it was approved. John said that from what he had learned, the purchase of the land would have no impact on our liability insurance. Since the District in the past didn't own anything, we may have been paying more for liability insurance than we needed to. John explained what was in the budget. \$2,000 was

included for harvester maintenance. This will cover the new hydraulic fluid, the costs to launch and remove the harvester, and other miscellaneous repairs that we may need. Mitch made a motion that we approve the amended budget, Ken seconded. The motion carried with no objections.

D. Nomination/Election of Lake District Commissioner for 3 year term. The Board had nominated Don. Don asked that he not be nominated again. If there are no other nominations, Don said he would gladly do it with the understanding that he most likely will not be able to fill out the term because they are going to move. Nettie nominated Anders, who accepted the nomination. Anders introduced himself to the residents. Frank asked twice if there were any other nominations. As there were none, Anders was unanimously approved. Don advised that Frank was up for reelection next year and that he wanted to step down at that time. We need people to volunteer to serve on the Board. Start thinking about serving

E. Setting date for the 2018 Annual Meeting. – October 24, 2018. John made a motion for this date, Lee seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. ADJOURNMENT - Don motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM. Ken seconded. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY DON SOLBERG, SECRETARY SSLMD