

Minutes
Wind Lake Management District Board of Commissioner Meeting
December 5, 2019

Present:, M. Bluemel, B. Rosenquist , J. Bellante, R. Mayer, R. Schopp, K. Aron and 10 citizens were present.

J. Bellante called the board meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Minutes: M. Bluemel motioned to approve the minutes as printed, second by R. Mayer, motion carried.

Treasurers Report: R. Mayer gave the treasurers report. Motion by R. Schopp to approve, second by B. Rosenquist, motion carried.

Information and Correspondence:

R. Mohr passed away last week. A long time board member and contributor to the lake district's activities, he was an important part of the success of the improvements on the lake. The district is grateful he was a part of this community and he will be missed. The district has conveyed our condolences to his family.

Public Comments: None.

Old Business:

K. Aron presented the information from our contractor on his availability for 2020. They are considering a purchase of another harvester. They generally harvest 50 hours per week when they are here, but the weather may change that. They are usually on Wind Lake around Father's Day, the 4th of July, then the last week in July/first week in August. They allow us to shift that schedule slightly based on weed growth. Historically, with the previous contractor, we had to give them a \$5,000 deposit which they kept, even if there were no weeds. The current contractor has never required anything. If they do purchase another harvester, we could choose to have one or both of the machines when we need it. The board needs to decide what schedule we want. In 2019, they were here the weeks of June 4 (38 hours), July 8, and Aug 5 for a total of 162 hours. The numbers of weeks were also discussed. The board discussed various options for scheduling, including modifying or guaranteeing the work.

Motion by M. Bluemel to schedule them for the weeks of June 8, June 22, July 6, July 20, July 27, second by B. Rosenquist, motion carried. During discussion, the motion and 2nd was amended to Aug 3 instead of July 27. K. Aron will contact the contractor to verify that these dates are acceptable with them. Motion carried.

The board discussed and reviewed the results and recommendations of the Harvesting committee meeting on Nov 12, 2019. Most of the committee was present. Committee members contacted neighboring lake groups to find out what those groups are doing. M. Bluemel will send K. Aron the names of the various lake group contacts. Both manufacturers were contacted and toured, including a test ride on each of their equipment.

The Committee's report is attached and their recommendations are summarized below:

- Cut 1-3 days a week for the entire summer, 24 hours per week.
- There are the only two manufacturers. Will have to go out for bids once decisions on equipment is made. Quotes are only good for 30 days because of steel prices.
- Renting out to other lake groups was considered but discarded as not possible.
- Grants are available from DNR, and as long as funding is available, all applicants are approved. Apply by Feb 1.
- Expect an after-grant cost of \$140,000.
- Budget \$12 per hour for maintenance and fuel.
- Hire a temp agency to employ workers and pay \$10 - \$13 per hour to employees resulting in \$24 per hour to agency.
- Manufacturers offer free training with purchase. Budget \$500 per year training.
- Lease a truck and operator; budget \$70 per hour.
- Total cutting of 210 hours per year.
- Have a primary and secondary person to oversee and make decisions.
- Store equipment at a pier on S Wind Lake property; \$6500 to \$7500 for a pier.
- Budget \$500 to winterize.

- Store on S Wind Lake lot and shrink-wrap; budget \$750.
- Budget \$3600 for insurance.
- Use \$110,000 of current funds and 50% of weed control budget; no increase in fees.
- Total cost annually is anticipated to be \$38,330.

J. Bellante thanked the committee for their efforts. The board asked some questions to clarify the proposal. R. Mayer pointed out that there really are no funds to take for the \$110,000. Funds are required to pay the current loans, and pay the bills. Funds in 2020 won't come in until January 2021 because of the shift to a calendar year with no billing. R. Mayer stated that loans would need to be taken out for the full amount. K. Aron provided current State Fund loan interest rates – 3.25%.

Cost of maintenance and repairs, hourly pay rate, truck and operator leasing, and concern over the risk of outdoor storage were a number of the questions/concerns discussed by the board. The Town does not have room at the current site to dispose of cut weeds at a higher rate so alternatives would need to be located. Disposal sites have to be approved through the harvesting DNR permitting process. Another issue is the use of the lot on S Wind Lake Rd. The committee's proposed use of the site is not permitted under Racine County Code of Ordinances. No vacant lots can be used for such activities/storage. K. Aron said that training is needed in more than just equipment, it would include safety and weed identification. K. Aron said that a review of the committee proposal for 3 days per week, the harvesting is spread out, rather than front loaded. M. Bluemel said their recommendation was the amount needed in total, not necessarily used in 3 days per week.

There was discussion about expanded harvesting into areas that are not permitted, and managing public expectations that the lake would be cleared of the weeds, rather than used to open up navigational lanes.

The public had some questions, including disposing of weeds at the Town transfer site. Use of the large dump on Hwy 45 would add to the budget. There is a cost for dumping there. Use of farm areas required pave/gravel roads to access. The board clarified that the current contractor charges \$200 per hour and try to work at least 10 hours per day. One resident believes that some residents want their shorelines and in-pier areas cleaned out, which we cannot do under our permits. Another resident expressed concern that employees would change day to day and that would require additional training. An irregular, limited schedule such as proposed would make it difficult to find people to work when they could work somewhere else for a full work schedule. Another concern is who makes the decision on where to cut. M. Bluemel said the board member who is appointed would make that decision. A committee member indicated that they want to make Wind Lake a better lake for everyone that uses the lake. He feels that what has been done, hasn't been working so we need to do something different. A concern about the use of Sportsman's was expressed. A question was raised as to what happens if the budget is used up.

There was a question about starry stonewort requiring more harvesting. K. Aron said that the SSW cannot be cut – it spreads too easily and doesn't roll up the conveyor like aquatic plants do.

J. Bellante expressed his appreciation for the amount of work the committee has done, and looks forward to seeing their additional recommendations. He said the committee sets the framework for what needs to be done to proceed. He encourages the committee to sharpen their recommendation report so that it can be shared and provide a framework for the public information meetings. Before we can move forward, we are required to have the meetings that are required by the District/DNR-approved plan. Once there is a complete package, we can proceed.

B. Rosenquist asked for a decision to apply for the grant, however, the board pointed out that there is still a lot of work to do:

- Funding, including financing the whole purchase
- Two public information meetings
- Storage site and building
- Repair budget
- Sportsman's agreement
- Disposal site options
- Coordination of timing of public information meetings, annual meeting approval, grant application, budget approval for purchase, and loan application

Public Comments:

A resident asked what the life expectancy of a harvester. K. Aron said it is 20 years; equipment is very durable as long as it is properly maintained. Well maintained equipment will last longer than expected. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm. Next meeting will be January 23, 2019.