

**MONTHLY MEETING OF THE WIND LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Norway Town Hall**

**Tuesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024  
7:00 pm**

Present: Chairman Ron Mayer, Treasurer Todd Flunker, Secretary Jeremy Sauld, Town Rep Ralph Schopp, County Rep Joe Bellante, Jim Marks and Mike Bluemel.

1 citizen and the Harvesting Program Manager, Pat Fitzgerald, were present for the meeting.

**Minutes**

**Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm followed by Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approve Minutes for April 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting**

-Mayer called for a discussion on April meeting minutes. Bellante noted that the minutes list the date of the next monthly meeting as May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He stated that it should instead be May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Flunker motioned to accept the minutes as amended, seconded by Bellante. Motion passed 6-0.

**Treasurers Report**

-Flunker provided written and verbal reports for the period of April 22<sup>nd</sup> to May 20<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Schopp to accept the report as presented, seconded by Sauld. Motion passed 6-0.

**Public Comments**

-No public comments

**Information and Correspondence**

-Marks provided copies of laminated posters to each board member with information on various types of lake weeds.

-Marks noted that the lawsuit between Union Grove and a Drainage District continues. Additional details were provided.

-Marks noted that he had observed flooding on the east side of the lake. Marks provided additional details regarding the requirements for the operation of the dam.

-Marks noted that the annual vessel inspection is coming up on Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10 am to 2 pm. He has contacted the Coast Guard Auxiliary and confirmed their participation. Marks noted that board members assist by lining up vessels for inspection.

-Marks noted that the Brown's Lake Dredging project has received bids ranging from \$9.3 million to \$12.2 million. The lake size is approximately 397 acres, and the dredging project encompasses approximately 100 acres. Additional details were presented.

-Marks noted that he was unable to attend spring conservation hearings, but he was able to obtain information on the 49 different proposals presented. A short presentation of the top proposals followed.

-Marks noted that the DNR announced boating fatalities. There were 28 fatalities on record and 27 of the 28 had no life jackets. Boating deaths were up 50% in the last decade, and boating crashes were at 117. A boat capsized on Wind Lake at the end of April. The operator was rescued by a local resident. Per Marks verbal report, no life jackets were onboard.

## **Old Business**

### **Update on Onterra Project**

-Mayer noted that Onterra is progressing through the project and is currently working to create the history regarding previous alum treatments and grant applications. They requested additional information, which Bellante was able to locate and provide.

### **Discussion and Possible Action on Accountant / Audits**

Flunker noted that he has continued to contact small local firms in the area in an effort to find someone who can complete an audit for the district. Pricing estimates have ranged from about \$5,000.00 to \$7,000.00 per audit. Flunker then noted that Marks had suggested contacting Eric Olson (Director of Extension Lakes) for guidance. Flunker called Mr. Olson and left him a voicemail. Flunker noted that he later received an email response from Mr. Olson, which he read at the meeting (Appendix A). A discussion amongst the board followed. The consensus amongst the board was to find a district member willing to volunteer to review the two years that are currently outstanding and then seek volunteers at the next annual meeting to form a committee consisting of 3 district members to review the finances of the district annually. Mayer requested a motion from the board. Sauld motioned that the board find an independent volunteer who lives in the district to review the financial records from 2022 and 2023.

Additionally, the board shall make a request at the annual meeting for 3 volunteers willing to form a committee to review the district's financial records annually prior to the annual meeting. Seconded by Bluemel. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Discussion and Possible Action on Buoy Locations**

-Sauld noted that he recently spoke to the Lead Officer of the Norway Police Boat Patrol and discussed the process utilized for putting in the buoys and checking that they are in the correct location. Currently, the process is to put all of the buoys in where the anchors are and then return later with the patrol boat, which has a GPS in it to check the location of the buoys. If needed, the police will then move the buoys to ensure they are close to where they are supposed to be. A short discussion amongst the board followed. The

consensus amongst the board was to try and verify that the buoys were placed in the correct positions once the boat patrol had had an opportunity to move any buoys that had drifted over the winter.

### **Update on Harvesting Prep / Operators (HPM)**

-Pat Fitzgerald provided an update noting that the harvester was unwrapped for the season this past Friday, and all spring maintenance has been performed on both the barge and the trailer. Mitch from Inland is scheduled to come out and address a few small issues, but overall, the harvester is all set to go and ready to launch. Pat tentatively plans to launch the barge next week, Thursday or Friday. A short discussion amongst the board followed.

## **New Business**

### **Discussion and Possible Action on Geese Round-up**

-Mayer noted that a minimum of 40 geese are required to perform a goose round-up and that the cost is again estimated at \$3,500.00. Flunker noted that there are currently more geese in his area than he has observed at any point in the past 10 years. Bluemel noted that he has counted 6 different families of geese in his area, totaling approximately 40-50 birds. Sauld noted that he has approximately 10 geese routinely on his property. Mayer noted that another property owner had contacted him and advised that they had approximately 30 geese hanging out on their property. A short discussion amongst the board followed. Flunker motioned to contract with the USDA to perform a goose round-up again this year, seconded by Sauld. Motion passed 6-0.

### **Update on Harvester Grant**

-Mayer requested that Bluemel provide guidance on the process utilized previously to apply for a grant. Bluemel agreed to assist, and the two noted that they would work together.

### **Discussion and Possible Action on Channel Blockage**

-Sauld noted that he went to look at the tree that had fallen into the canal. Currently, it is blocking approximately 1/3 of the canal. Sauld spoke to the landowner and obtained permission to access the area where the tree had fallen and attempt to remove it. Additionally, Sauld spoke to Jerry Kotarak, who had removed debris from the canal in the past. Jerry has agreed to assist with attempting to remove the fallen tree once he has his boat in the water. Mayer also noted that he is willing to assist with removing the tree as well.

### **Discussion and Possible Action HPM Hourly Rate**

-Mayer called for the board to discuss the HPM's current hourly rate of \$24.00/hr. A short discussion amongst the board followed. Schopp motioned to increase the HPM's hourly rate to \$25.00/hr, seconded by Bluemel. Motion passed 6-0.

Flunker then asked for clarification regarding the \$500.00 monthly stipend paid to the HPM for administrative duties running from May through September. Mayer noted that the stipend had not changed but that instead of being paid through Onsite, it would be

paid directly to the HPM and documented via 1099, resulting in savings to the district of \$1,000.00 per year.

**Discussion and Possible Action on Operator Hourly Rates**

-Mayer called for the board to discuss the Operator's current hourly rate of \$20.00/hr. A short discussion followed. Schopp motioned to increase the Operator's hourly rate to \$22.00/hr, seconded by Flunker. The motion passed 6-0.

**Adjourn**

-Motion by Schopp to adjourn at 8:14 pm, second by Bellante. Motion passed 6-0.

**Note:** The next monthly meeting will tentatively be held at the Norway Town Hall on Tuesday, June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 7:00 pm.

Meeting dates are subject to change. Consult **WLMD.org** for the latest information.

## **Appendix A**

**From:** "Olson, Eric [Natural Res [Lakes-HDNRM]]" <eolson@uwsp.edu>

**Date:** May 21, 2024 at 3:30:56PM CDT

**To:** Todd Flunker <tflunker@mscap.com>

**Cc:** Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Program <Wisconsin.Lakes.Partnership.Program@uwsp.edu>

**Subject:** Audit requirement for lake districts

You don't often get email from eolson@uwsp.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Todd,

I am responding to your question about lake district audit requirements. The short answer is that Chapter 33 of Statutes does not define audit but it requires that an audit be presented to the annual meeting of a lake district. I believe the reason it is not specified is that there are lake districts with an annual budget of \$5000 and there are others with a budget of \$500,000; requiring both to have the same level of audit would not make sense.

A district can recruit a person or two to review the lake district's spending and compare it against the budget to see if there was anything abnormal. This could constitute the audit. Alternatively, they can hire a firm and request a review of the district's spending. Some districts do these less formal audits for a number of years and then plan for a more formal audit every 3-4 years. It depends again on how much money the district is working with and how much concern there might be about money being spent on unauthorized items.

Let me know if you have any additional questions,  
Eric

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