**McDill Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Meeting Minutes Ben Franklin Junior High School April 29, 2015 6:00 p.m.**

**Board of Directors Present:**  JoeBlonigen, Dave Enerson, Tom Patterson, Mike Phillips and David Quick. Excused Jack Negaard.

Tom Patterson called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Minutes of the May 13, 2014 meeting were read. There were two changes to be made. One to add the word “Resources” after “Natural” in the 3rd paragraph of the second page. The second changing the number 4 to 3 in the same paragraph. The minutes were approved with those changes. There was a concern expressed about reviewing and approving minutes one year from the previous meeting. The Board stated meetings will be held at least quarterly, where minutes from the previous meeting will be reviewed more timely.

A photo of a canoe found by the Olsen family in November 2014 was shown, asking for the owner to claim. Tom Patterson said he would send out an email containing the photo, stating the owner should contact Krista Olson by June 30, 2015, otherwise she planned on donating the canoe.

**Treasurers Report:** DavidQuick reviewed the year-to-date budget. There is a balance of $167,751.11, after receipt of the Assessments and expenses paid out so far. The third and final allotment for the Dam Repair loan was paid in April 2015. There were questions regarding the need to pay Workman’s Comp and whether the Lake District had adequate Liability insurance. David assured of the need for the Lake District to pay Workman’s Comp and will verify we have adequate liability insurance.

**Current Business:**

 **Vacuum Plant Harvesting:**  KristaOlson made a presentation on Vacuum Plant Harvesting based on the use of such a system in Tomahawk Lake. This is a potential option to chemical use when EWM is located in scattered areas. Advantages of this removal are no residual effect of chemicals and more guarantee of control. The cons include an initial cost of about $9,000 for used or $30,000 for new equipment and cost of about $30,000 annually to operate. There is a need for a driver and boat driver to operate the system, but is a more efficient system than hand removal. Grants for 50% of the costs could be applied for funding this option for weed harvesting.

**Aquatic Plant Harvesting and Weed Harvesters:** Tom reported that one weed harvester is available to start harvesting and the city of Stevens Point ordered a new engine to replace the engine on the other weed harvester, which was over heating last year. The second harvester is expected to be repaired and in service in about one month. Krista recommended the purchase of an 8 foot rake for use by the Intern in manual removal of EWM. She also shared a design of a comb that could be attached to a boat to remove surface plants. Tom reported that Emily, the Intern is transferring to another school, so will need to look for another Intern for this summer. Emily is to make this opportunity known at UWSP.

Members voiced their concern of the amount of weeds in the lake last year and that the Board look to utilize the full amount of the budget allocated for weed removal.

**Fishery Update:** Tom reported that another fish survey was to be completed in May to determine the health of the fishery in McDill Pond.

**Chemical Treatment of Permit:** A permit for chemical treatment is being worked on for approval of treatment of approximately 30 acres of the pond, where Invasive Aquatic Plants have been located last fall and this spring. The treatment is expected to occur in June and district members will be notified in advance. There was a concern expressed for annual chemical treatment needed to control invasive weeds and the cumulative effect of such treatments.

**Lake Shore Management:** Krista Olson stated she is the UW Extension Shoreline Representative for McDill. She suggested adding plants to create a natural shoreline buffer overtime. Plants and Restoration grants are available for this purpose. Randy Slagg can be contacted at 715-346-1334 to obtain packets of plants for shoreline restoration. Krista also mentioned that where there is a decrease in phosphorous, but is an increase in nitrogen found in McDill leading to increased aquatic plant growth. She mentioned, that as a Lake District we could establish an ordinance to limit fertilization of lawns to no more than twice a year, to reduce the amount of nitrogen entering McDill. Such an ordinance would need to be discussed and voted on at annual meeting. There also was a concern of nutrients entering the river system upstream from McDill as a contributor. Members were reminded to obtain soil test to determine the amount of fertilizer needed for their lawn. Krista also shared that property owners can install an aerator to their pier, without a permit, to move water near their shoreline.

Tom mentioned there is a need for district members to assist as volunteers in grant writing, fundraising, adopt a section of McDill shoreline for cleanup, etc. Interested members can contact any board member to get involved.

**Other Business of Concern:**

Joe Blonigen was requested to contact Aquarius, the manufacturer of our weed harvesters, regarding the ability and cost to add messing for better pickup of floating material while harvesting.

A member asked about the high water level. It was noted that the water level was high earlier and since dropped about one foot. The city is aware of the issue of an employee monitoring the water lever being out of town during the higher water level.

There was a recommendation that future meetings start at 6:30 pm to allow members additional time to be present.

Mike Phillips asked about the need to dredge the silt trap downstream of Patch Street. Tom said that Jack has been checking into the use of the dredging material.

There was suggestion that with the discontinuance of the assessment for the Dam Repair Loan, that we discuss increasing the annual assessment at the next annual meeting to build reserves for repair or replacement of weed harvesters, dredging, etc.

The Board will determine and communicate the next meeting, possibly after the approval of the permit, but before the chemical treatment.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm. Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Blonigen, Secretary