**Minutes of the McDill Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Quarterly Meeting**

 **6:30 PM Thursday April 18, 2017 at Ben Franklin Junior High School Library**

**Board Members Present:** Krista Olson, Joe Blonigen, Dave Enerson, Gary Hurm, Marv Van Kekerix and Mike Phillips. Bob Gifford was excused.

President Krista Olson called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

The minutes of the February 23, 2017 meeting were posted to the McDill website and available for review at the April meeting. Mike Phillips moved that the minutes from the February meeting be approved, seconded by Dave Enerson, approved by 14 Lake District Members present and opposed by one. Bernie Landerman had some questions regarding the minutes, asking who is to pay for the proposed Della Street culvert. Mike Phillps stated that has not been determined, yet. The other question was how the culvert would improve the Lake. It is assumed the culvert would improve the flow through South Channel.

**Presentation on Potential Invasive Species:** Regional AIS Coordinator for Golden Sands Conservation & Development Council, Inc. Chris Hameria, made a presentation on Flowering Rush. Flowering Rush is an invasive species found in Bentley and Dana Ponds of the Plover River at the Marathon/Portage County border. Flowering Rush can outcompete native species of plant life and can be thick enough to cause an issue with navigation. The plant flowers usually in mid to late June, but also spreads by rhizomes. He is looking for people to look for and monitor the presence of Flower Rush, especially in Jordan and McDill Ponds of the Plover River. If Flowering Rush is discovered, it would be reported to the Lake District to consider hand removal. It could be controlled by chemical treatment, but the plant is usually found in protected areas that are typically not treated. Anyone interested in looking for Flowering Rush should contact Chris at chris.hamerla@goldensandsrcd.org or calling 715-343-6215.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Treasurer Marv Van Kekerix presented the March 31, 2017 YTD Statement of Revenue and Expenses. $47,575 in annual assessments were received and there was only one expenditure of $20 for the past quarter. Joe Blonigen moved for approval of the Treasurer’s report, seconded by Dave Enerson and was approved by all of the District Members present.

Krista reported that April 23rd is Earth Day and that members could pick up litter around McDill Pond as a way to acknowledge the day.

**Update on the Business 51 Improvement Project:** Krista reported that a meeting was held by the DOT in the Whiting Village Hall on April 19th.The boat landing west of Business 51 is currently owned and maintained by the WI DOT, but that boat landing will be turned over to the Village of Whiting, upon completion of the project. The DOT asked that before the completion of the project, the McDill Lake District and Village of Whiting enter into an agreement to maintain the boat landing. The Village of Whiting does not want 100% responsibility and/or expense to maintain that boat landing and is asking for involvement by the Lake District. Krista suggested that the box to collect fees for launching boats be turned over to the Village. Krista asked the Lake Members about their desire to enter into an agreement with Whiting to share in the maintenance of the boat landing. Bernie Landerman moved that the Lake District do not pursue nor enter into an agreement with Whiting for the maintenance of the boat landing. The motion was seconded by Chad Murphy and approved by all of the Lake District Members present.

Krista reported that depth mapping of McDill Pond is expected to start by UWSP tomorrow. The results of the mapping will be added to the maps used by the Weed Harvesting staff. Krista reported that a permit was issued for the oiling and removed of Goose eggs, but no one, so far has expressed an interest. Bernie said he has spotted Cormorants and that they be discourage from nesting near the Pond.

**2017 Harvesting Plan Update and Staffing Approval:** Rick is working with the City regarding the replacement of a sickle bar on one of the harvesters, which at this point say they do not have in the budget. We are expecting to setup the dock at the harvester landing during the first week of May. It was decided those assisting in the setup meet at 1PM on Wednesday May 3rd at the landing. Krista reported that Ben Guell is hired as the intern and he will start viewing for EWM. Rick Beggs will be the supervisor again. Dennis Barden, Rick and Greg Olson have a CDL to be able to drive the dump truck, but we are looking for an additional driver with a CDL, as Dennis will be working only part of the harvesting season. Larry Busse and Joe Blonigen, as a backup will be available to harvest. Ben Guell will not be able to work as the AIS Technician for the whole season, so Jonathan Olson is willing to fill in after he leaves. Krista left the room to be excused from any further discussion and vote on the matter. Bernie Landerman moved for approval of the weed harvesting staffing, seconded by Dave Enerson and approved by all of the Lake District Members present.

**Shallow Buoy Marker Update:** Kristareported that approval is required by the property owners living near a shallow area to be marked by a buoy. The Village of Whiting, who is the owner of the Whiting Island approved the placement of a buoy near the island, but the owners near the other shallow area of the Pond desired to be marked did not approve the request. The Lake District will go ahead with ordering and the placement of the buoy to mark the shallow area near Whiting Island. A copy of a depth map of McDill Pond could also be posted at the boat landings to inform boaters of the location of shallow water in the Pond.

**Spring 2017 Chemical Treatment Update:** Krista reported that final mapping of the location of EWM is to be completed this spring, starting with the locations of EWM found in the fall. Chemical treatment cannot exceed 60 acres. The coordination of the chemical treatment will be based on the findings of EWM found this spring, the weather and water level to be lowered by the city. Bernie Landerman asked whether there will be the continual need annually for chemical treatment. Krista said the hope will be that chemical treatment annually will not be needed forever, but there is no guarantee.

**Healthy Shorelands Promotion:**  Krista reported that no one has yet participated in this year’s Portage County Healthy Shoreland grant program, so the grants are still available.

**Della Street Culvert Update:** Rick Beggs is scheduled to meet with an engineeron May 2nd to determine whether there is enough slope for a culvert to be placed under Della Street, to improve the flow through the South Channel.

**Unattended Scavenger Hunt Suggestion for 2017 Fundraiser:** Krista presented the possibility of holding an unattended scavenger hunt where participants would pay an entrance fee, obtain cards of hints at various docks on McDill to search for lawn ornaments, etc. People that solve the scavenger hunt will be placed in a drawing, with the person drawn winning 50% of the fee collected. The remaining 50% could be used for benches on the path along the Pond below the new Business 51 causeway. Anyone interested in coordinating and/or assisting in organizing the hunt, should contact Krista Olson.

Tom Patterson suggested that the ownership and host of the McDill website be changed. The Lake District should be the owner and he has a concern on viability of the current host. Krista will review with Tom, on what needs to be done to accomplish these changes.

The next quarterly meeting will be held 6:30 PM on Thursday September 14th at the Ben Franklin Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Blonigen, Secretary.