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

 **6:30 PM Thursday September 14, 2017 at Ben Franklin Junior High School Library**

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

President, Krista Olson called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

**Minutes of the April 18, 2017 Quarterly Meeting:** The minutes from the April meeting were available for review on the McDillPond website and at the meeting. Rick Beggs moved to dispense with the reading of the April Minutes and moved for approval. The motion was seconded by Mike Phillips and approved by all of the Lake District Members present.

**Treasurers Report:** TreasurerMarv Van Kekrix presented the YTD August 31, 2017 Financial Statement. The last of the fuel bills and payroll for weed harvesting are yet to be expensed for 2016-2017. The chemical treatment was under budget at $14,751 vs. a budget of $20,000, with 35 acres of the Pond treated. Payroll for weed harvesting was slightly over budget, but all other expenses were within budget. The Treasurers Report was moved for approval by Kevin McAdam, seconded by Lori Beggs and approved by all of the Lake District Members present.

**Krista provided the following updates:**

Though approval from the local DNR office was obtained, the local Warden denied a permit for placement of the buoy marking the shallow area in the Pond near Whiting Island. That buoy was removed and sent back to the vendor.

Only two Goose nests had eggs Addling, therefore the permit will not be requested to be renewed next year.

The Scavenger Hunt had little participation and produced little funds, so there will be no funded raiser planned for the following year.

Flowering Rush has not been found yet in McDiIl Pond, though found in an impoundment upstream. A Quick Guide on Flowering Rush was provided at the meeting and Lake District Members are asked to view for this invasive plant for removal, which could otherwise choke areas of a waterway.

There was no update from the DOT regarding the replacement of the Business 51 Causeway, along the Pond. The raising of the new bridge was questioned by the DOT, though supported by the Lake District. A concern of the care of the new Causeway by the Village of Whiting was expressed, as there are areas that are currently overgrown.

A Portage County Shoreline Improvement grant of $1,000 has not been used and is still available.

**Report on Chemical Treatment and Weed Harvesting for 2017 and recommendations for 2018:**

Approximately 35 acres of McDill was chemically treated. Though thought to be successful, because it was performed earlier in the year than the past, did not treat as much of the native aquatic plants. This is the first time we had a deep water chemical application, which is hoped to be more effective than a top water application. The southern half of the Pond is found to contain more EWM Hybrid than the past, which is more difficult to control with chemical treatment. It was suggested that there be a similar application performed later in the year to control more of the native aquatic weeds. There were questions asked whether other forms of chemicals like granular or 2-4-D would be more effective. The chemical used in the treatment is thought to be the best choice for control of EWM and granular chemicals take longer to dissolve and would not be absorbed by the plants as quickly.

984 hours were spent in 2017 by the operators of the weed harvesters, removing 185 truckloads of weeds from the Pond. There were hours spent on cutting and trimming trees in the way and repairing the dock by the harvesters because of the wind storm experienced this summer. The location for the dumping of the weeds was changed because the dump truck was getting stuck with the wetness in the original area. It was reported by Rick Beggs that the weed harvesters are also wearing out and breaking down more often. An increase in wages was requested by one of the truck drivers for next year. There is competition for drivers with CDL to drive the truck. The Northside Condos on Mc Dill is offering to donate their piers to the Lake District. Rick stated the current docks are adequate for the harvesters, so additional piers are not needed there. Krista will get back to them with a thank you and that the city Parks Department may be able to use them.

The use of garbage truck for hauling the weeds that are harvested was tested. The use of a garbage truck instead of a dump truck was found to be easier to fill, with no need for someone to use a pitchfork to move the weeds into place, vs with the dump truck. A garbage truck would be safer for the harvester operators to load and also would have more capacity, therefore less trips to empty. The use of a garbage truck would save time, fuel and more could be spent on harvesting. Mike Phillips will check with the City Garage on the availability of a garbage truck for disposal of the aquatic weeds in the future.

**Bathymetric Map Review and proposal for dredging of the Silt Trap:** Krista presented a copy of the Bathymetric map performed on McDill Pond in April. She also displayed and compared a copy of the map performed in 2007. The map from 2007 showed a silt trap as deep as 17-20 feet, after the dredging completed in 2003 and is now found to be at least half full. Also though the mouth of the South Channel was dredged just a few years ago, it is now filled in. It was reported that approximately $475,000 was spent on the dredging competed in 2003. Funding of $250,000 came from the City of Stevens Point Room Tax, $241,375 from the state of Wisconsin and $9,100 from the sale of sand. Mike Phillips reported that the funds from the Room Tax is now controlled by the St Pt Area Convention and Visitor Bureau and the rules for use of those funds have changed, so did not think that would be a source of funding for a dredging project. The State of Wisconsin only has funding for dredging to a depth of 5 feet for navigation purposes, so could be a source for only a portion of funding. Krista obtained a proposal from SHE for planning a dredging project. They provided an estimate of $8,500 to review the previous dredging project, the new Bathymetric Map, prepare a draft application for grant with WDNR, etc. to determine cost and planning for a future dredging of the silt trap to McDill Pond. Krista asked for help into looking at contractors and sources of funding for such a dredging project.

**Draft Budget for 2017-2018 Fiscal Year:** Marv provided a draft of a budget for the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year using the amounts budgeted for the past year adjusted for differences expected for the next fiscal year. The draft shows a shortfall of $4,779. It was noted that there has not been much change in the Assessment to the Lake District Members for some time and the Assessment could be increased to cover the shortfall. Mike Phillips moved that the Annual Assessment of $275 be increased to $300 be presented for approval in the October 19th Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Kevin McAdam and approved by all of the District Members present. Kevin McAdams moved that $8,500 be budgeted for planning of the dredging of the Silt Trap as part of the 2017-2018 Budget to be approved at the Annual Meeting. The motion was seconded by Gary Hurm and approved by all Lake District Members attending.

There was a reminder the next Annual Meeting is scheduled to be held at 6:30 PM on October 19, 2017 in the Ben Franklin Junior High School Library. An Agenda of the meeting and proposed budget for 2017-2018 will be sent to all Lake District Members prior to the meeting.

The next quarterly meeting is scheduled to be held at 6:30 PM on Thursday December 7, 2017 at the Ben Franklin Junior High School Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Blonigen, Secretary.