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

 **5:30 PM Thursday January 11, 2018 at Ben Franklin Junior High School Library**

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

President, Krista Olson called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

**Minutes of the 4th Quarter 2017 Commissioners Meeting held on December 7, 2017:** The Minutesof the meeting were posted to the McDill website and available at the meeting for review. Mike Phillips moved that to dispense with reading of the Minutes and they be approved as written. The motion was 2nd by Marv and approved by all of the Lake District Members present.

**Treasurers Report:** Treasurer, Marv Van Kekerix provided an update of financial activity and balances as of January 3, 2018. The only activity was a check for $9.95 and posting of interest received on our deposit accounts. Rick Beggs moved for approval of the Treasurer Report, 2nd by Dave Enerson and approved by all of the District Members present.

**GEI Presentation and Q&A session on the Proposal of the McDill Silt Trap dredging project:** The presentation by GEI was held via conference call because of the poor weather conditions. GEI Project Construction Manager, Dave Burger and Senior Project Manager, Paul Killian provided a brief history of the company and then provided an overview of the Proposal to Provide Professional Services dated January 5, 2018. They asked whether we felt there were any constraints to the project, like location for deposit of the dredging material or financially. Krista stated that the city of Stevens Point was willing to allow deposit of the dredging material on the Park above the Disc Gold Course adjacent to the area of McDill intended to be dredged. Financial constraints are unknown at this point, not knowing the anticipated cost of the project and availability of grant funding. GEI stated that experience has shown less grant funding available and therefore less projects receiving grant funding.

Mike asked what they anticipate as a timeframe for approval of the project, as the dredging of the Silt Trap about 15 years ago, took about two years to get approved. GEI stated they anticipate approval to take less than 2 years, dependent on outside impacts to the project. GEI also indicated that they have a preference for hydraulic dredging vs. a drawdown and removal of sediment mechanically.

Joe questioned who is expected to test the sampling of the sediments. GEI said the testing would be performed by an outside party and is expected to be within their $8,000-$10,000 estimate. The range is to cover for the undetermined number of samples required.

Joe questioned the sole and exclusive property of the documentation on the project by GEI as stated in #10 of the agreement. GEI responded that documentation will be provided to the Lake District for their use and retention, in either electronic or hard copy at our choosing and the language to number 10 could be modified.

Joe questioned how the Lake District could satisfy item B of Exhibit D, where the client will identify locations of buried utilities and other underground structures. Digger’s Hotline could be contacted. Mike said we could use the information of existing utilities, etc. obtained for the previous dredging project. The location of the dredging is expected to be downstream from such structures.

Mike asked about the term of the agreement. GEI stated there is no term, but the agreement could be for a term requested by the Lake District. The fee schedule is for one year and there is an escalation clause for increases in fees of up to 5% per year.

GEI clarified that the proposal for Phase 1, does not include the cost to assist in obtaining bids for dredging, but the estimate for Phase 1 is included in the $28,000 estimate for the Dredging Design provided in the October 18, 2017 Proposal. This concluded the conference call.

**Discussion of District Members on the GEI Presentation/Q&A and approval of the Phase 1 contract:**

Carl Rasmussen stated that GEI appear to be responsive. A concern was expressed about the cost and lack of funding resources for a dredging with a life of 15 to 20 years. Phase 1 does not include RFP documents. The estimate for Phase 1 of $8,000 to $10,000 is within the Reserves designated for dredging. Marv moved for approval to execute the agreement, subject to the language in Number 10 of the Agreement being modified to allow the Lake District to obtain, retain and use documentation provided by GEI, as we see fit to pursue the dredging project. The motion was 2nd by Mike and approved by all of the Lake District Members present.

**Discussion on potential funding options for the dredging project:** Marv investigated some options for funding of a dredging project. The Board of Commissions of Public Lands provides loans to Lake Districts for a stated term is an option. Another option is obtaining a loan from a private source, like Pineries Bank, as the Lake District obtained for our portion of the dam repair, which was repaid by the members of the Lake District over 3 years. Also a dredging project of no deeper than 5 feet in depth over a broader area could qualify for a state grant for navigational proposes, opposed to a deeper dredging in a narrow area. A shallower dredging over a wider area may allow the sediment to drop in the area dredged, where a narrower deeper dredge may wash the sediment downstream and drop in an area not dredged. That option should be discussed with GEI and/or the DNR for their input.

**Update on options for trucking of aquatic weeds:**  Rick Beggs asked whether the City would be able to provide a pickup truck capable of towing a trailer to haul aquatic weeds harvested. Mike said he was not aware of a pickup being available from the City. He said the City is watching for the availability of a used garbage truck to be purchased. A garbage truck is thought to have more capacity and easier to load than the dump truck that been used. The cost of a garbage truck is thought to run $40,000 - $50,000.

**Operators for Weed Harvesting:** At this point one of the previous harvester operators/truck drivers is willing to work full time. The Lake District is looking for more operators and truck drivers, possible working a designated day or two to the week. There appears to be some interest in this approach and anyone interested should let Rick Beggs or Krista Olson know when they like to work.

Mike Phillips asked who at the Lake District is involved with the fisheries of McDill Pond. Tom Meronek is the contact for the DNR and John Jones use to be involved for the Lake District, but not of late. Krista will check on the availability of a fishery survey. SPASH was thought to have performed one and DNR was seen as performing a survey. Mike said some Lake Districts have set lower catch limits to improve their fishery.

Krista will contact GEI to schedule a kick off meeting for the dredging project. The next quarterly meeting will be determined based on the date of the kick off meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Blonigen, Secretary.