Minutes of the Dredge Committee Meeting held at 5PM on October 18, 2018

 in the Ben Franklin Library

**Commissioners Present:**  Krista Olson, Joe Blonigen, Mike Phillips and Marv Van Kekerix.

**Present from the DNR:** Scott Koehnke, Scott Provost, Tim Parks and Jill Schoen.

**Participated by Phone:** Dave Burger from GEI.

Krista Olson stated the purpose of the meeting was to ask questions and discuss any issues with the proposed dredging of the Silt Trap for McDill Pond. She mentioned that the City of Stevens Point put out a request for comment on dredging the beach area of Iverson Park. She said there were many comments from the community opposing dredging that area. The beach being shallow is desirable for use by young children. Because of the concerns expressed by the community, McDill Lake District will not pursue dredging of the beach area of Iverson Park and focus on the dredging of the silt trap in McDill Pond. Bathymetric maps from 2008 and 2017 were compared, showing the amount of the silt trap that has filled in.

Then there was a discussion on the proposal to widen the area to be dredged, down stream from the Patch street bridge. Scott Provost asked whether that proposal was based on any modeling. Krista responded that it was not based on any modeling. Dave Burger from GEI said we thought dredging a wider area would create more slack water to drop sediment, instead of going further downstream before dropping. Scott Koehnke and Scott Provost both felt dredging of a wider area just downstream from the bridge would not increase the amount of sediment dropping in that area. The flow is too fast for sediment to drop in that area. Also, plant growth in that area absorb nutrients and it’s an important spawning area for fish.

GEI and the Lake District felt widening the dredge area would remove about 2 times the amount of material, then dredging just the existing silt trap. The DNR said dredging the silt trap deeper could accomplish the same thing. Scott Koehnke explained that dredging of an area, not previously dredged, would require an Individual Permit (IP), which requires more review and about 90 days to be issued. However, an IP can be later changed to a General Permit (GP), which can be issued in about 30 days. It was proposed by the DNR that dredging the silt trap and high spots found further downstream, following the old river channel, would move the sediment further downstream and be more effective for the cost of the material desired to be removed. Krista asked GEI if they thought that approach would affect the cost of the project and equipment needed for dredging. They responded that they did not think it would be an issue.

Bernie Landerman expressed a concern that diposal of the sediment dredged be determined before going ahead with the project. The DNR said sampling will be required to determine whether the sediment was clean enough to not be an issue for disposal and use. That also where the sediment is to be disposed is a requirement for a permit to be issued. GEI was directed to revise the dredging proposal to dredging the silt trap to the depth previously dredged and dredging of the high spots found downstream of the silt trap.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Blonigen, Secretary McDill Lake District