**McDill Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District**

 **Annual Meeting Minutes Tuesday October 13, 2015**

 **Ben Franklin Junior High School**

**Board of Commissioners Present:** Jack Negaard, Joe Blonigen, Dave Enerson, Tom Patterson, Mike Phillips and David Quick.

Jack, called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM.

The minutes of the October 21, 2014 meeting were read and approved.

**Current Business:**

**Year in Review:** Jack reported that the permit amended for removal and disposal of aquatic weeds for 2015 was approved by the DNR. Tony and Maynard were the operators of the weed harvesters. The permit for chemical treatment of the aquatic weeds with Diquat was approved. The timing of the treatment was a challenge because of the amount of rain received, but was treated when the water flow was sufficiently reduced. Harvesting was then performed as needed. There was a complaint regarding weed harvesting filed by a Lake District Member, which resulted in a violation issued by the DNR. Weed harvesting south of the power lines had to be ceased. Jack and Dave Enerson met with the DNR to discuss the violation. There will need to be adjustments made in future weed harvesting to avoid future violations of the harvesting permit. The adjustments will be reflected in the new permit to be issued for 2016 and beyond. Schmidt Aquatics is to provide a report of the plant survey performed, which will be used as the basis for area recommended for weed harvesting and future chemical treatment. The last payment of the loan for the dam repair was made. There were no other major projects. Chris Meyer offered his services to be involved and/or discuss any future projects.

**Vote for Commissioner Positions**: The terms being served by Jack Negaard and Joe Blonigen are up. There were 3 nominees Jack, Joe and Krista Olson to be voted on for the two positions. The District Members in attendance voted for Joe Blonigen and Krista Olson to serve the two open Commissioner positions for the next three years. The Commissioners will meet following the annual meeting to determine who will serve as President, Secretary and Treasurer, as required by WI Statutes. The District Members thanked Jack for his 16 plus years as President and accomplishments for the Lake District.

**Healthy Shoreline and Lake Shore Management:** Krista Olson shared a map of the drainage area of the Plover River to McDill Pond. This area contributes to the nutrient load that flow into McDill Pond. There is an effort to inform property owners of the need to clean organic material from entrances into storm sewers that flow into McDill Pond to avoid that material from entering the Pond. She shared a chart showing nutrient loads found in the Pond over the past years. Levels of Nitrogen is shown as very variable, but increasing which contribute to aquatic plant growth in the Pond. Krista discussed methods to absorb nutrients, like islands of floating mats. There would need to be many mats that would cover substantial area of the Pond to make that option feasible. She showed different types of shorelines including rocky, seawall and natural shorelines. Natural shorelines are thought to be the best option to absorb and control nutrients from entering the Pond. There are grants and plants for developing a natural shoreline available through the UW Extension.

**Invasive Plant Status and Treatment:** Scott Provost from the DNR shared a map of the area approved for weed harvesting for the past year. The Lake District will need to apply for a new permit for weed harvesting for the next 5 years, which can be amended to address any change in conditions. A new harvesting map must contain GPS coordinates for the operators of the weed harvesters to follow to be within the area approved for harvesting. Chris Meyer asked that Spring Slough be included in the area approved for future harvesting. Scott said all areas recommended for weed harvesting be submitted to the Commissioners of the Lake District to be incorporated into a new application for the next permit. The Lake District also must consider all options to control invasive aquatic plant species, including chemical treatment, manual removal and harvesting, which he said the Lake District has done in the past. Scott addressed the use of 2-4-D to treatment aquatic plants. 2-4-D can take about 2 weeks to be absorbed by the plants to be effective opposed to Diquot, which is a herbicide that is effective upon contact. Also the EWM found in McDill is a hybrid, where 2-4-D is not as effective as Diquot in killing. It was asked why the weed harvesters were already pulled out of operation. Scott said it is very common for lake districts to discontinue weed harvesting shortly after Labor Day. It just happens that it is a warmer fall this year. The City of Stevens Point is also scheduled to perform the maintenance, winterization and storage of the weed harvesters. The effectiveness of annual drawdowns to control aquatic vegetation was asked. Scott stated drawdowns can be effective when able to be done correctly, in the right conditions. McDill Pond contains many springs which cannot be adequately frozen to kill aquatic weeds. Also plants that tolerate drawdowns take over the areas exposed by the drawdown. Scott recommended the Lake District work with property owners upstream of McDill to reduce the amount of nutrient load entering the Plover River.

**Fishery Update:** Jack said we have not received a report on the status of the fishery, but it appears to be improving. SPASH was performing a fish survey that should be available to share at the next district meeting.

**Fertilizer Restriction Proposal:** Krista Olson shared the proposed fertilizer restriction. The restriction is voluntary to no more than two applications of fertilizer, one being in the spring and one in the fall, annually. Soil tests are encouraged and additional fertilization applied only when recommended as result of the soil test. The fertilizer restriction was approved by a majority of the members, with two voting against the proposal. The fertilizer restriction will be shared with the members of the Lake District.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Jack introduced Treasurer David Quick, recognized and thanked him for his 14 years of service. David reported that an Audit of the books for the past year was performed and found the books to be in order. He then reviewed the results of the actual budget for the past 14 years and the proposed budget for October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016. The Lake District had net income of $11,772.88 for the past year many due to less spent in payroll and chemical treatment than budgeted. 2015 contained the last year for the additional special assessment and last payment of the loan for the dam repair. The proposed budget is based on a $265 assessment per parcel on McDill Pond and expenses to come up with $0.00 in net income. The proposed budget was moved and unanimously approved by the members of the Lake District.

**Additional Topics, Dredge Committee Report:** Dave Enerson provided an update on the proposal to dredge the silt trap below Patch Street. The silt trap is thought to be nearly full and the cost to dredge approximately 50,000 cubic yards is estimated at a total of $500,000. The hope is that upon approval of the dredging, we would be able to obtain a grant for up to one half of the costs. The estimated cost for dredging are not in the budget for the next year and would need to be voted on by the Lake District, after approval by the DNR of the dredging the actual cost finalized.

Jack shared some history of his involvement and accomplishments as District President, including the dredging of the original silt trap, repair and transfer of the ownership of the dam to the Lake District and more. The Lake District recognized and thank Jack for his years of service.

**The next Annual Meeting was set for 6:30 PM on October 18, 2016 at Ben Franklin Junior High.** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Blonigen, Secretary.