**McDill Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District**

**Annual Meeting Minutes Tuesday October 21, 2014**

**Ben Franklin Junior High School**

**Board of Directors Present:** Jack Negaard, Joe Blonigen, Dave Enerson, Tom Patterson and City Representative Mike Phillips.

Jack Negaard called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

Jack listed the Board Members present at the meeting and announced the change in the Secretary position from Krista Olsen to Joe Blonigen. He acknowledged Krista’s vital role on the Board; thanked Krista and her family for the years of service they have provided to the Lake District and hope she would continue being involved in the Lake District.

The minutes from the October 15, 2013 meeting were read and approved with one correction, that the next annual meeting was scheduled for October 14th, 2014.

**Year in review:** Jack reported that the McDill dam is operated by the City of Stevens Point and that they have done a good job in managing the water level of the Pond. He mentioned that there was a late start in weed harvesting and that Elodea exploded as a result of the past draw down and nutrients in the sediment. A chemical treatment took place in June, which knocked back a significant amount of weed growth, so the weed harvesting could improve and maintain the quality of the Pond. A map of the areas permitted by the DNR to be harvested was shown. Chris Baum stated a concern about the lack of weed harvesting and amount of algae, behind the islands of the South Channel. Jack took note of that concern to be incorporated into next year’s weed harvesting.

**Commissioner(s) up for election:** Jack stated that current Commissioner At Large, Tom Patterson term is up. That he was very active in preparing Power Point slides for the meetings, communicating to the District Members and attend various meetings representing the Lake District. Jack nominated Tom for an additional term, which was approved unanimously by the Lake District members in attendance.

**Invasive Plant Status and Treatment:** A map of the areas of McDill treated chemically in June 2014 was shown to the audience. The treatment was successful in knocking back the amount of weed growth in the areas treated, after which was controlled by weed harvesting. Diquat was used in the chemical treatment because the Milfoil was a hybrid variety, but also was found to kill native weeds. Schmidts Aquatic performed a survey this fall of EWM found and provided a recommendation of the areas to be treated in 2015. A map of the areas containing EWM was shown to the audience. It was questioned what chemical would be used in a treatment for 2015. Jack said the DNR has yet to provide an answer to what alternative to Diquat should be used for future chemical treatments. Krista Olsen stated that other options that could be used opposed to chemical treatment. Krista and another Lake District Member Gordy, volunteered to look into and provide a recommendation as to the type of chemical for treatment or other alternatives to control EWM.

**Fish Restocking Report:** The results of a recent fish survey performed by UWSP, was shared. Mike Phillips described the process and stated that it is too early to determine the status of the fishery in the Pond. That it usually takes 2-3 surveys over that many years, to have a good determination of the condition of the fishery. Another survey is expected to take place in the fall of 2015.

**Audit Committee Report:** Jack stated the Lake District By-Laws require that an audit be performed of the Treasure’s books. An audit was performed by Mrs. Negaard, Mrs. Enerson and John Jones. It was reported that the audit found all records to be in order.

**Treasurer’s Report and Review of the Proposed Oct. 1, 2014-Sept. 30, 2015 Budget:** Jack shared and reviewed the proposed budget prepared by Treasurer David Quick. The proposednbudget was in line with the 10/1/2013–9/30/2014 actual, except without an amount for Fish Restocking. The need for any additional restocking is not know and could be taken from reserves, if a need for additional fish restocking found after additional fish surveys. Mike Phillips asked about the desire to have fencing placed to protect the weed harvesters. Jack reported that the location of the weed harvesters during the harvest season, is on city park property and the city parks department was not supportive of fencing being put up in that area. If fencing was to be pursued, the cost of $1,000 to $2,000 could come from reserves. Krista Olsen asked about adding water sprayers to one of the weed harvesters, as recommended by the DNR. Joe Blonigen explored that possibility with the City Garage and reported the mechanic felt the current weed harvester with the additional water pump, was not powerful enough to handle the additional load of running that pump. Also the other weed harvester did not contain the additional hydraulics needed to operate a pump, therefore the addition of water sprayers to a weed harvester was not being pursued. There was a discussion on the need to increase the expense budget for Payroll and fuel to operate the weed harvesters, comparable to the amounts spend on average in the past. It was moved, seconded and approved by the District Members to increase the expense budgeted for Payroll to $17,500 and fuel to $5,000. Because the proposed budget contained only a shortfall of $200, the increase of $6,700 in expenses would come from reserves, so there is not the need to increase the annual assessment to District Members. The Proposed Budget was approved with the increase in the expenses for Payroll and fuel.

**Additional Topics for discussion:** Jack also reported that the city was interested in using sand from dredging of the silt trap near Patch street for a Hoover Road overpass, however Mike Phillips reported the City Engineer did not feel that sand is suitable for use in an overpass. Jack will contact the city to confirm their determination in the used of any sand dredged from McDill.

A report prepared by Amy Thorstenson of UWSP showed the use of weevils to control EWM in McDill was possible, but would require a shoreline buffer of native vegetation of at least 3 feet and that any chemical treatment would likely kill the weevils.

Chris Baum asked about the email notifications being received monthly from the Lake District. Tom Patterson said he has been working to stop the sending of these emails and will research it further. He also said the current website Mcdillpond.com is a work in progress.

The pool level of McDill Pond was questioned, as some members felt it is higher than normal. Jack stated that the pond was back to the original level. That it could be about 2 ½ inches higher than prior to the dam repair.

Krista Olsen asked about the status of the Nutrient Load study. The Board did not have an update on this study and asked Krista to send that report to the commissioners again.

**The next Annual Meeting was set for 6:30 PM October 13, 2015 at Ben Franklin Junior High. A regular meeting was also set for 6:30 January 13, 2015 prior to a grant deadline in February 2015.**

Meeting Adjourned at 8:10 PM. Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Blonigen, Secretary.