**McDill Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Commissioners Meeting**

**December 8, 2015 Ben Franklin Junior High School**

**Board of Directors Present:** Krista Olson, Joe Blonigen, Dave Enerson, Tom Patterson, Mike Phillps and David Quick.

President, Krista Olson called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

The minutes of the September 15th Commissioners meeting were read and approved.

**Current Business:**

**McDill Business 51 Construction Project:** WI DOT guest Jeffery Stewart was introduced to address the Business 51 Reconstruction Project. Phase one of the project is expected to start the spring of 2016 in Plover near the Highway 54/B intersection, proceeding north. The road is to be widened with 4 lanes, a median strip, bicycle lanes and sidewalks. Phase two is expected to start in late 2018 and into 2019 beginning at Minnesota Ave. and working south to Elm Street. This phase of construction will include reconstruction of the causeway and bridge over McDill Pond. The DOT like to have contacts from the McDill Lake District regarding any questions on the project. Krista Olson will advise them of contacts from the Lake District. The project is being bid out to contractors. The DOT is aware of the District’s intent to dredge the Patch Street slit trap, which could provide dredge material for the reconstruction and will make the contractor aware of that option. The presentation was then open to questions, comments and suggestions. Access to the boat landing from Business 51 during construction was asked, but was said to be unknown at this time. Items suggested for the DOT to consider include: whether the height of the bridge over McDill could be raised adequately to allow pontoon boats to pass under; there be more space from the road to the sidewalks; could the boat landing be located east of the road/causeway; lighting to enhance the causeway; access for fishing along the causeway from shore and repair and improve the current boat landing. All of these issues were recorded by the DOT for consideration in the project. The Lake District will be informed by the DOT, as the project proceeds.

**Nomination and approval of the vacant Commissioner position:** Tom Patterson tendered his resignation to be able to pursue other activities. The Lake District members recognized and showed their appreciation for Tom’s years of service as a Commissioner. Marv VanKekerix was introduced as being nominated to fill Tom’s remaining term as Commissioner. Krista asked if there any other nominees. Being no others, Marv was unanimously approved as Commissioner to serve Tom’s remaining term. He is already involved in writing an application for an AIS grant.

**Changes to the Weed Harvesting permit effective 2016:** Changes need to be made to the application for the weed harvesting permit to address the issues cited in the September 2015 violation from the DNR. Krista shared a map of the harvesting area approved in the past permit and asked members for any changes they desire. There is a concern about floating mats are blowing across the pond, drifting toward shorelines. It was stated by Scott Provost that areas which are harvested or chemically treated do not hold back floating mats from drifting around in the pond. The members discussed the need for the harvesters to be able to operate in shallower areas to pick up the floating mats. Scott said the Lake District could include areas in the application for the weed harvesting permit that would be allowed to be skimmed by the weed harvesters, to pick up floating mats. Rick Beggs asked about the possibility to use a boom to skim floating material in shallower areas. Scott said he would be interested in trying that approach. Members should contact the Lake District with areas desired to be included in the weed harvesting application. The map will be revised to include those areas and be reviewed at the next quarterly meeting, prior to submitting the permit application to the DNR.

**Purchase of GPS Units for weed harvesters:**  Jack Negaard and Dave Enerson attended a conference with the DNR in September 2015 to discuss the September 4, 2015 Notice of Violation. In that conference it was agreed that the McDill Lake District must document the purchase and installation of GPS systems to be operated on the weed harvesters to track their location inside the approved area to be harvested. We must also document the training of the harvester operators in the use of the GPS systems, prior to harvesting in 2016. Krista researched the cost of the GPS Systems and found them to be about $1,650 for each system or about $3,300 for two systems. That does not consider any costs for installation or training in the use of the systems. Any expenditure in excess of $2,500 not in the current budget need to be approved by the majority of the district members in attendance of the meeting. There was a motion approved by the majority of the Lake District members present, with one no vote, that up to $5,000 may be spent for the purchase, installation and training on the use of two GPS systems on the weed harvesters.

**Dredging Project Status and Update:** Dave Enerson provided a report on the status of dredging the Patch Street silt trap. The project anticipates dredging of about 50,000 cubic yards from the silt trap. Core samples of at least 9 feet of the bottom need to be obtained and tested, as part of the approval of the dredging project. Bids of about $20,000 have been obtained for taking the core samples. There will be a grant applied for to cover the costs to obtain the core samples. It is also expected the total project would cost about $400,000, which will need to be financed. A local bank has been already contacted and is receptive to finance the project, if and when needed. The Lake District members will be informed in future district meetings on any updates to this project.

**Fall 2015 EMW Survey and Application for Chemical Treatment in 2016:** Krista shared amap of areas containing EWM performed by Schmidt Aquatics in the fall of 2015. The survey shows approximately 50 acres of the channels and pond contain EWM. It is anticipated the need for a substantial chemical treatment to be performed in 2016 to kill the EWM found. An AIS grant can be applied for to cover 50% of the cost for the treatment to keep the cost to the Lake District, within the amounted budgeted for 2016. Krista presented a resolution, which was approved by the majority of the district members present, with one no vote, to apply for the AIS grant, apply for the permit for chemical treatment in 2016 and that Schmidt Aquatics be the vendor for any chemicals treatment over the next two years. It was also recommended that the Lake District investigate other methods for controlling EWM, like the vacuum suction method used in the Tomahawk area.

The next quarterly Commissioners meeting is scheduled for 6:30 PM on February 16, 2016, in the Ben Franklin Junior High Library.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Joe Blonigen, Secretary.