

**Lost Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District**  
**APPROVED Minutes**  
**February 4, 2021, 1st Quarter Meeting via Zoom**

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Eckerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with a tribute to one of the commissioner's family member who recently passed away.
- 2. Verify Posting of Meeting:** Commissioner Ritter stated the meeting was posted on January 15, 2021.
- 3. Roll Call:** Quorum was established:
  - Present via Zoom: Heeler, Truppe, Ritter, Guckenberger, Anderson, Ulett, Eckerman
  - Excused: None
  - Others Present via Zoom: Eddie Heath of Onterra and nine others.
- 4. Approval of October 15, 2020, 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Meeting Minutes:**

On Motion by Ulett, second Truppe, minutes of the October 15, 2020, LLPRD meeting were unanimously approved.
- 5. Treasurer's Report:** Truppe presented Treasurer's Report showing the District had \$45,091.31 in its account on 10-15-20. One check to Laser Innovations Inc. was written out (\$52.50) for Retirement Plaque and three deposits were made: CBCW grant (\$2,244.40), Town of St. Germain--AIS reimbursement (\$1,512.99), and Tax Levy (\$12,406.06) giving a 02-04-21 balance of \$61,202.26.
- 6. Public Comments:** No public comments were offered.
- 7. 2020 Draft AIS Report--Onterra:** Eddie Heath, lake biologist from our lake management consultant presented Onterra's 2020 Draft AIS Report for Lost Lake. The draft report was displayed on screen for all to see while Eddie presented the report by starting with the short history (since 2013) of AIS in Lost Lake and continuing with the LLPRD's management plan guidelines of only using herbicide treatment if the AIS is found in over 30% of sampling areas. Eddie recommended no herbicide treatment this spring because curly leaf pondweed (CLP) has declined in abundance and was found in just 31% of samplings last spring in the target area of the western bay, down from 84% in prior years. Onterra will continue to spot check for CLP this spring, summer, and fall to see if this downward trend continues.
- 8. Consider 2021 AIS Treatment on EWM and CLP:** Eddie Heath began the discussion on possible AIS herbicide treatment by reviewing his earlier info that CLP is hopefully under control because of our past herbicide treatments but it will never be completely eradicated. As for Eurasian water milfoil (EWM), he displayed a PowerPoint showing our eastern bay has a lot of EWM, with smaller colonies scattered throughout the lake. Eddie reviewed our past hand-harvesting attempts at removal but the current large amount of EWM makes that strategy unadvisable now. Another EWM removal strategy discussed was the use of EWM-eating weevils (insects), but at a cost of \$1.50 each, the amount of weevils needed for our large lake would be cost-prohibitive. Mechanical harvesting of EWM was also discussed, but because of its high cost and because the heavy EWM concentration is not impacting access to the lake by property owners, harvesting is not viable at this time. Eddie also mentioned there are new herbicide treatments for highly concentrated areas of EWM but the cost is higher than the same area of CLP treatment. After these different EWM strategies were discussed, Heath was of the opinion that no active abatement plans be put into use this season, but instead, we should take a "watch

and see” approach to the EWM for at least another year. Based on these discussions, the commissioners then considered action plans for CLP and EWM for 2021. On motion by Eckerman that we NOT treat CLP areas with herbicide in 2021, second Truppe, the motion passed unanimously. On a motion by Guckenbergl that we continue to monitor populations of EWM in 2021 (with no active management), and second by Ulett, the motion passed unanimously. Onterra will continue monitoring both EWM and CLP throughout 2021.

**9. CBCW 2021 Grant: Approve Funding:** Heeler reported that the LLPRD has again received a Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) DNR grant to pay UW Oshkosh interns to inspect watercraft at our boat landing for this summer. On a motion by Heeler to approve funding of approximately \$3,000 for this project, second Anderson, the motion passed unanimously. As in past years, if Lost Lake volunteers put in 80+ hours of inspecting boats, the DNR will reimburse the LLPRD the entire \$3,000 cost.

**10. Walleye Stocking/Habitat Report:** Eckerman reported that he and Guckenbergl participated in the” Walleye 2021” DNR virtual conference on the walleye fishery in northern WI. The conference tried to answer questions on why walleye have been in reduced numbers in the past few years as well as why the DNR has reduced/eliminated stocking in some lakes (including Lost). The DNR says spawning is successful but for some unknown reason young walleye have been getting “wiped out” in July. This is one of the reasons for reduced stocking in early summer. Eckerman inquired of the DNR why DNR-funded walleye stocking was discontinued in Lost Lake but not stopped in other area lakes like Found and Little Saint Lakes. The DNR’s answer was that it was the their local fish biologist’s “gut feeling” to suspend stocking of Lost Lake, which was questioned by Eckerman. The DNR will take the input from the conference and and come up with a revised walleye plan for the Northwoods.

**11. Future Marker Buoy Installation/Removal:** Discussion started with the ages of the volunteers now removing/installing buoys and how much longer they can continue this work. The idea was presented to investigate the possibility of hiring an independent contractor to do the work. The name of John Vojta of J&J Services came up as one person who does this kind of work for Little St and other lakes. Ulett will contact Vojta about attending our next regular meeting or getting an estimated cost for installation and removal of our marker buoys. If this is the route we want to go, a line item will need to be put in future budgets for this expense. Due to shoulder surgery of Guckenbergl, he will not be able to install buoys this spring so Heeler volunteered to head up the buoy installation with help from Guckenbergl and his GPS once the ice is out.

**12. St. Germain Lakes Committee Report:** As a member of St. Germain Town Lake’s committee, Heeler presented the action that the Lake’s Committee is working on, namely the Lake Management Plan for all St. Germain lakes except for those already under a plan (Lost and Little Saint). The major points of this draft plan include the following: Protect water quality; Reduce shoreline runoff; Expand education on lake management and safety; Manage and reduce AIS in town lakes; and, Protect native aquatic plants. Ritter also brought up the possibility of having a town-wide fisheries management plan that might help Lost and other town lakes improve walleye and other fisheries. In reference to the water quality point, Heeler asked for volunteers to perform water clarity tests using a Secchi disk as well as taking water samples during the summer so that we have a record for future studies. Eckerman and Guckenbergl volunteered for this duty and will contact the DNR or Vilas County staff for training.

**13. Other Commissioner Comments/Concerns:** Eckerman stated that the DNR will give us an up-dated contact list for future purchases of extended growth walleye due to our previous vendor supplying smaller-than-average size fish. Guckenberg reminded everyone of the March 8-12 WI Lakes Conference (virtual) and that the packet of info on the conference has Secchi disk training info. Truppe reaffirmed the need for a fish management plan in light of ever-changing lake conditions.

**14. Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m. The next regularly scheduled LLPRD meeting is set for Thursday, April 29, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gary Heeler  
LLPRD Secretary