

Lost Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
APPROVED Minutes
May 5, 2022, 2nd Qtr Commissioners' Meeting

- 1. Call to Order:** Chairman Eckerman called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
2. Verify Posting of Meeting: Commissioner Heeler stated the meeting was posted 4-23-2022.

- 3. Roll Call:** Quorum was established:

Present: Heeler, Ritter, Guckenberger, Anderson, Eckerman, Truppe, Ulett

Excused: None

Others Present: Eddie Heath of Onterra; DNR reps of Kevin Gauthier, James Yach, Tom Aarrtila, and Greg Seale; Cathy Higley of Vilas Cty (all via Zoom); and 11 Lost Lake property owners (5 via Zoom and 6 in attendance). Eckerman had DNR staff introduce themselves.

- 4. Approval of February 3, 2022, Commissioner Meeting Minutes:**

On Motion by Ritter, second Ulett, minutes of the Feb 3, 2022, LLPRD commissioner meeting were unanimously approved.

5. Treasurer's Report: Truppe reported that on 11/30/21 treasury was at \$107,447.62 and that since then he wrote checks to Onterra \$2,591.50 and \$923.00; J&J Services \$230.00; and Business Connection \$1,014.00. He deposited tax levy of \$7,238.86 and CBCW grant reimbursement of \$2,244.40, bringing 2-28-22 (end of fiscal qtr) balance to \$112,172.38. Since then he has written checks to Business Connection for \$109.02, John Eckerman \$104.20 (AIS newspaper ad); UW-Oshkosh \$3,114.48 (CBCW); and Schmidt's Aquatic \$39.25 bringing 05-05-22 balance to \$108,805.43. He has checks to be deposited from Tax Levy \$6,899.94; DNR-CBCW \$750.00; and AIS CLP grant of \$10,442.25.

6. Public Comments: None given.

7. CLP/EWM updates/action: Onterra's Eddie Heath started the AIS discussion by reminding everyone that the LLPRD completed a Lake management plan in 2019 that is now in the process of being updated due to the emergence of EWM. He asked for DNR input as to how we move forward after our 2022 herbicide permit was denied even though herbicide treatments were planned for in our 2019 Management Plan which was approved by the DNR. Chairman Eckerman asked the DNR reps to explain the reasons for denial. Mr Yach explained the main reasons for denial were of their concern of possibly harming native aquatic plants and concerns for the wild rice growing in Lost Creek. Yach did express his hope that the DNR and LLPRD can work together on a solution to our AIS problem. Eckerman explained the new stakeholder survey/management plan underway where we had over 60% survey return rate. Commissioner Anderson asked the DNR what weight is put on the results of the survey in determining future DNR action. Yach responded saying the survey is very important but it does not sway scientific data. After extended discussion, Eckerman finally asked the DNR what is the next step in joint planning of our new lake management plan? Yach replied that we need to identify goals of combating EWM and CLP and then meet with DNR and other entities to accomplish those goals; to which Ritter and Heath both responded by saying we did that before, and then asked what was wrong with our previous lake plan that was only three years old? Seale responded that the DNR would bring in state experts for this plan. Yach empathized that the DNR and the LLPRD both want the same thing, a vibrant and healthy Lost Lake. Discussion then turned to other key players in herbicide decisions including the Lac du Flambeau tribe (LDF) who have concerns with the wild rice growing in Lost Creek. Anderson asked who in the LDF should we contact? Ulett asked if DNR/LDF meeting minutes dealing with LLPRD matters could be obtained, to

which Yach said, yes, they are not confidential. Heath said we have met with the LDF in the past, and they always have been and always will be against herbicide treatment on Lost Lake. To conclude, Eckerman asked for a final decision on LLPRD's direction after the denial of a CLP herbicide permit this spring by the DNR. After discussion about whether or not to consider court action to obtain a herbicide permit, Anderson made motion that we pursue a herbicide permit through the court system, but motion died for lack of a second. As a result, the LLPRD will continue working with the DNR and Onterra via meetings to alleviate the AIS problems in Lost Lake. Eckerman, Heath, and Yach will set up meetings in near future to work on Lost Lake's new lake management plan and goals.

8. EWM Treatment Grant Application and Survey Results: EWM treatment and grant info was discussed along with the LLPRD's new lake management plan in Item 7 above. The draft stakeholder survey has been sent to riparians and is still being finalized by Onterra.

9. Review Goals and Action Steps of 2019 Lake Management Plan: Due to lack of time tonight, Ritter asked that we put this item on next meeting agenda so we can review goals and action steps of our 2019 Lake Management Plan.

10. Report on WI Lake and Rivers Conference: Eckerman shared his experience at the April conference saying it was well worth attending due to seminars on the walleye fishery, climate changes to lakes, lake water analysis, shoreline problems, and most importantly, Eckerman said, was the interaction between the attendees including Governor of WI, WI DNR (who then agreed to attend tonight's meeting), county officials, riparians, and many lake improvement contractors.

11. Dam Operators and Schedules: Heeler informed commissioners of the schedules of Lost Creek dam operators (and backup) throughout the year. Heeler stated that all dam or lake level concerns should be directed to him not to dam tenders. Eric Eade is tender in winter/spring (Jeff Heeler--backup); Jack Peil is summer/fall tender (G Heeler/Eade backup).

12. Geese over-population Update: Eckerman explained the process of reducing the number of geese on the lake. First step is to find the geese nests so initial step of coating the eggs is taken, and then trapping would occur at Vandervort Park in July if the population is still too great. All permits have been obtained and the town has approved use of the park. Eckerman stressed that lake people need to scout shorelines (generally in swampy areas) to find and report to him the location of the geese nests. Email: jjack@charter.net or phone/text 715-213-6183.

13. Approval of Expenditure of Town's Lake improvement Funds: Guckenberg stated that the LLPRD has \$939.00 in the town's Lake Improvement Fund that needs to be spent by year-end or it is lost. Anderson made motion, second Guckenberg, to use the bill from the goose abatement contractor (apprx \$1,800) to recoup the \$939. Motion passed unanimously.

14. St. Germain Lakes Committee Report: Eric Eade of Lakes Committee presented report listing main items discussed at last Lake Committee meeting: (1) The committee is setting up a Facebook page entitled "St. Germain Lakes Committee" that will disseminate local lake issues to followers. (2) Discussion was held on wake boat waves and their impact. (3) Second draft of Boater Courtesy code was reviewed. (4) Boater safety patrol issue was revisited but more lake stakeholder surveys are needed to gauge interest. (5) No fishery committee report.

15. Clean Boats Clean Waters 2022 Update: Heeler reported that 18 Lost Lake people received a one-hour CBCW re-certification and four people attended a two-hour initial certification course giving the LLPRD 26 hours of logged time on our way to the 84 needed of volunteer boat inspection time at the boat landing. He thanked Vilas County's Cathy Higley for putting on the seminars specifically for Lost Lake people. When the UW Oshkosh interns boat inspector's

schedule is finalized, Heeler will send it out to all local boat inspectors so they can choose their times at the boat landing.

16. Town of St. Germain Fishery Committee Update: Guckenberg reported that no meeting was held this spring but will be scheduled for later this month.

17. Walleye Stocking Update: Heeler is now working with Silver Moon Hatchery that hopes to have walleye available for us this fall. The owner will contact Heeler in June if he is able to get fish for us and has estimated cost of about \$2.25/walleye plus \$200 shipping. Heeler was authorized to spend the same amount of money on walleye as was approved at the 2021 LLPRD Elector Meeting of \$5,000.

18. Marker Buoy Installation Status: Truppe reported that J&J Services successfully installed all the marker buoys earlier today with the help of Commissioner Guckenberg. Guckenberg volunteered to help with future buoy installation/removal to help prevent damage to J&J's props.

19. Commissioner Communications, Meeting Agenda Items, and Concerns: (1) The next LLPRD meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 7, 7:00 p.m. (2) Heeler stated that future grant budgets will have to be more closely monitored for spending amounts because our 2019-21 CLP grant budget was \$20K over what was actually spent on herbicides.

20. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Gary Heeler
LLPRD Secretary