

LAKE EAU CLAIRE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Annual Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2016: 10:00AM @ Augusta Lions Hall

200 East Lincoln Street, Augusta, Wi 54722

1. Call to Order and Welcome: Marlo Orth – District President

- Marlo Orth called to order the Annual Meeting and welcomed all for attending and thanked everyone for their support and participation.
- Rod Zika and Fred Poss were recognized for their contributions to Lake Eau Claire, and all of the volunteers who have contributed many hours of time and labor.
- Thank Lions Club and John Selz for their assistance with this meeting.
- Introduction of Board Members: Marlo Orth-Chairman, Dean Boehne-Treasurer, Mike O'Connor-Secretary, Gary Gibson-Vice Chair and Eau Claire County Rep, and Lynn Norheim-Township of Bridge Creek Rep.

2. Minutes of August 15, 2015: Mike O'Connor – District Secretary

- Copies of minutes were made available to all participants. The Secretary will read minutes if requested.
- Motion to approve minutes: Joe Hisrich
- 2nd motion: Jan Lund
- Approved: voice vote.

3. Treasurer's Report: Dean Boehne - District Treasurer

- Presentation of Financial Statement by Dean Boehne.
- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Richard McHugh
- 2nd motion by voice vote: Vicki Reed
- Approved: voice vote

4. Audit Report: Dean Boehne

- Dean read audit report letter from auditor, Tammy Moss, Town of Bridge Creek Treasurer
- No Motion is required for this presentation.

5. Proposed Emergency Warning System: Lauren Lea

- Lauren Lea is a Girl Scout from Troop 3297 working for her Girl Scout Gold Award.
- For her project she has chosen to raise funds to have a Warning Siren installed on Lake Eau Claire to warn all in the area of severe storms entering the area,

- She estimates that this project will cost approximately \$25,000 and has raised approximately 15% of the needed funds at this time.
- She has been working with Eau Claire County, Town of Bridge Creek, and Town of Ludington.
- The siren will be installed at the site of the aeration control building on the North shore of Lake Eau Claire.
- The Lake District agreed to provide electricity to power the new siren.

6. Lake Association Presentation: Vicki Reed

- Presentation by Vicki Reed on behalf of Fred Poss, Lake Association President thanked everyone for their participation and help.
- The 10th annual Triathlon Fund Raiser met its projected financial goals, and recognition was given to Vicki Reed for her support and leadership.
- The 2nd annual Golf Tournament fund raiser was a great success and the Lake Association plans to continue this tournament next year.
- These fund raisers are needed and used to pay for expenses needed to support lake rehabilitation projects.
- Lake Eau Claire clothing continues to improve with increased sales.
- The Association/District web site is growing in popularity as the amount of information deemed valuable to the membership continues to grow as a resource to all of us.
- The Lake Association volunteers continue to obtain water samples for the DNR to test water quality in our lake.
- Marlo Orth informed the membership of the Army Corps of Engineers and Wisconsin DNR's visit to Lake Eau Claire and recognized our volunteers for the positive contributions they have given to Lake Eau Claire, and how this should be a model for all Lake Associations in Wisconsin.

7. Reports:

a. Fish Cribs: Vicki Reed

- 199 cribs have been installed at this time.

b. Tree Drops: Mike Lea

- Robin Walsh and Mike Lea coordinated the 50 trees dropped and cabled to the shore this past year.
- 40 more tree drops are planned for this coming year.

c. Cleaning of Troubled Waters Bridge and Gravel Pit traps and what this has accomplished: Rod Zika

- Rod Zika began his presentation by reviewing the current 2016 Lake Management Plan including studies of Lake Altoona to explain the dynamics and characteristics of Lake Eau Claire since we lack data of studies like Lake Altoona.
- Improve fish population: plan to increase fish habitat by adding 500 structures by 2020.

- Resolve sediment erosion problems: to control and reduce the sediment loading
- Restore lake acreage to the lake: try to restore the lake to its original 1300 acres.
- Improve water quality: reduce nutrient and control internal phosphorous loading.
- The Lake Eau Claire watershed includes 900 square miles.
- Rod provided illustrations of the spoils sites showing the amount of sedimentation that has been removed from Troubled Water and Gravel Pit traps.
- He also showed the results of the traps and how the river has improved with the reduction and elimination of sand bars as a result of the traps.
- Illustrations were provided by use of drone pictures taken at a height of 400 feet showing river bank erosion in addition to sediment loading.
- The drone pictures helped identify the old or original river channels and how they have been affected by sedimentation and erosion but are now improving with the sand traps.
- The current Gravel Pit spoils site is nearly full and new sites need to be identified to meet the ongoing need for sediment deposition.

d. Aeration System: Rod Zika

- The aeration system will improve oxygenation thereby reducing algae blooms.
- Increased oxygenation has now proven to increase fish growth and decrease algae blooms.
- The aeration system will not totally resolve the phosphorous problem because we cannot control all of the agricultural run-off but will provide a significant improvement in our water quality.
- The 2 year report on the effectiveness of our aeration system has been all positive without any noted problems or concerns.
- The radio transponders attached to fish (8-walleye) 7 were found to have moved into the deeper end of the lake when the aeration system was turned on.

e. Shoreline Restoration Initiative: Vicki Reed

- The Lake Association is promoting a shoreline restoration project to be located on the north shore of Lake Eau Claire on the aeration system property. This project is to promote effective shoreline restoration techniques such as vegetation and tree coverage.

f. Muskrat and Hay Creek new sediment trap proposal: Rod Zika

- Hay Creek represents a 40.6 square mile watershed, and Muskrat Creek represents a 34 square mile watershed.
- Hay Creek is primarily farmland for run-off of nutrients and sedimentation with significant erosion banks.
- Hay Creek trap needs to be enlarged and relocated. More study needed.
- Muskrat Creek: A trap needs to be installed. More study needed.

- Rod sited Ayers Associates engineering survey to estimate the costs projected for these traps are: Hay Creek 3000 cu. yard trap: \$24,000 initial and \$10,000 annual maintenance, Muskrat Creek 5000 cu. yd. trap: \$40,000 initial and \$17,200 annual maintenance. Maintenance based on cleaning cost of \$8.00 per yard to clean traps.
- Success of the traps should be comparable to success with troubled Waters and Gravel Pit traps.

g. Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition: Chris Straight

- Chris Straight presented an update of the Eau Claire River Watershed Coalition that includes Lake Eau Claire, Lake Altoona, and Mead Lake including 880 square miles.
- Counties include: Eau Claire, Clark, Chippewa, Taylor, and Jackson.
- Chris presented handout and access to the current web site to provide information now and in the future. Formation of the Coalition began in 2015.
- Watershed Coalition is primarily, by Federal Law (319 Plan), on nonpoint source of pollution dedicated primarily to phosphorous reduction.
- Chris reviewed required goals for a watershed coalition and what it will take for funds to be available to Lake Eau Claire.

8. 2017 Proposed Budget: Dean Boehne – action

- Motion to accept proposed 2017 Budget as presented: Richard McHugh
- 2nd motion: Joe Hisrich
- Approved at the proposed Tax Levy of 1.75 mil rate

9. Proposed Tax Levy to meet proposed budget: Dean Boehne - action

- The 1.75 mil rate is recommended by the Board to be approved in the 2017 Proposed Annual Budget.
- 1.75 Mil Rate levy approved for 2017 Budget.

10. Elect one commissioner for three year term:

- Marlo Orth was nominated by Joe Hisrich for open Board of Commissioners position.
- No other nominations.
- As a result of a written secret ballot (29 votes for Marlo Orth), Marlo Orth was voted in for a 3 year term

11. Other Business:

- Advisory Motion presented to setup a recommendation to address sedimentation traps at Hay Creek and Muskrat Creek when the Troubled Waters and Gravel Pit traps are under control prior to any other traps being considered: Jean Barganz
- 2nd motion: Jan Lund
- Approved as advisory recommendation to be considered by District Board

12. Motion to destroy the ballots: Marlo Orth

- Motion to destroy ballots: Joe Hisrich
- 2nd motion: Vicki Reed
- Motion approved: voice vote

13. Date and time for next year's annual meeting (Suggest August 19, 2017 10:00am at Augusta Lions Hall, 200 East Lincoln Street, Augusta, WI 54722).

- Motion to accept recommended Annual Meeting date, time, and place: Mike O'Connor
- 2nd motion: Dennis Knott
- Approved: voice vote

14. Adjourn:

- Marlo Orth