

**CROOKED LAKE AREA LAKES
PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
MINUTES OF THE
COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

May 4, 2019

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District was held on Saturday, May 4, 2019 at Crooked Lake Community Center in the Town of Riverview, Wisconsin. The following were in attendance:

Commissioners: Jayme VanCampenhout, Chair
Matt Connell, Treasurer
Curt Hoffmann
Brian A. Webb, Secretary

Also present: Judy Buhrandt, Town of Riverview
Jim Zittlow, Town of Riverview
Eddie Heath, Onterra, LLC

Chair VanCampenhout called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. CST. He conducted a roll call confirmation of attendees and verified that all participants could hear each other speak. Mr. VanCampenhout presided and Mr. Webb acted as secretary.

After affirming that no directors present declared any conflicts of interest with any agenda topics nor suggested any agenda changes Mr. VanCampenhout continued with the meeting.

Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting

Mr. VanCampenhout presented a resolution upon a motion duly made by Mr. Connell, seconded by Mr. Hoffmann and carried; the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

***RESOLVED**, that the minutes of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District meeting held on March 2, 2019 and presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.*

Mr. VanCampenhout then asked Mr. Eddie Heath, of Onterra, LLC to provide the board a summary of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Comprehensive Management Plan. Mr. Heath began by explaining that the District embarked on creating the Plan several years ago due to the presence of invasive aquatic plant species; in particular Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and Curly-Leafed Pondweed (CLP). The creation of a Plan would rely solely on scientific data to foster realistic expectations and to dispel myths. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) recommends lakes conducting active

management of the Plan every five years. Keeping approved plans up to date makes the sponsor eligible for WDNR grants.

The Plan assessed the overall water quality of the lakes and determined that the lakes condition could be considered as “excellent” for deep headwater drainage lakes. There was some indication that the water clarity had diminished slightly on Crooked Lake over the last few years. Measurements of phosphorus and chlorophyll-a were found to be very low when compared to other drainage lakes.

Mr. Heath acknowledged that the presence of zebra mussels was found on Crooked Lake in 2018. Based upon calcium content, lakes are in low-moderate susceptibility of zebra mussel establishment. The board plans to place several zebra mussel substrate samplers at various locations in Crooked Lake to detect any proliferation of the species.

Mr. Heath described the management goal is to maintain current water quality conditions. Monitoring water quality and clarity via the WDNR Citizens Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN) will remain the focus going forward.

Mr. Heath continued with a presentation of the area lakes watershed and attributed the overall healthy state of the area lakes’ water quality to the lack of agricultural acreage in the watershed. An assessment of the area’s shoreline was conducted and nearly half of the lake’s shoreline is considered urbanized. Natural shorelines are important for buffering and filtering runoff of harmful chemicals, e.g. phosphorus, and the woody habitat is a valuable habitat for aquatic and terrestrial wildlife. The WDNR does not plan to scrutinize lake shorelines on a property-by-property basis; it would rather educate property owners on the benefits of creating a more natural shoreline habitat.

Mr. Heath then discussed in detail the presence of invasive aquatic plant species in the Crooked Lake area lakes and efforts to monitor and mitigate them over the years. He reiterated that the area lakes by comparison, have low levels of invasive species which could be attributed to the diligent efforts to control them. These efforts have included both herbicide treatments and hand-harvesting. The board has decided to embark on herbicide treatment in select areas of the lake as opposed to the more expensive hand-harvesting (DASH) methods in 2019.

Mr. Heath acknowledged the board’s exploration of resuming mechanical weed cutting to improve navigability on the lake. He predicts that the WDNR would not likely allow multi-year permitting of weed cutting but would allow annual permitting of cutting weeds in pre-approved areas.

Mr. Heath concluded by describing various management actions going forward including conducting periodic riparian stakeholder surveys, continuing stakeholder education, and the District’s involvement with other entities that have responsibilities in managing the Crooked Lake area lakes. Boating safety and regulations should be emphasized. Mr. Heath then thanked the board and left the meeting.

Mr. Connell then presented the treasurer's report which reflected the lower expenditure of \$3,120 for the lake study by Onterra due to the decision to not monitor and survey the presence of curly-leaf pondweed in 2019.

Mr. Hoffmann reported that the estimate to evaluate the condition of the mechanical harvester is \$1,000. A motion was made by Mr. Connell and seconded by Mr. Hoffmann to approve the expenditure not to exceed \$1,000 for the evaluation.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Mr. Webb presented a resolution upon a motion duly made, seconded by Mr. Hoffmann and carried; the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLVED, that the report of the Treasurer of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District and presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.

Committee Reports

Mechanical Harvesting

Mr. Hoffmann led a discussion regarding the mechanical harvester and reported that the board plans to apply for a permit from the WDNR to conduct weed cutting. He described the need to consider all aspects of operating the harvester including the tractor needed to pull it to the boat landing, the likelihood of needing to compensate those who operate the equipment versus volunteer hours, and maintaining the equipment. Mr. Hoffmann plans to confer with Mr. Ken Kerkhoff in the very near future regarding the operation and maintenance of the unit.

Education

A brief discussion regarding education ensued due to the absence of Mr. Babler. Postcards regarding education have been mailed to the appropriate stakeholders.

Clean Boats Clean Water

Mr. Webb reported that volunteer hours have been logged on the WDNR SWIMS web portal and that the necessary volunteer hour reimbursement forms have been submitted. The volunteer hours logged in 2019 did not meet the 200 hour threshold established for the CBCW57618 grant which means that the board will likely need to reimburse the WDNR for the advanced payment of \$937.50. Mr. Webb urged that the board should publically encourage attendees of the District Annual Meeting to consider volunteering for the CBCW education program.

Lakes Management Plan

The board discussed the notification to affected shoreline property owners of the application of herbicide to an approximately two acre area of Crooked Lake in an effort to mitigate Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). Mr. VanCamphenout has picked up the necessary signs which will be posted near the treatment areas.

Mr. VanCamphenout presented the zebra mussel substrate samplers and Mr. Webb agreed to outfit the samplers with the necessary cables to affix them to docks along the shoreline.

The meeting concluded with a discussion regarding the upcoming Annual Meeting scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 25 at the Wally Remic Community Center. The board will summarize the Management Plan and feature select slides from the Onterra presentation for attendees of the meeting. Other topics to be covered include the notice of the new Sheriff's Deputy for northern Oconto County and the pending new Town of Riverview ordinance regulating the operation of golf carts on area roads.

Adjournment

There being no further business and upon a motion duly made (Mr. Connell), seconded (Mr. Hoffmann) and carried; the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m. CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian A. Webb, Secretary