

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

May 25, 2019

The Annual Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District was held on Saturday, May 25, 2019 at Crooked Lake Community Center in the Town of Riverview, Wisconsin. The following were in attendance:

Commissioners: Jayme VanCampenhout, Chair
Barry Babler
Matt Connell, Treasurer
Curt Hoffmann
Dave Van Zeeland
Brian A. Webb, Secretary

Also present: Judy Buhrandt, Oconto County Board Supervisor
Jim Zittlow, Town of Riverview

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. Webb 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 May 4, 2019 and presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.*

Mr. Connell then presented the treasurer's report and described expenses for the annual meeting newsletter (\$92.29), the lake study (\$5,093.35), and the chemical herbicide treatment (\$2,865.30). Revenue from the tax assessment was \$10,200. As of May 25, 2019 cash on hand (checking account) is \$13,760.79 and the balance on the District's certificate of deposit is \$15,610.73.

Approval of Property Assessment Fee

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

RESOLVED, that the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District has authorized a tax assessment of \$50 per each riparian tax parcel on Crooked, Gilkey, and Bass Lakes respectively, for the 2019 tax year. The resolution presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.

Approval of Treasurer's Report

Mr. Hoffmann presented a resolution upon a motion duly made, seconded by Mr. Babler 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

Lakes Management Plan

Mr. VanCampenhout asked Mr. Webb to present a summary of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Comprehensive Management Plan. Mr. Webb explained that he would present an abbreviated summary of the Plan presented to the board by Eddie Heath of Onterra, LLC on May 4, 2019. Mr. Webb shared that the first attempts to create an area lakes management plan began in 1995. He also provided reasons for establishing a plan which include an effort to get a better understanding of the area lakes positive and negative qualities, foster realistic expectations and dispel myths via collection of scientific data, and to remain eligible for any Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) grants.

Mr. Webb continued with an overview of the area lakes water quality and the methodology to collect data including the levels of phosphorus and chlorophyll-a, indicators of water quality. Onterra also uses a device known as the Secchi disk to measure water transparency. Overall, the area lakes water quality could be described as “excellent” compared to datasets of comparable lakes. It was noted however, that there has been a modest decrease in water clarity in Crooked Lake since 1993.

Mr. Webb reported that the first evidence of zebra mussels in the area lakes was in 2018 when specimens were detected near the dock of the former Pines Restaurant in Crooked Lake. Mr. Webb shared that the area lakes have calcium concentrations that fall into the low susceptibility range for zebra mussel establishment. Nonetheless, the board wishes to monitor the zebra mussel population and Mr. Webb displayed WDNR approved zebra mussel collection plates which will be submerged at various locations throughout the lake system. Mr. Webb asked meeting attendees to consider volunteering to place the plates near their docks.

Mr. Webb then described the area lake’s respective watersheds and with the aid of a slide showing a map of the watersheds showed that the watershed is comprised mostly of wetlands and forests. Very few row crops are cultivated within the watershed which accounts for the low quantities of phosphorus in our lakes.

Mr. Webb continued with an assessment of the area lakes shoreline and shared that 45% of the shoreline is considered to be urbanized, e.g. no natural habitat with mowed lawns, and 30% of the shoreline is natural and undeveloped. Natural shorelines provide a buffer zone to filter runoff and provide a natural habitat for fish, birds, and wildlife. Coarse woody habitat in particular is conducive for wildlife and spawning fish. Mr. Webb described efforts by the Sportmans Club to place fish cribs in the area lakes and provide more coarse woody habitat. Mr. Webb noted that the WDNR respects the rights of riparian property owners and has no plans to police individual properties regarding their shoreline condition. They do encourage property owners to consider creating more natural shorelines.

Mr. Webb then summarized efforts to study aquatic plants in the area lakes and detailed the presence of two invasive aquatic plant species, curly-leafed pondweed (1st detected in 2015) and Eurasian watermilfoil (1st detected in 2002). Efforts to mitigate the invasive species over the last decade have included the use of herbicides and hand harvesting removal efforts. Hand harvesting via scuba divers (DASH) over the last three years have successfully reduced populations of curly-leafed pondweed although the costs are prohibitive (approximately \$3,000 per day). Concentrations of Eurasian watermilfoil in what could be described as protected areas of Crooked Lake led the board to employ the use of herbicide to a two acre area in May of 2019. Permits were applied for, affected property owners notified, and informational signs were posted to comply with WDNR regulations.

Mr. Webb shared that Onterra conducted stakeholder surveys as part of the Plan and reported that 50% - 60% of riparian property owners supported either herbicide treatment and/or hand harvesting to mitigate the spread of invasive aquatic plants. 85% of stakeholders did *not* support a “do nothing” approach.

Mr. Webb continued with the subject of both native and non-native nuisance aquatic plant populations. Populations of aquatic plants are cyclical and impacted by heat and sunlight levels throughout the growing season. During some seasons, abundant aquatic plants inhibit watercraft navigation and the Board has begun plans to resume mechanical weed cutting and harvesting. Onterra has agreed to assist in the permitting process with the WDNR and the Board has budgeted resources to evaluate the condition of the weed cutter. Mr. Hoffmann will provide more details later in the meeting.

Mr. Webb concluded with the Plan emphasizing boater safety and the need to educate the public regarding boating regulations and lake rules.

Finally, several questions were asked by the meeting attendees and were answered.

Town of Riverview Supervisor Zittlow shared that the Town Board was working on an ordinance regarding the rental of properties. The current ordinance does not allow for short-term rental of vacation properties. The advent of Air BnB has made it necessary for the Board to consider revising current laws and a new ordinance may be approved in the next 30 days.

Mr. Zittlow also reported that a new ordinance regarding the operation of golf carts on township roads may be approved in the next 30 days. Speed limit signs must be posted on area roads for the ordinance, which requires golf cart operators to possess a valid driver’s license, to be enacted.

Mechanical Harvesting

Mr. Hoffmann described the permitting process with the WDNR for mechanical weed cutting and harvesting. Onterra has presented the board with a preliminary proposal detailing the areas where weed cutting is likely needed and compliant with regulations. Mr. Hoffmann shared that the board had authorized funds to have the equipment, which has been idle for several years, evaluated for potential repairs. Maintenance, operation, and storage of the unit are continuing issues which need further attention.

Education

Mr. Babler described the various ways that the board has communicated with stakeholders including Mr. Webb's summary of the Plan presented earlier. The District's Facebook page and website are ongoing efforts to educate the public. Recently, the District distributed its most recent newsletter via the U.S. Postal Service and email.

Mr. Babler also reported that signs were posted at each riparian property adjacent to the area where herbicide was used in a select area of Crooked Lake recently.

Mr. Babler also shared that laminated information cards were prepared and have been placed at three different boat landings. The cards detail lake rules and boating and watercraft laws to promote safety.

Mr. Babler concluded by sharing that the District wishes to continue working closely with the Sportsman Club in an effort to protect the area lakes for generations to come.

Clean Boats Clean Water

Mr. Webb reminded the attendees that the District successfully applied for a WDNR grant in 2018 which would reimburse volunteers that participated in the CBCW boat inspection and education initiative. Last season volunteers logged over 63 hours which, unfortunately, fell short of the grant's 200 volunteer hour threshold. Consequently, no dollars will be reimbursed and the Board must reimburse the WDNR for dollars sent to the Board in advance of the season. Mr. Webb said that the Board remains committed to CBCW and urged attendees to volunteer. CBCW volunteer kits are available at the Crooked Lake Convenience store on County W. Mr. Webb also no grants were available for 2019 and there may be no grants for CBCW going forward from the WDNR.

In other business, Mr. VanCampenhout announced that his term on the Board has expired and that this was his last board meeting. Therefore, there exists a vacancy on the board and Mr. VanCampenhout asked if anyone would be willing to serve. Robert Sipiorski then announced his willingness to serve.

Jane Porubcan then made a motion seconded by Mr. Hoffmann to nominate Mr. Sibiorski to the Board.

Election of Board Commissioner

***RESOLVED**, that Robert Sibiorski has hereby been elected to serve as a Commissioner on the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Board for a term of one year. The resolution presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.*

In other business, Linda Connell requested that the Board approve the placement of two informational signs regarding the protection of the common loon. The Board approved the placement of the signs at two boat landings.

Mr. Hoffmann thanked Mr. VanCampenhout for his many years of service as a commissioner and chairperson and asked the audience to join him in a round of applause.

Adjournment

There being no further business and upon a motion duly made (Mr. Connell), seconded (Mr. Hoffmann) and carried; the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m. CDT.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian A. Webb, Secretary