

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

**May 9, 2020**

A meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District was held on Saturday, May 9, 2020 at the Crooked Lake Community Center in the Town of Riverview, Wisconsin. The following were in attendance:

**Commissioners:** Matt Connell, Chair  
Barry Babler  
Curt Hoffman (alternate)  
Bob Sipiorski, Treasurer  
Dave Van Zeeland  
Brian A. Webb, Secretary

**Also present:** Judy Buhrandt, Oconto County Board Supervisor  
Jane Porubcan  
Pat Porubcan  
Jim Zittlow, Town of Riverview

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

After affirming that no directors present declared any conflicts of interest with any agenda topics Mr. Connell asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Hearing none, he proceeded with the meeting.

**Approval of Minutes from Prior Meeting**

Mr. Connell presented a resolution upon a motion duly made by Mr. Babler, seconded by Mr. Sipiorski 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 February 22, 2020 and presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.*

Mr. Sipiorski then presented the treasurer's report and reported that the District's bank balance as of May 6, 2020 was \$10,008. and the balance on the District's certificate of deposit is \$15,636. for a total of \$25,644. The 2020 budget expects an expenditure of \$4,036. for the lake study, \$4,295. for the lake survey, and \$10,451. for chemical treatment for invasive aquatic plant species. Previous years' lake studies, lake surveys, chemical treatment, and DASH harvesting was funded largely through Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources grants. Mr. Sipiorski and Mr. Porubcan reported that future funding from DNR grants is highly unlikely. Mr. Sipiorski estimated that the District would run out of funds in twelve to eighteen months and raised the option of increasing the tax assessment to fund continuing efforts to protect lake quality.

After a discussion regarding tax assessment, Mr. Van Zeeland moved to propose increasing the tax assessment from \$50 per tax parcel to \$100 per parcel annually. Mr. Babler seconded the motion.

### **Approval of Tax Assessment Proposal**

*RESOLVED, that the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District Board of Supervisors will present to the riparian land owners of the District a proposal to increase the annual tax assessment to \$100 for their approval at the next annual meeting. This proposal, presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.*

### **Approval of Treasurer's Report**

Mr. Van Zeeland presented a resolution upon a motion duly made, seconded by Mr. Webb 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.*

### **New Business**

Mr. Connell asked Mr. Porubcan to provide a summary of the activities to be conducted by Onterra regarding aquatic invasive plant species. Mr. Porubcan reminded the board that they approved the expenditure not to exceed \$12,000 for Onterra to conduct a lake survey, obtain the necessary permit from the DNR, and chemically treat targeted areas of Crooked Lake in an effort to control the spread of Eurasian Water Milfoil. The necessary permit has been secured and treatment is scheduled for June 2020.

Mr. Connell then began a discussion regarding the need to reschedule the District's annual meeting due to the state mandated stay-at-home order during the current Covid-19 pandemic. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Webb and seconded by Mr. Van Zeeland to move the meeting to Saturday, September 5, 2020.

## **Approval of Date of Annual Meeting**

*RESOLVED, that the annual meeting of the Crooked Lake Area Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District will be held on Saturday, September 5, 2020 at the Crooked Lake Community Center and presented to the Board of Commissioners at this meeting, be and hereby are, approved.*

## **Committee Reports**

### **Mechanical Harvesting**

Mr. Hoffmann and Mr. Porubcan reported that the weed cutter remains off shore and its condition has yet to be assessed. At minimum, the weed cutter will need a new set of batteries and the tractor, which transports both the weed cutter and the trailer used to haul the cut weeds, is also in disrepair. Based on the low level of weeds in the area lakes in recent years, Mr. Babler suggested that the board should consider not spending funds to get the equipment operational. He also reminded the board that we do not have a defined group of volunteers willing to maintain and operate the equipment. The board agreed to abandon efforts to have the weed cutter operational in 2020. The board also agreed to continue storing the weed cutter and readdress the use of the equipment in the future.

### **Education**

Mr. Babler presented two printed posters depicting the areas targeted for chemical herbicide treatment for invasive aquatic plant species. In addition, Mr. Babler prepared one hundred informational brochures regarding invasive species. He had planned on attending the Sportsmen's Club annual meeting and picnic scheduled for July 4 to inform attendees of the District's efforts to control such species. It is unclear if the meeting will be held due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mr. Babler also reported that the laminated informational cards detailing lake rules and boating safety will be placed at the area lake's boat landings in the near future.

### **Clean Boats Clean Water**

Mr. Webb reported that volunteer efforts to inform boaters of state laws written to curb the spread of invasive aquatic plant species will continue. Volunteer kits are available at the Crooked Lake convenience store and Mr. Webb encouraged the commissioners to consider volunteering.

### **Zebra Mussels**

Mr. Webb detailed the efforts made in 2019 to collect samples from Wisconsin DNR zebra mussel plates. Samples were collected from four of the five substrate samplers following DNR procedures. Material was scraped off each sampler and placed in jars filled with 99% alcohol. The jars were labeled and Mr. Webb delivered the jars with the corresponding documents to the WI DNR field office in Oshkosh, WI last fall. DNR representatives would deliver the samples to the appropriate DNR office which analyzes the samples. Mr. Webb noted that the local DNR offices have been closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic which may explain why he has yet to obtain results from the sample testing. Mr. Webb plans to continue efforts to get results from the sampling efforts. He will also sterilize the substrate samplers then reach out to those who participated in the study and ask if they would agree to participate again in 2020.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Connell then led a brief discussion addressing the potential of having further cooperation with the Sportsmen's Club. Mr. Babler agreed to contact club president Dan Jonet and discuss opportunities.

Mr. Connell described recent activity regarding the Firewise Program. The Wisconsin DNR has partnered with Firewise USA, a national program designed to help fire-prone areas improve wildfire readiness. The project is designed to encourage property owners groups to take preventative action before a wildfire occurs. The District received an initial grant to pilot a brush pick up effort scheduled for the week of July 20. J & J Excavating will assist in the brush pick up efforts. Selected area property owners have agreed to have a home assessment conducted on their properties. Efforts to secure a second grant estimated at \$3,000 have begun.

Mrs. Porubcan reminded the commissioners to submit any topics to be addressed for the upcoming edition of the District newsletter. Potential topics include the Firewise program, Clean Boats Clean Waters, zebra mussels, and boating rules and boating safety.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business and upon a motion duly made (Mr. Webb), seconded (Mr. Babler) and carried; the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

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Brian A. Webb, Secretary

