

Lake Puckaway Protection & Rehabilitation District Board Meeting

Thursday, November 2, 2023 | 6:30 P.M.

Mecan Town Hall

W1561 Evergreen Ln, Montello, WI 53949

Board Members Present

- Willy Stalker, Chairman
- Jaimes Johnson, Treasurer
- John Harter, Commissioner
- Dustin Esselman, Commissioner
- Maddy Wergin, Secretary/Town of Mecan Appointee

Board Members Absent

- Bob Schweder, Green Lake County Appointee

Guests

- Brandon Oberleitner, Cason Land & Water Management, LLC
- Nate, Cason Land & Water Management, LLC

Call to Order/Roll Call

- Meeting called to order by Willy at 6:38 pm. Roll call taken as reflected above.

Agenda Review

- Dustin makes motion to add special meeting regarding the 2024 proposed budget as an agenda item. Seconded by John. Motion passed.
- No other changes or additions to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes from October 4, 2023

- Dustin makes motion to accept the October 4, 2023 minutes as presented on the website with the addition of Ted's written recommendation attached. Seconded by John. Motion passed.

Lake Management Plan

- Brandon gives overview of new items that were added to the Lake Management Plan (LMP) and states to use surveys as a means of gauging success. The LMP is still lacking harvesting information – LPPRD & Cason started working on addressing questions needed pertaining to the harvesting operation. Discussed harvesting vs herbicide treatment. Jaimes asks if we are past the point of qualifying for a grant or applying for the grant. Brandon states that Ted stated that the LMP needs to be out for 30 more days for public comment since new/substantial information was added (see below for Ted's email addressing this). LPPRD should still apply for the grant without the finalized LMP. In order to receive a grant, an approved LMP is needed. Brandon states that there is a disconnect between Cason/LPPRD/DNR on what is needed for the LMP. Representative Alex Dallman in attendance. Dallman asks if there are no direct guidelines for what is needed in a LMP or if Ted is making LPPRD add certain information to the LMP. Dallman asks if LPPRD already has an LMP. Paul Gettelman states that the LMP that was approved in 2017 is classified as a living document so changes and additions can be made to that. The current plan Cason is working on is an Aquatic Plant Management Plan

(APMP). Dallman states if communication is slipping between LPPRD and DNR, then he would be happy to set up a zoom call with Representation Plumer and Senator Baldwin (they did this with Buffalo Lake) – this essentially forces the DNR to discuss the needs/guidelines of LPPRD while Representatives/Senators moderate the discussion. Brandon states that Cason put the plan together, the draft plan was then approved by LPPRD members, and sent to Ted. Ted keeps asking for more information/clarification pertaining to the plan – but Brandon states a lot of the information he keeps asking for is already in the plan. No substantial information was added to the draft LMP that would call for more public information meetings. LPPRD should submit the grant and let the DNR reject it and receive information on what was needed. Jaimes states that we held three public information meetings regarding the LMP that were well attended and the changes that were added are not dramatically different than what was proposed at the three public information meetings. Nate suggests speaking with the DNR Secretary Director – Jean Romback-Bartels – this job is to get in the middle of controversial and problematic projects/topics. Discussion about additional items needed for the harvesting portion of the LMP. If the LMP is a living document, then we should be able to update as needed with more specific numbers once surveys come in and more info is known.

Special Meeting - 2024 Proposed Budget

- LPPRD needs to call a special meeting in order to vote on the 2024 proposed budget as we did not do this at the Annual Meeting. We need to officially approve a 2024 budget. Special Meeting will likely be held early December.

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

From: Johnson, Ted – DNR
Sent: October 30, 2023, 2:47 PM
Subject: Lake Puckaway Meeting

Hi All:

I'm supposed to be on annual leave all this week and half of next week (I've been scheduled off for two plus months). I heard about the proposed meeting and will not be able to attend.

The plan arguably should have been completed and department approved prior to the grant pre-application deadline. I tried to work with you to advance the plan to a point that it could be approved. As it turned out, a lot of modifications were needed and it still lacking key elements that are required by code. As per Lance's email, 48 pages of new material were added to the plan after the public notice period had expired. These additional pages with more additions to come, equates to a substantive change to the plan as compared to what was noticed to the public. What I'm saying here is that, even if we can advance the plan to a point where it can be approved in 15 days, you would still need to public notice it again for 30 days prior to receiving DNR approval. Consequently, an AIS control grant is not an option for this round but we should strive to apply next year.

I checked with Central Office and they agree with my opinion as to grant eligibility this round (Jennifer Jefferson – Grant Coordinator).

I'm sorry that it worked out this way.

If you have questions, Andy Hudak can possibly respond this week. Also, I'll be back next week Wednesday and could respond to you then.

Thanks,

Ted