

Lake Puckaway Protection & Rehabilitation District Board Meeting

Saturday, August 12, 2023 | 8:00 A.M.

Mecan Town Hall

W1561 Evergreen Ln, Montello, WI 53949

Board Members Present

- Willy Stalker, Chairman
- Jaimes Johnson, Treasurer
- John Harter, Secretary
- Dustin Esselman, Commissioner
- Bob Schweder, Green Lake County Appointee
- Maddy Wergin, Town of Mecan Appointee

Absent

- Greg Navulis, Commissioner

Call to Order/Roll Call

- Meeting called to order by Willy at 8:00am. Roll call taken as reflected above.

Agenda Review

- No changes or additions to the agenda

Approval of Minutes from July 22, 2023

- Overview of the minutes from July 22, 2023 were given by Maddy. Motion by Dustin to approve the July 22, 2023 meeting minutes. Seconded by John. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

- Jaimes read treasurer's report.
- LPPRD Treasurer's Report through 8/11/2023
 - Money Market → \$59,050.78
 - Checking #1 → \$11,060.73
 - Checking #2 → \$6,336.40
 - CD → \$21,620.28 (matures 9/27/23)
 - **Current Total → \$98,068.19**
 - August Levy → \$8,753.00
 - **End of August → \$106,821**
 - Upcoming Expenditures:
 - Cason (LMP, PI Survey, Fall Survey, Public info meeting charges) → \$20,000
 - Harvester → \$55,000
 - Misc. (Mailings, etc.) → \$5,000
 - **Estimated End of Year Balance → \$26,821.19**
- LPPRD received a donation of \$524 for AIS from Hickory Point Acres/Miller's Resort that is not reflected in the total balance above yet
- LPPRD put down a \$5,000 down payment for the weed harvester from Buffalo Lake. Total amount for the harvester/truck is \$50,000.

- Dustin makes motion to approve treasurer's report. Seconded by Bob. Motion passed.

District Member Detachment

- Phil Anastasi requested detachment from the district in a letter sent to some commissioners.
- Maddy states that more research is needed before a decision is made in order to remain fair and reasonable moving forward. Properties need to be examined individually not as a group.
- Jaimes states property owners have a right to request detachment from the district, but it is a complicated decision. Jaimes reached out to Dan Buckus for his expertise on the matter and he states that it's complicated and that you want to take your time to make such a decision and a process needs to be put in place in order to be consistent in decisions around detachment.
- Phil Anastasi gives an overview of the history of the Stamm Marine Plat.
- Jaimes asks if there is a timeframe Phil is expecting. Phil states no.
- John makes motion to table detachment discussion. Seconded by Dustin. Motion passed.

Annual Meeting

- **Mailings & Notices**
 - Time, place, agenda, proposed budget need to be given on the notice.
 - Postcards would work well for this year as it is the most cost effective.
 - Annual meeting notices need to be post marked 14 days prior to the annual meeting.
 - Notice needs to run in the newspaper (Marquette County Tribune & Berlin Journal) for 2 consecutive weeks.
- **Budget/Tax Levy Adjustment**
 - Jaimes states the current tax level brings in roughly \$34,000 (0.25 mil rate). As of now, there are many unknowns relating to costs (if LPPRD receive grants, how much herbicide treatment will be allowed by the DNR, etc.).
 - In regards to the tax levy, 85% gets paid to LPPRD in February and the remaining comes in August – this might cause a problem since there are likely a lot of front-end costs coming into next year.
 - LPPRD can borrow money from the Wisconsin Public Land Trust Commission. Jaimes questions if district members would be for taking on debt and discussion is needed at the annual meeting. Might be a good idea for the upcoming year as some costs are unknown. Special charge might work well in the future when costs are more concrete/known.
 - If the tax levy increases from 0.25 to 1.00 would bring in \$143,000 based on 2022 equalized value – would pay for doubling ProcellaCOR treatment (if allowed). LPPRD needs about \$15,000 to run the district. Combination of the potential loan plus smaller levy increase would allow for less of a burden on district members.
 - Loan money could go to a harvester – tax levy could go to herbicide treatment. Grant could potentially reimburse these costs (if received). But, some grants are reimbursement grants so the full amount is needed up front which the loan can help offset.

- The loan will cause the tax levy to increase in order to cover the payment of the loan.
- Borrowing money requires a special notice on the annual meeting agenda/notice.
- Virtual meeting is needed before the annual meeting to discuss this topic further.
- Jaimes is going to reach out to the Wisconsin Public Land Commission to inquire about more details in regards to loan details.

Weed Harvester Update

- LPPRD put a down payment on the Buffalo Lake weed harvester/trailer of \$5,000. John reached out to insurance companies and states having volunteers run the machines is not a great idea due to liability. Insurance would be based on what the payout for worker's compensation would be – roughly \$12,000 to \$15,000 to cover.
- Questions about if LPPRD could put the weed harvester employees on a municipality's insurance – more research/discussion is needed.

Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.