**LAKE PUCKAWAY PROTECTION AND REHIBILITATION DISTRICT (LPPRD)**

**COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

**Saturday, May 7, 2022 – 10:00 A.M.**

**Marquette Village Hall**

**Marquette, WI**

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| **Board Members Present** | |
| Paul Gettelman, Chairman | Jaimes Johnson, Treasure |
| Jeff Kimber, Commissioner | Jason Schlimgen, Secretary |
| Gary Wilson, Commissioner | Bob Schweder, Green Lake County Appointee |
| Willy Stalker, Commissioner |  |
| **Guest** | |
|  | Kristine Schlimgen, Clerk |
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| **Absent** | |
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| **Agenda Item** | **LPPRD COMMITTEE MEETING** | **Responsible Party** | **ACTION** |
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| **Meeting Called to Order** | The May 7, 2022, Lake Puckaway Protection and Rehabilitation District meeting was called to order 10:00 a.m. by Paul Gettelman. |  |  |
| **Open Meeting Certification** | The commissioners meeting was held at Marquette Village Town Hall. Published in the Markesan Reginal Reporter and Marquette Co. Tribune and posted on Facebook, Princeton Paper, the Lake District website. Hall donates the at no charge to allow the meetings to be held. |  |  |
| **Secretary’s Report** | Kristine Schlimgen summarized the minutes from the January 22, 2022, meeting. Motion Jeff Kimber and seconded by Willy Stalked made to approve the minutes. |  |  |
| **Treasure’s Report** | Jaimes anyone involved with lake management was there, DNR, UW-Stevens Point extension, and one piece was treasures class. Will notice a different layout as it is in the statute. Annual meeting will be a proposal of the next year budget. A lot of projections that have to happen with annual report. Only goes up into April and then forecast for remainder of year. Decided to not go forward with rough fish, DNR is no longer providing permits, so carried over allowing a surplus. |  |  |
| **Approve Agenda** | Paul asked for approval of the agenda with the flexibility to move around in the agenda. Motion made by Jeff Kimber and seconded by Gary Wilson to approve agenda. Motion carried. |  |  |
| **Old Business** | 1. DNR Update – Ted emailed his report 2. Princeton dam – Willy has been going every week to the dam and taking pictures, then sending them to Uriah. Uriah emailed his report Recap of this winter:  Dam operation plan was to keep a very little bit of flow going over the long crest at all times.  Log of dam operations this winter, below.  For reference, dam crest is 7.2 on the dam staff gage:  * One gate opened on 2/1.  Dam staff gage read 8.3 but was iced and reading may not have been accurate. * Second gate opened on 2/8.  Dam staff gage frozen over but estimated as 7.5 by observing a few inches of flow over the crest of the main dam. * Third gate opened three feet (out of four feet) on 2/15.  Dam staff gage frozen over but estimated as 7.5 by observing a few inches of flow over the crest of the main dam. * No automated USGS flow data available for February due to frozen river conditions. USGS conducted field measurement on 2/10, determining flow of 526 CFS. * All gates fully opened on 3/15.  River flow on this date 1250 CFS, with dam staff gage reading 8.2. * Remained at all full open status until bog issue occurred, discussed below.  Peak flow of 1710 CFS occurred on 4/7.  Dam is essentially at “submergence” at 1500 CFS – at this amount of flow or more, there is virtually no difference in water levels whether the gates are open or closed. * On 4/8, three gates were reduced to a 40% open status, one gate was reduced to 75% open status, one gate remained full open.  This was to try to keep the floating bog from migrating into the gates and either damaging them or getting material jammed in them.  Review of USGS flow rates in this time frame Gates remained at this status as bog gradually broke up and partially flushed over several weeks, with remaining bog removed by excavator on 5/2.  Gates returned to all full open status on 5/2.    The operation plan from now until early June is to operate the same as this winter/spring – keep gates open until/if water level drops to within 2”-3” over the crest of the main dam, then close gates as needed to retain this level.  This is roughly a staff gage reading of 7.4 to 7.5.  Dam operator makes a check twice a week (Mon and Thurs) and adjusts gates as necessary.  Rainfall thus far has been steady and adequate, and if flows are higher than 950 CFS the lake will stay higher than this even with all gates open.  USGS predicts that flows will remain in the 900 CFS to 1200 CFS range for the next few weeks, which means that most gates will likely remain open.  If flows drop to 900 CFS, it may result in similar levels as were experienced in late May last year, which resulted in some complaints about low water levels, but these levels are beneficial to the lake’s health, to shoreline stability, and for early-season agricultural operations.  For reference, the dam staff gage read 8.4 on 5/2, with a flow rate of 1300 CFS and all gates open.    Beginning in early June, remaining gates will be closed at an anticipated rate of 1 or 2 per week, depending on how many are open and depending on flow conditions.  Aim is to avoid a sudden drop in downstream levels due to “all at once” closure of multiple gates.    The “operation plan” for summer into fall is to not conduct any operation.  Plan is to keep all gates closed.  This is the same condition as existed before dam reconstruction, as the new dam crest is the same as having “boards on”.  Levels will fluctuate up and down based on whatever Mother Nature provides.    Operation plan for next winter will be reviewed this summer.  In general, the operation this past winter seemed to achieve a fairly consistent level, but some challenges need to be acknowledged and addressed including floating bogs and ensuring that the lock channel is not experiencing scour due to persistent flows.    Regarding Memorandum of Understanding (MOU):  There still seems to be interest at both DNR and LPPRD for an MOU to have an arrangement for level management in non-summer months.  Request 1 or 2 “delegates” from the LPPRD board to work with DNR staff.   1. Dredge Bank update/status – Paul reported the cost is more than budgeted, so went for a grant from Bass Pro Shop for $50,000. Project is to begin end of May beginning of June. Has 2 option landings. MOU is completed. Village has been very cooperative. Six islands that will be constructed out of all rock, each a little different. Phase 2 will start in about 2 years. Geo suction with dredge bags, Paul said did look into but doesn’t last as long as rock. 2. Aquatic Plant Plan update – Paul thank’d for all the work they have done. Jason reported last year we did a pilot program did an herbicide treatment of 9.1 acres, with Wisconsin Lake and Pond Resource. Decided to form a committee and proposed to do a combination of herbicide and mechanical harvest. Herbicide would be significantly less than last year as there will be the mechanical harvesting.   Mechanical Harvesting would be option of 20-foot or option of 50-foot lanes:   * + Clearwater – 20’ lanes/$6625; 50’ lanes/$12250   + Bill Hunter – 20’ lanes/$8312; 50’lanes/$8312 with an additional $11756, so cost would be $20,068 for 50’ lanes.   + Midwest Aquatic – 20’ lanes/$4200; 50’lanes/$10,400; plus $500 for the permit. Would be on the bottom of the list for harvesting.   Herbicide Treatment is for 1.9 acres:   * Clarke – $3117.50 * Wisconsin Lake & Pond – $1429.63, same the   Paul looks at this as another pilot project as last year. Jason went through the map and what is harvesting then the mechanical harvesting. Jaimes said we are fortunate to be financially stable to cover the cost, or the other option is to charge individual homeowners, but lucky to not have to do that. Jason recommends having a first and second option for harvesting. Paul said up to 50-foot lanes. Paul asked for a motion to approve WI Lakes and Pond Resources for the herbicide treatment not to exceed $1,500.00. Motion made by Willy Stalker and seconded by Gary. Motion carried. Paul asked for a motion to approve mechanical harvesting from Clearwater as first choice and Midwest Aquatics as second price to not to exceed $15,000.00. Motion made by Jeff Kimber and seconded by Bob Schwager. Motion carried.   1. Walley Hatchery – Paul reported 2.63 million and release 986,000 fry, success rate 41%. Have been doing this for 13 years, the older the female fish gets the eggs aren’t as fertile. Did something new this year, did a genetic study on all the fish as a request from the DNR. Will be able to know which fish came from which jar when the DNR does the study in the fall. 2. Fish Camp Gauge – was moved over by Richard Pergande’s channel, was going to talk to the cattle farmers. 3. Website – Kris updated the website, still in the creating and updating stage. Was suggested to have information regarding phosphorous. 4. Tern rafts – will be putting tern rafts in today. Forester terns started arriving end of April. Working on getting funding for 3rd tern raft to be ready in 2023. Will have college student to help with banding. Will add additional monitoring dates, $1700 for services. Not charging for increase. Motion approved by Jeff Kimber and seconded by Gary to approve Daryl $1700 as years previous. Motion carried. 5. Buoy maintenance – lights are needed on all of them. There is funding to add lights on all buoys and can move forward with purchasing lights. 6. Flat bottom boat – Paul said he is looking at a deep 18’ flat bottom boat. | Jason Schlimgen  Jason Schlimgen | Contact WI lakes and Ponds and Clearwater to get contract signed.  Purchase buoy light |
| **New Business** | 1. Zebra Mussels – Paul reported we do have them; they do clean the water. 2. Aquatic Plant Committee – discussed earlier. 3. Newsletter – this year will not be sending out a newsletter, will be putting on the webpage. Will be sending out the budget and agenda via mail to all lake district members. 4. Annual Meeting – will be June 4 at 10am at Marquette Village Hall. Will be election of commissioners as there are 2 terms up. 5. Water week convention – Jaimes, Kristine, and Jason attended the convention in Stevens Pointe 6. Fishery’s biologists – new Fishery’s Biologist is Adam Nickel. | Willy Stalker  Paul Gettelman | Get mailing labels from Meagan  Green Lake |
| **Open Discussion** | None |  |  |
| **Adjournment** | There being no further business motion made by Jeff Kimber and seconded by Jason Schlimgen to adjourn the May 7, 2022, Lake Puckaway Protection and Rehabilitation District meeting at 11:33 a.m. Motion carried. |  |  |

Respectfully submitted by,

Kristine Schlimgen, LPPRD Clerk