

# Mid Lake Protection and Management District

Board Meeting  
Thursday, March 30, 2023  
7:00 p.m. CST  
Virtual (Zoom)

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## Board of Commissioners

Present: Joe Pilarski, Barb Coulter-Smith, Scott Bullock, Andy Bullock, Mike Timmons, and Jim Winkler

Not present: Robert Grant.

Joe Pilarski called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

## Agenda

The agenda was reviewed by the quorum. The meeting commenced accordingly.

## Budget Report

The Budget Report was provided by Barb Coulter-Smith. Current balances are as follows: Checking - \$47,700.16, CD - \$114,950.75. Deposits for the year were \$21,997.56 and expenses were \$37,243.70 resulting in an expected loss of \$15,237.14. Joe Pilarski was able to reduce some costs by fixing the weed cutter himself and not having to hire anyone. The district recently received tax money of approximately \$24,000. The exact amount will be provided in next meeting.

Mill Rate discussion. During the annual meeting in 2022 the district voted for a mill rate of .8 that projected the annual loss of \$15,000. The initial outlook for 2023 has similar projections. The board wants to slowly spend down the accounts while maintaining sufficient funds that are immediately available to combat invasive species. Other lakes on the chain are spending amounts fighting invasives that the District would not be able to support. This is why it is so important to act quickly and stay in front of the invasive species weed problem. With rising costs also hard to predict, it is in the opinion of the board to maintain the mill rate at .8.

Jim Winkler asked what the district's target for funds is. Andy Bullock explained that the funds in the CD were raised several years ago to meet a DNR requirement in case a chemical treatment was necessary. The District was required to have funding to support three years of treatment, and these funds were raised approximately six years ago when it seemed that chemical treatment was a necessary option. Fortunately, chemical treatment was avoided, and it was the Board's decision to maintain the funding levels in case the need arises again. Chemically treating the lake is not the preferred option and the Board would rather hand pull invasives. Hand pulling still requires significant financial resources so the funds in the CD are there as an emergency reserve. In the event the lake faces a surge in invasives waiting to raise the money necessary to combat them would be detrimental to the lake.

In the past other district members raised a concern that the IRS would have concerns that the district was making money. Andy Bullock provided the historical perspective that the district had researched investing options (at request of the district) in order to get higher returns. The State of Wisconsin informed the district that they are not an investing organization. However, putting the money in a CD was acceptable and maintaining that balance was not an issue.

Andy Bullock made a motion for the 2024 FY that the board propose the same mill rate as last year which was .8. The motion was seconded by Mike Timmons. Vote Aye – 6, Nay – 0, vote passed.

### **Board member approval requirements to represent the District**

It was discovered that board members had conducted themselves as members of the board to a government body or district without the express consent of the rest of the board or the association as a whole. Mike Timmons explained that this was covered under Robert's Rules and provided a summary. A member is only to speak on behalf of the district with the express consent of the board. Without that approval, the member would have to speak as an individual and not on behalf of the committee. Mike emphasized that it is an ethical situation. The current board is concerned with ensuring this situation does not happen in the future. Mike said he would research the issue on how to make sure the board speaks as one voice. Joe Pilarski moved to postpone agenda item #3 until the next meeting in May. Barb seconded the motion. Vote: Aye – 6, Nay – 0. Vote passed.

### **Vilas County Hazardous Wakes Workshop.**

Joe mentioned that Vilas County has a workshop on hazardous wakes but unfortunately, he was unable to attend. Jim said that he was able to attend and would bring some information to the next board meeting. Mike mentioned that there was an Oneida County board member that is very knowledgeable on the topic and may be willing to share information with the District. Jim mentioned that the Vilas County workshop was primarily going over research on what happens to the lakes that experience hazardous wakes. Jim estimated approximately 100 people attended the meeting.

### **2023 Onterra Proposal**

It was agreed by the board that Onterra provides a wealth of information to the district. Joe recommended that the board continues to support every year. The current proposal essentially replicates the work that Onterra has done historically on Mid Lake. This would include a mapping survey in the beginning of the growing season. This was done specifically to monitor growth at a detectable stage. If the survey is done too early there is a high probability that the survey would miss some invasives. Too late in the season, native species grow more and make identifying invasives more difficult. The knowledge Onterra has provided the district over the last several years has proven to be invaluable. The proposal for 2023 is \$2,065. Mike Timmons verified that this cost is in the budget. Joe confirmed that it was. Mike Timmons made the motion to approve the cost of the Onterra proposal. Andy Bullock seconded the motion. Vote: Aye – 6, Nay – 0. Vote passed.

Jim also mentioned that there is an AIS specialist (Stephanie) in the land conservation office that will be meeting residents on Horsehead Lake and holding a class to identify invasive species. Jim will speak with Stephanie and have her reach out to Joe to possibly coordinate a workshop for district members.

### **Comments**

Barb – Barb’s neighbor Dennis has been doing the water samples for the DNR. He provided Barb a letter of resignation. Dennis will continue through 2023 to give the board time to find a replacement in 2024.

Andy – reflected that board meetings during the previous nine years were routinely 2-3 hours long. Andy wanted to express his thanks to Joe that meetings are run much more efficiently and last approximately an hour.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be held virtually on 5/11/23 at 7:00 p.m. CST.

### **Annual Meeting**

The annual meeting will be held in-person on 7/1/23 at 8:00 a.m. CST.

### **Adjourn**

After the agenda was completed, Joe adjourned the meeting at 8:06 p.m.

*Minutes recorded by Scott Bullock, Secretary.*

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