

Mid Lake Protection and Management District

Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 2, 2022
8 a.m. CST
Woodruff Town Hall

Board of Commissioners

Present: Jim Winkler (Oneida County), Scott Bullock, Robert Grant, Barb Smith, and Joe Pilarski

Not Present: Andy Bullock, Mike Timmons (Town of Woodruff)

Joe Pilarski called the meeting to order at 8:18 a.m. CST

Prior Minutes:

The minutes from the last year's annual meeting on July 3, 2021 were given to district members for review. Any mistakes to the minutes are Andy Bullocks fault and definitely not the secretary. Approval of the minutes were motioned by Phil Steffes and seconded by John Zell. Vote: Unanimous Aye. Motion passed. The minutes were approved and to be posted on Mid Lake District website.

Harvesting report and weed management:

Joe Smith mentioned that there has been one cut this year so far. Mainly pulling up curly leaf. Only Joe and Ed Bruner are able to work the weed cutter and they are looking for a third person (18 years old and up) to help work the elevator and take the weeds to the dump. The weed cutting routes are very specific, 60' from each dock and three main channels in the lake. Strictly controlled by the DNR permit. Weed pickup will be every weekend.

Robert Grant provided an overview of weed management on Mid Lake. Curly leaf pondweed is not native to Wisconsin. Causes surface matting and overtakes native species. Most recent survey (last week) shows that curly leaf and Eurasian milfoil has increased in Mid Lake and other lakes on the chain. Early cutting of Curly leaf allows the cutting before the turions (seeds) are formed. This timeline has been adopted by Minnesota DNR. Early cutting requires special approval from the Wisconsin DNR and the board has been working with the DNR to obtain that approval. Robert mentioned that the real problem is the Eurasian Milfoil. The big difference reseeds from any fragment on the plant so any time it is cut up it will most likely grow. Best way to combat Eurasian Milfoil is hand pulling.

Robert has been in contact with other associations on the chain and they have similar problems with Eurasian Milfoil for several years. The problem grew exponentially, and the hand pulling was no longer effective. They then moved to hand pulling and vacuuming and ultimately residents began to chemically treat their own shorelines. Ultimately leading the association in Kawagasaga to chemically treat and hand pull to mitigate Eurasian Milfoil, spending approximately \$250K a year.

Yellow Iris is a third invasive species on shorelines. The board is asking members to remove the plant because it is also an invasive species. It is difficult to remove, but it will choke out native species.

Lake Management Plan:

A Lake Protection Grant expired over a year ago. Multiple extensions were requested as well as the scope to be expanded to including hand pulling and website development. This expanded scope and extension (end of calendar year) was approved. Website development must focus on education and communication, which is the intent of the website anyway. Multiple delays have forced delays in getting the Lake Management Plan approved. In, early June of this year we received the feedback from the DNR and worked on all the issues. Now the lake management plan should receive final approval any day. It was recommended by other lake associations to submit for 65%-35% grants instead of 75%-25% grants. There is less competition which should result in more success obtaining the grants. The plan will be uploaded on the website once it is completed.

Website and member education update:

There will be a kickoff meeting with Northern Web development, and volunteers are welcome. The main reason we have the website is to support lake member education and involvement. This will include a calendar that will list weed pickup, meetings, events, and activities. Last year the previous owner of Northern Web Development passed away and it has been a lengthy process to transition the data. They already work with other lake association websites.

Lake association members will have a login with the new website. The seven board members will have email addresses that way when new board members start the new person will take over that email address. This will prevent loss of information during board transitions. We will be able to send out a newsletter to the association. The website will collect photos to preserve the history of the lake.

Onterra provides invasive species mapping that shows exact locations of invasive species. The mapping is expensive, but Joe Pilarski mentioned trying to partner with other associations on the chain in order to try and jointly purchase the service in order to make it more affordable for all.

Treasurer's Report, Proposed Budget, and Levy:

Last year checking account balance was \$58K with a mill rate set at 0.5. The goal dropped our total assets by \$10K which is almost exactly on track. The initial fee for the website was the additional \$6K. Currently, the checking account has \$45,512.99 and the CD balance is \$114,925.81. This year the board recommends a mill rate of .08. This allows to slightly draw down the budget but allow flexibility to combat invasive species if needed. For example, Robert Grant explained that Minocqua is spending \$150K this year to hand pull Eurasia Milfoil. They would spend more but they don't have a grant. The \$150K only covers 20% of the affected area with this invasive species. We don't expect numbers like Minocqua, but it is realistic to have a \$30K-\$40K hand pulling cost if the invasive are not aggressively controlled. The difference between at mill rate of 0.8 and 0.5 equates to approximately \$100 per property. Ed Bruner motioned to keep the mill rate at 0.5 this was seconded by Neil Woelffer. Vote: 4 Aye, 28 Nay, motion failed. A new motion was made by John Zell for a mill rate of 0.8 and seconded by Jane Evans. Vote: 28 Aye, 4 Nay, motion passed.

Public Comments:

Note: Comments are limited to 2 minutes so the meeting does not extend.

Public Comment: Jane Evans brought up light trespassing. Light should only illuminate your property and not provide glare on other property.

Public Comment: John Ross. Informed the association that longtime member Carl Shoemaker passed away last winter. Ultimately losing his battle with Alzheimer's. Also, he suggested that the lake association meeting moved to 9am instead of 8am.

Public Comment: Jim Winkler. Serves on the Chair of the Oneida County conservation chair. Brought along the 2021 conservation committee report and there are county resources for lakeshore restoration issues. There is also training available for Clean Boats Clean Waters. Contact information 715-499-0759 please call to get more information.

Public Comment: A member brought up an education opportunity Pressure Rising in our Crowded Lakes at Nicolet College in Rhinelander.

Public Comment: John McCann. Spoke about Blue-Green Algae blooms to contact John. If you think you see a bloom, tell your neighbors. Take a sample or picture and ask for help from the DNR.

Date(s) of future meetings:

The next meeting will be the annual meeting held at Woodruff Town Hall on July 1, 2023 at 8 a.m.

Adjournment:

At 10:24, there was a motion to adjourn and seconded. The motion carried without opposition.
