

Good morning.

Here is the agenda for the Iola Lake District teleconference board meeting next week. While our board meetings can be done remotely this way, state law requires that we meet in person for our annual meeting because of the secret ballot requirements to elect a commissioner ... even if only one person is running for the position. This commissioner meeting on May 19 is intended to plan the annual meeting, and anyone from the public is able to call in with the phone number and access code below.

As we move forward with plans to begin our own harvesting program this year on Lake Iola, I reviewed the comments made during the stakeholder survey three years ago at the start of our Lake Management Plan process. Many comments were made that people not living on the lake should not be paying taxes to support it. Yes, it is up to the community to decide whether or not they want to financially support management of the lake, but the point I want everyone to understand is that the waters of Wisconsin do not belong only to the property owners around the waters. The waters of Wisconsin belong to the state as a public resource, and that is regulated by the DNR ... and that is who we as a Lake District are managing Lake Iola for too ... the public.

As a Lake District, and not a Lake Association, we are considered a special unit of state government and are regulated by Chapter 33 of state law. Any lake property owner who wants something done that primarily benefits their property must do it themselves or pay for someone to do it for them, and the DNR does regulate what any private property owner can do with the lake that belongs to the public. Since the update of our Lake Management Plan, we are now eligible for state financial help through cost-sharing grants for our management activities .. again because the state recognizes their responsibility to maintain the waters for public benefit. Our goal is to improve summertime use of Lake Iola by working with the Village of Iola to run our own harvesting program without raising taxes, and time will tell whether or not we are successful. All I ask for now is a chance ... and without community support that may not be possible. Thank you for your consideration, and (hopefully) continued support.

Agenda for the teleconference meeting of the Lake Iola Lake District Commissioners to be held Tuesday, May 19, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

Toll-free phone number for public to dial in

1-877-568-4106

Access code for public dial-in to teleconference:

709 353 133

1. Call to order
2. Approval of the agenda
3. Secretary's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Chairman's report
 - a. Lake Management Plan
 - b. Weed harvesting and control
 - i. Aquatic Plant Harvesting
 - ii. Chemical Treatment
6. Annual meeting date, time and location
7. Adopt agenda for the annual meeting
8. Adopt budget recommendation for 2020-2021
9. Adopt tax levy recommendation for 2020
10. Nominations for three-year board position and election rules
11. Recommendation for Lake District municipal liability insurance

12. Any other business that may legally come before the board

13. Adjournment

John Bertelson Jr.

Chairman, Lake Iola Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

check out the Iola Lake District tab at www.iolavillage.com

(715)-341-1032 or (715)-572-9040