

Minutes of the meeting of the Lake Iola Lake District commissioners held at 6:30 p.m. April 19, 2022, at the Village of Iola Community Center

Present: Dave Harper, 270 Mill St., Iola; Vicki L. Bellows, 130 Island Drive, Iola; John Bertelson Jr., 165 Pond Court, Iola; Oscar Knoeck, E1802 Lakeshore Drive, Iola; Roger Olson, 185 Island Drive, Iola; Mike Devine, 100 Valley Lane, Iola; John and Laurie Birno, 185 Sunset Drive, Iola; Doug and Kathy Smith, 305 Water St., Iola; Ignazio Nanfria, E1795 Lakeshore Drive; Steve Steeber, Thirsty Perch, 195 Water St., Iola; Sherri Miller, Thirsty Perch, 195 Water St., Iola; Jack Kuhr, 130 Lakeshore Drive, Iola; Ed Staal, 150 Lakeshore Drive, Iola; Tracey Ambacher Jr., 350 E. State St., Iola, and Rick Ertl, N7056 State Road 49, Iola.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Bertelson at 6:30 p.m. He led the Pledge of Allegiance. He read the public meeting statement. He introduced himself as chairman of the board; Oscar Knoeck, who is a board member as well as the harvester manager; Dave Harper, Village of Iola, representative and secretary; Vicki L. Bellows, treasurer; and Rick Ertl, the new county board representative, who was not present at the time of introduction, but arrived at 6:50 p.m.

Oscar Knoeck moved and Vicki Bellows seconded a motion to adopt the minutes of the March 15, 2022 meeting. Motion passed.

Vicki Bellows gave the treasurer's report. The general account March 15 balance was \$4,686.07. On April 11 \$2,038.84 was deposited from Waupaca County. It is the lottery credit. On April 18 check 1170 was written to the Village of Iola in the amount of \$1,908.30 to cover the remaining unpaid costs to the village from June 19, 2021, to December 31, 2021, after a review of the total bills was done by Village clerk Betty Aanstad, Chairman John Bertelson, Treasurer Vicki Bellows and Secretary Dave Harper. With this activity, the general account balance on April 19 stands at \$4,816.61. The brat fry account balance was unchanged from its March 15 amount, standing at \$138.32 on April 19.

On March 15, the balance in the general account of the Local Government Investment Pool of the State of Wisconsin stood at \$41,913.48. Interest of \$6.45 was paid March 31 at a 0.16 percent rate. The April 19 balance is \$41,919.93. The March 15 brat fry balance was \$1,628.44. Interest of 23 cents was paid March 31 at a 0.16 percent rate. The April 19 balance is \$1,628.67. The Harvester Capital Account balance on March 15 was \$26,973.83. On March 31 \$2.84 in interest was paid at a rate of 0.16 percent. The April 19 balance is \$26,976.67.

The total amount earmarked for the general fund from both accounts is \$46,736.54. The total available from both brat fry accounts is \$1,766.99.

Dave Harper/Oscar Knoeck moved to adopt the treasurer's report. Motion passed.

John Bertelson gave the chairman's report. He said finding a harvester operator is the biggest challenge this year. Of four inquiries from the job posting, only two were definite. In consequence, Chairman Bertelson will be trained as an operator. Doug Smith will be trained as an operator, but he will work 25 hours a week. Oscar Knoeck will work on harvesting as needed.

Harper/Bellows moved to authorize the lake district to implement this three-person harvesting plan with a wage of \$15 an hour. They will become new part-time village employees as the Village of Iola administers the paperwork and the lake district reimburses the costs. Motion passed. Ed Staal asked if this plan might create a conflict of interest for Chairman Bertelson. The answer is no because Oscar Knoeck is in charge of the harvesting program.

Chairman Bertelson said three persons have signed up for shoreline chemical spraying. The full list will be compiled in May for an early June application. DNR's Ted Johnson wants one pass on one side of a dock. Steve Steeber said he would like to see something done with the cattails and lily pads. John Birno asked if the district would always be cutting. The answer is yes, Bertelson replied. The state should have better ideas than cutting paths. Tracey Ambacher said it is important to preserve fish habitat.

Chairman Bertelson said four channels were chemically treated for plants at nuisance levels last year. He will get the contract in place before June 1.

Chairman Bertelson said he was helping the Silver Lake Management Committee in the Village of Scandinavia. Eurasian Water Milfoil is in the whole lake.

Roger Olson said the water level this year is four or five inches higher than usual. The culvert at Island Drive is now half full. Chairman Bertelson said the DNR sets the water level at the dam by regulating outflow and water level can temporarily fluctuate because of extra rain caused inflow events.

Chairman Bertelson said the annual lake district meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Saturday, June 4, at Taylor Field in Olson Park. A short board meeting will be held immediately afterwards at which this year's officers will be elected.

The annual meeting elects a board member to a three-year term. This year, the current term of Chairman Bertelson will expire. Harper/Olson made a motion to nominate Bertelson for another three-year term and put this recommendation on the annual meeting agenda. Motion passed. Chairman Bertelson asked three times if anyone wanted to make another nomination. He also said that on the printed ballot sheet to be used at the annual meeting there will be a blank line included for the names of any new nominees or write-ins to be written.

Chairman Bertelson said an envelope-stuffing gathering would take place at 10 a.m., May 5, at the Village of Iola Community Center to prepare the annual mailing to all property owners.

Chairman Bertelson led the annual budget preparation discussion. He has updated his spreadsheet on the 10-year plan to purchase a new harvester. By putting some money in the Harvester Capital Account each year, the district will be able to fund the purchase of a new harvester without an adverse impact on the tax levy.

Projected expenses are \$200, water testing; \$150, DNR permits; \$200 publication fees; \$800, annual meeting costs (making copies, postage, etc., for annual mailing); \$3,000, chemical treatments; \$11,000, wages; \$2,500, fuel; \$3,000, equipment maintenance; \$2,500 miscellaneous; \$1,390, district liability insurance; \$3,000, goose roundup; \$7,460, point-intercept lake survey; \$3,000, contingency, and \$18,900, Harvester Capital Fund. The total for the 2022-2023 budget will be \$57,100. The \$11,000 wages line and the \$18,900 Harvester Capital Fund line will be voted on individually at the annual meeting.

Income to fund the \$57,100 expenditure comes from car show volunteer hours, \$500; DNR point-intercept study grant; carryover from the 2021-2022 budget year and a tax levy of \$43,922. This levy amount is \$270 higher than in the prior year's budget.

Vicki Bellows moved to recommend this balanced budget of \$57,100 to be presented to the annual meeting for consideration. Dave Harper seconded her motion. Motion passed.

Harper/Knoeck moved and seconded a motion to recommend to the annual meeting a tax levy for the 2022-2023 budget of \$43,922. Motion passed.

Tracey Ambacher gave a report on the information kiosk to be built and erected at the boat landing. He said his plan is for two 6'x6' white oak, 16 feet long wood supports at \$100 each with a lockable cabinet for \$217. This would keep the cost under the \$500 grant amount. John Birno said do not put the wooden supports in concrete. Use stone and they will last longer. The shop class at the high school will help put this together. Bertelson and Ambacher will talk to the principal and the shop teacher.

The annual audit will be conducted by Laurie Birno and Jack Kuhr. They will set up a time to meet with Treasurer Bellows.

Oscar Knoeck/Dave Harper moved to adopt the annual meeting letter as it was assembled. Motion passed.

Tracey Ambacher asked about stocking fish. Last time the district spent \$1,000. Should we do it again? The district will invite DNR's Aaron O'Connell as part of this discussion. John Birno volunteered to help Tracey Ambacher with egg oiling

Harper/Knoeck moved to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Bertelson at 7:55 p.m.