

Minutes of the meeting of the Lake Iola Lake Commissioners held at 6:30 p.m. October 18, 2022, at the Village of Iola Community Center.

Present and signed in were: Dave Harper, 270 Mill St; John Bertelson Jr., 165 Pond Court; John and Laurie Birno, 185 Sunset Drive; Judy Enz, 100 Wintergreen Isle; Oscar Knoeck, E. 1807 Lakeshore Drive; Mike Devine, 100 Valley Lane, and Eddie Bonikowske, 135 Island Drive.

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Chairman Bertelson. He made the open meeting statement. He led the Pledge of Allegiance. He said we all knew each other so he did not individually introduce the lake commissioners.

Oscar Knoeck moved to adopt the agenda as written. Dave Harper seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Harper/Knoeck moved to adopt the minutes of the August 16, 2022, meeting. Passed.

Dave Harper read the treasurer's report and Treasurer Enz arrived as he was doing so.

In general account #1 in the Local Government Investment Pool the starting balance was \$39,541.03. August interest was \$78.71 and September interest was \$72.78. Ending balance was \$39,692.74. In Brat Fry Account # 2 the starting balance was \$1,633.37. August interest was \$2.98. September interest was \$3.25. The ending balance was \$1,639.60. The Harvester Capital Fund, which is Account #3 with the LGIP, the starting balance was \$27,054.59. August interest was \$49.39. September interest was \$53.85. The ending balance was \$27,157.83.

In BankFirst, the general account beginning balance was \$1,326.14. Payment of \$10,768.71 was received from Waupaca County. The car show paid the lake district \$657.94 for volunteer hours at the car show, Multi Media was paid \$34.28. Cason was paid \$1,500 for the lake point-intercept survey and Amazon was paid \$420.92 for a bulletin board. The new balance was \$10,797.59. The BankFirst brat fry account began at \$655.07. The August 20 brat fry proceeds of \$204.25 were deposited, bringing the ending balance to \$859.32.

Dave Harper moved and Oscar Knoeck seconded a motion to adopt the treasurer's report. Passed.

Chairman Bertelson reported that volunteers worked 90.75 hours at the car show in July. These hours were paid out at a rate of \$7.25 per hour to the lake district. The August 20 brat fry volunteers Lisa and Russ Bonikowske and James Hoyord were cited by Chairman Bertelson.

Chairman Bertelson gave his report. He said the DNR is in the process of revising Aquatic Plant Management (APM) regulations. The district has lost 10 acres of harvest area from the permit map Cliff used to use. He said he went to a DNR hearing in August. There were 99 objections to the proposed method of assessing cutting and chemical treatment

fees, which will result in drastically higher costs to the Lake Iola Lake District. The DNR pulled the agenda item prior to the meeting and will work on them again and stakeholder input is encouraged.

During the plant survey this year on Lake Iola, Cason was only able to reach 228 points out of a possible 550 for the point-intercept survey. Weedy conditions prevent more measurements. In 2006, a survey had 249 sample points. After the drawdown, there were 386 points measured in the 2014 survey, in 2017 it was 201 points. Chairman Bertelson said his goal is to cut 45 acres of Lake Iola and do skimming on a further 29 acres. Currently the DNR allows just 35.7 acres and is not receptive to allowing skimming at all. Chairman Bertelson said he would ask the DNR for the increase in January or February. This involved contacting Ted Johnson our DNR Water Resource Manager as well as his boss. So far, Ted Johnson has responded to Chairman Bertelson by saying he is surprised we are not happy with the present cutting limit.

Oscar Knoeck said we need to get the lily pads under control and Laurie Birno said we need to open the creeks.

Chairman Bertelson noted that we are halfway through the six cutting seasons covered by the current DNR permit. John Birno asked if cut weeds are floating into weed beds. The answer is yes they are. Oscar Knoeck said we need permission to take the cutter in there.

Chairman Bertelson said he and John Birno went to look at McDill Pond in Portage County to see how dredging is going there.

Mike Devine said his observations for the year were that the weed cutter did not pick up floating cut weeds even in the channels and now you can see that the chemical spraying worked, but it was applied too late in the season .

Chairman Bertelson said we had a new harvester operator this year. Oscar Knoeck said we were on our third by the time we got to Mike Devine's channel. Chairman Bertelson said the lateness of the chemical application was his fault. Oscar said chemicals should be applied at the beginning of June for channels and we can get pellets for individual property owners if they want them. Chairman Bertelson said he had been trying to tie all of this into just one permit for 2022, but this approach did not work. John Birno said individuals need to get their own permits for their properties.

Oscar Knoeck gave the cutting report for the 2022 season. He said 198 tons of weeds were removed from the lake in 79 loads. These quantities are a little more than last year. Mike Devine asked about cost. John Bertelson said he didn't have the details with him, but thinks our costs were in the \$12,000 to \$14,000 range for 2021 and it would be a bit more for 2022. We currently pay \$15 an hour for the harvester operator. Next year it should consider a raise to \$17. This year the helper got minimum wage. This should be raised to \$10 an hour next year. Oscar Knoeck said Shawano pays \$20 per hour for the operator.

Oscar Knoeck moved to authorize spending of \$1,280 for routine maintenance of the equipment over the winter by Ed. Dave Harper seconded the motion. Motion passed.

For the ice fishing contest in February, Knoeck/Harper moved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$2,000 for prizes and expenses for this Winter Carnival event headed up by Tracey Ambacher. The funds are to be taken from the brat fry account so no tax money is involved. Motion passed. Chairman Bertelson will work with Treasurer Enz to get a debit card for Tracey to facilitate the process.

Chairman Bertelson said he would review the lake district costs with the Village of Iola with the help of Judy Enz, Oscar Knoeck and Dave Harper. Once the final total is arrived at, the district will then write a check to the village to cover these operating costs. The village does the book work for the lake district and pays the bills, including wages, as they arise. Then the lake district reimburses the village.

Jack and Betty Kuhr are moving to Appleton. They have donated a hand-held weed rake and a hand-held weed cutter to the district. Now we have two sets that people can borrow.

John Birno redrew the plans for the information kiosk at the boat landing. Dave Jueds, the high school shop teacher, had drawn up a preliminary set. The two of them will work with Tracey Ambacher to construct the kiosk.

Chairman Bertelson said we are still waiting for the fish survey report from the DNR, which was done in the spring of 2021.

Oscar Knoeck said pelicans were at the fish spawning beds this season but moved on once weed cutting started. Chairman Bertelson said the goose population seemed down this year. Mike Devine said he counted 76. In July they were gone. John Birno said his count was 35 to 40 geese. Oscar Knoeck said trumpeter swans got along with the pelicans.

Chairman Bertelson reported that Silver Lake applied for a chemical grant but the deadline conflicted with a 21-day public notice period, so they can't do it next year. Eurasian water milfoil rings Silver Lake like a doughnut.

Chairman Bertelson said meetings in 2023 would be March 21 and April 18 at the Village of Iola Community Center at 6:30 p.m. The annual meeting would be 10 a.m. June 3 at the shelter in Olson Park by Taylor Field. The Aug. 15 meeting would be at 6:30 in the same shelter at the park and the final meeting of the season would be 6:30 p.m. Oct. 17 at the Village of Iola Community Center (which has been renamed "Iola Village Hall").

Oscar Knoeck suggested a thank-you plaque and gift certificate for Jack and Betty Kuhr for their years of volunteer service on behalf of the Lake District.

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