

SAND LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Minutes for Sand Lake Board of Commissioners meeting held at the Maple Plain Town Hall at 10:00 a.m. on October 21, 2017. Commissioners Tom Olsen, John Roberts, Jane Shepherd, and Patrick Heaney were present. Dale Heinecke from the Town of Maple Plain was present as well. Commissioner Tom Lindeen appeared by phone. Additionally, Dale Blumer from LEAPS was present along with Gary Klund.

Tom Olsen called the meeting to order. Dale Heinecke reported the unfortunate passing of former Maple Plain Town Clerk, Jeannie Jenkins.

Approved minutes - Patrick Heaney submitted the minutes from the commissioners' meeting held on August 12, 2017 right after the annual meeting. Jane Shepherd moved to approve the minutes; John Roberts seconded. The minutes were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Resolution - Commissioners discussed having Jane Shepherd be the primary person on the Sand Lake Management District checking account. Tom Olsen asked for a resolution. Jane Shepherd so moved; Tom Olsen seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the commissioners.

Treasurers report - Jane Shepherd presented the current financial statement. Tom Olsen noted the Sand Lake Management District should have second half 2017 tax receipts. Jane Shepherd replied she had placed the \$12,279.95 of tax receipts in the grant category and would move it over to the correct tax category.

John Roberts suggested there should be a separate category for the clean boats/clean waters program, which includes donations to the charter school and expenses for Dave Blumer's son, Logan. The commissioners then discussed whether Sand Lake Management District should adopt new categories for receipts and expenditures. Dave Blumer presented a handout with his category suggestions. Tom Olsen noted any change in categories must be useful for securing grants. The commissioners agreed Dave's categories made sense; however, the commissioners agreed subaccounts should be used for further identification.

Dave Blumer and Tom Lindeen agreed they would work with Jane Shepherd on how the grant process works and get her up to speed. They did relate to her a few points about the grant process, specifically the fact the DNR will advance some monies up front depending on the specific grant.

Tom Lindeen moved to allow Jane Shepherd to move the tax receipts to the correct category; John Roberts seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the commissioners.

Project reports -

- a. Clean boats/clean waters - John Roberts reported the Cumberland charter school logged 62 hours for the clean boats program in 2017. That was not as good as last year. Nevertheless, John Roberts suggested that \$600 be donated to the charter school. Dave Blumer stated Logan has been working 3-6 hour shifts. He has logged 26 days

throughout the summer. Logan will probably have another 15-20 hours before the end of October. Therefore, with Logan's hours, it is very likely 200 hours will be logged in the clean boats/clean waters program and Sand Lake Management District will hit its goal.

Jane Shepherd moved to donate \$600 to the Cumberland charter school; Pat Heaney seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote of the commissioners

John Roberts related some interesting research he has conducted on other states' programs dealing with invasive species. He talked about programs in New York, Minnesota, and Michigan dealing with inspections and clean boats programs. He said Minnesota has installed self-cleaning stations at different boat landings. John Roberts believed Wisconsin—compared to other states—is being very proactive with the invasive species issue

- b. EWM new approach – Dave Blumer talked about the EWM situation. He noted 2016 was the first year the Sand Lake Management District switched to just a summer EWM survey. This was done again in 2017. It is a 518 point survey. Dave Blumer said the survey in 2017 found 25 points with EWM. There were 23 points in 2016. This will help guide EWM treatment in 2018 and Dave Blumer suspects it will be similar to 2017. Nevertheless, because there were more points identified in 2017, the treatment is not going as well as the District would have hoped. Dave also said Heather found more Eurasian milfoil in her visual survey.

Dave Blumer passed out three handouts. The first handout compared July 23-24, 2017 EWM rake fullness results with July 25, 2016 EWM rake fullness results. The second handout compared the July 23-24, 2017 rake fullness results for all native aquatic plant species to the July 25, 2016 rake fullness results for all native aquatic plants. The third handout was a map showing where EWM was found on the lake. Dave Blumer noted the only EWM bed was in Silo Bay.

Bottom line: EWM data showed 2017 was fairly comparable to 2016. The lack of SWITER (or spot treatments) may not be harmful. However, the jury is still out.

The survey for 2018 will be conducted in the spring. Dave Blumer will do a proposal with suggestions for EWM treatment shortly.

Dave Blumer noted the current EWM strategy is only targeting Eurasian milfoil. If the District has to go to an entire lake treatment there are problems, including the fact an entire lake treatment will kill native plants such as northern water milfoil. Also, an entire lake treatment is much more expensive.

The commissioners believed Debra Hallingstad said at the annual meeting she had talked to someone at the DNR and that DNR individual said she could treat milfoil on her own. The commissioners wanted to verify if, indeed, Debra Hallingstad was told she could treat chemically—rather than just physically removing Eurasian milfoil. Dave Blumer said there is no way a land owner would be given permission by the DNR to

chemically treat Eurasian water milfoil. Tom Lindeed said the DNR told him the same thing. Commissioners would try to verify with Debra Hallingstad what actually happened.

- c. Water quality - Gary Klund said that he has gotten some help recently from Neal Karels to conduct water quality testing. On September 1 he met with Neal Karels and went through the process. This includes Secchi disk readings along with temperature and dissolved oxygen measurements. Gary Klund said he did not want to overwhelm Neal Karels with everything right away. He will go over more of the process with Neal Karels in the spring. Overall, Secchi disk readings were good. There has been a steady improvement in the water quality. Early spring Secchi disk readings were 18-19 feet. However, by July and the first part of August Secchi disk readings had declined to 10.5. They then subsequently rose until they were 16.5 by the early part of September. Gary Klund related to the commissioners how these readings could be found on the DNR website. These readings were all recorded through the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network.

There was some discussion about putting more water quality tips in the Soundings. Commissioners discussed the effect of heavy rains on water quality. Dave Blumer related heavy rains can be a double edge sword. It does result in more runoff but heavy rains can also have a “flushing” effect on the lake that actually increases water clarity.

- d. Buoys - It was related the new buoy people, Mike Schwartz and Eric Shoen, have taken out the buoys. Jane Shepherd said she would be in contact with both Mike Schwartz and Eric Shoen to make sure they understood the process for placing them in the spring. It was agreed the commissioners would reach out to Mike Schwartz and Eric Shoen and the old buoy person–Todd–to make sure Mike Schwartz and Eric Shoen were using the same buoy markers. Also, commissioners wanted to make sure Mike Schwartz and Eric Shoen know if they had any concerns about personal expenses or buying new buoy markers, the Sand Lake Management District would take care of the cost.
- e. Soundings/website - The next issue of the Soundings will come out in the spring. Topics will be discussed at the December meeting. John Roberts related at least 10 mailings to property owners had come back because they were not addressed correctly. Patrick Heaney said, perhaps, commissioners should go to the GIS website and get the property tax bill to make sure the addresses are being sent to the current address. John Roberts handed out some of the returned mailings. One of the names was Eppen. Apparently, the mailings were going to their old address in Red Wing. Patrick Heaney and Jane Shepherd said the Eppens are now living on Sand Lake and steps would be taken to make sure the mailings go to their Sand Lake address.

John Roberts said he had a suspicious e-mail. Apparently, it was a hacking attempt to steal the Sand Lake Management District’s web hosting. John Roberts did not reply. He said we all had to be careful with e-mails.

Tom Lindeen said the facebook page now has 38 members.

- f. Fishing committee - Tom Lindeen reported there was nothing new to report.
- g. Healthy lakes - The commissioners discussed the current healthy lakes projects, including the Shoen project and Fish Sticks. The Sand Lake Management District has already submitted a couple thousand dollars for the Shoen project. In November the Sand Lake Management District will submit invoices to the DNR totaling \$3,000. (\$7164 is reimbursable out of a total project cost of \$9552.)

Submissions were made on behalf of Jim Davis for native planting. However, the DNR turned it down because it did not fit into the healthy lakes philosophy.

There is approximately \$2,000 in grant money left to spend. The Sand Lake Management District could request an extension into 2018. There are five projects in play in 2018 with a total cost of up to \$7,000. These include two rip rap-native plant projects, the Schwartz property project, the Karel Fish Sticks project, and a potential project for Cliff Tenner. Because of these projects Sand Lake Management District will probably not apply for a 2018/2019 grant; however, that may change.

Dave Blumer said he will approach the St. Croix Band of Chippewa Indians about whether there is any interest in participating in a Fish Sticks project.

- h. Northeast wash project - Tom Olsen related the progress of the northeast wash project. All four landowners must give approval. One has not given his approval because he wants assurance the project will work.

That landowner said he would have to wait until the fall. Tyler Gruetzmacher is going to be meeting with that landowner and showing him the project soon. If the landowner signs off, the project will get going.

Survey of lake owners - The commissioners discussed the issue of wake boats. Various commissioners have been getting calls and complaints about the increased use of wake boats on Sand Lake. Patrick Heaney suggested in the next Soundings there should be a survey about landowners feelings on the issue. John Roberts said he thought any kind of restrictions on wake boats would have to be voluntary. Tom Olsen noted a few years ago he talked to the DNR and the DNR told him either the Lake District or Township could take steps to regulate wake boats.

The commissioners decided on the following plan of action:

1. Patrick Heaney will conduct research on the authority of the lake district and/or Maple Plain to regulate wake boats.
2. Dave Blumer will send information to all the commissioners on the effects wake boats have on the lake.

Dave Blumer noted there may be grant money available for a survey depending on what Pat Heaney's research reveals.

New business - The commissioners discussed giving Tom Mazanec a \$50.00 Visa gift certificate for his long time service. Tom Olsen moved to give Tom Mazanec a \$50 gift certificate; Jane Shepherd seconded. The resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

Patrick Heaney related the situation involving Betsy Bowers. He said he had contacted Sand Lake Management's insurance agent and told her of the situation. He then forwarded the insurance information to Betsy Bowers. Pat Heaney told Betsy to submit her claim information and all the details regarding her loss. Patrick Heaney said he had heard nothing from the insurance agent. Therefore, he followed up and the agent said Betsy Bowers never contacted her. Patrick Heaney then e-mailed Betsy again and asked if she was going to submit anything. He has still not heard anything.

Next meeting - Next meeting was set for December 9 at 10 a.m. at the Maple Plain town hall. Jane Shepherd moved to close the meeting; Pat Heaney seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.