

Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District #1

Commissioner Minutes as of 11/18/2023

The Horsehead Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (HLPRD) commissioner meeting was called to order by Chairman Dusten Tornow at 9:03 AM.

Members present:

Chairperson:	Dusten Tornow
Treasurer:	David Averbeck
Secretary:	Kevin Collins
Town Board Commissioner:	Lenore Lopez
County Board Commissioner:	Jim Winkler

- This meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom. All referenced documents in the meeting notes can be found on the web shared storage Google Drive (<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GI9zCafcsZJFGR5SJup1n8YAIL7cD1K7?usp=sharing>). You can request access to the files by contacting the HLPRD secretary and providing your email address.
- Motion to approve the meeting agenda by Kevin Collins, seconded by Jim Winkler, approved.
- Kevin Collins read the minutes from the August 19th commissions meeting. Motion to approve the minutes by Dave Averbeck, seconded by Jim Winkler, approved unanimously.

Reports:

- Chairperson:
 - Turned on aerator systems on 11/17/ 23 at 4:00PM. No issues with aerators. Burnt out light bulb on old system, two bulbs on system. Bulb that is burned out is a 230V special bulb.
 - Has reached out to Gollon's Fish Nursery but has not received a reply. Kevin pointed out that Deb Bursik contacted Gollon's in February of 2023 and Dave indicated that a DNR permit is required for fish stocking. Dusten took Gollon's follow up and DNR permit as an action item.
 - Weed harvesting permit should be good for one more year. Dusten will prepare a new weed harvesting permit request for the DNR. Dave pointed out that the weed harvesting permits are good for 3 years.

- Newsletter was sent out the end of September, early October. Notification of the new aerator system was included in the newsletter.
- Dusten was in touch with Aquatic Plant Mgmt (weed harvesting) to put us on their list. Kevin asked if a deposit was needed, Dave responded that this company did not require a deposit.
- Dusten took over HLPRD website management. Updates to the site should be sent to him. He also noticed that backups of the website were not included. He's going to add that feature for \$5/month. No objection by commissioners.
- Secretary:
 - Sent out the newsletter mailings.
 - Will be sending out the formal notice via US MAIL to all residents of HLPRD regarding open water warning associated with the aerators as required by WI statute 167.26(2m).
 - Kevin contacted Grady Hartman, Oneida County Sheriff, regarding enforcement of a "wake boat" regulation issued by HLPRD.
- Treasurer:
 - In his previous years, the audit of the treasurer books was based on when the annual meeting was held and not the fiscal year. He corrected this by having two audits, one by Hans Delius for the annual meeting. Chuck Konsitzke completed the fiscal year audit.
 - Dave provided the final budget with adjustments due to carryover. At the annual meeting, the final budget is approved. This budget does not charge but the carry over does. Carry over changed from \$33K to 41K. In addition, the equalized property values went from \$28.5M to \$35M. The net result was our mil rate went down substantially but property values went up. We may be getting calls from property owners questioning the rise in taxes. *Dusten suggested that we put a paragraph about the changes in property values and mil rate in the next newsletter.*
 - Closing out last fiscal year 22-23. We did spend substantially more on office supplies due to annual report. We did not perform:
 - weed harvesting
 - maintenance on aerators was \$2000 under budget
 - fall preventive maintenance was deferred to FY23-24
 - aquatic species studies
 - This first quarter (Sep 1 to Oct 31), our significant spending was on capital funds where we spent \$39K for new aerator. This did not include final check

for WI Lake and Pond of \$22K. Our asset change equal income minus spend. Kevin made a motion to accept the treasurers report, all approved.

- Google Drive file : [Horsehead lake P&R\treasurer\20230408 HLPRD Treasurers Report.pdf](#)

- Citizen's Input Opportunity:
 - None

Business items

- Remote DO Sensors:

Kevin's experience with measuring DO is difficult at best and potentially dangerous. This has led to a minimal number of samples being taken during winter months. He investigated a couple of companies (PME and Onset HOBO) that provide remote DO sensors that could be placed in the water in late fall and retrieved after ice out on the lake. The DO sensors store up to six months of data (1 hour increments) in onboard memory. Kevin also discussed this with Scott Van Egeren (DNR), who has experience with the HOBO sensors for water flow. Scott had no objection with HLPRD employing remote sensors. Both companies have experience with winter sampling and their costs are similar. One difference was the HOBO required annual maintenance where PME was a 3 year maintenance (primarily due to battery life). All felt that the annual maintenance would be better for our installation as we would be getting annual calibration. The total costs were less than \$4K for two sensors, software and maintenance for 5 years. In addition, a permit would be necessary for installation. Dave moved to getting a permit and purchasing the equipment, Jim Winkler seconded. All commissioners approved purchasing and permitting. Kevin will start the process by requesting a permit and, if approved, purchasing the equipment.
- Future Meeting Scheduling:
 - April 6, 2024 - virtual meeting
 - July 6, 2024 – in person meeting
 - August 3, 2024 - annual and commissioner meeting
 - November 16, 2024 virtual meeting 9:00 am
- Speed /Distance around Island / Loon Nesting
 - Kevin stated that it was a concern that Deb Bursik raised about PWC boaters harassing the loons. He surveyed the distances between the

island and shore of the peninsula and found that it was less than 400 ft. which would be a no –wake area for PWC. Dusten suggested that we leave a notice in the newsletter about the regulations and harassing the loon nesting sites. Kevin pointed out that we do not have enforcement for any local regulations written by HLPRD. We would have to rely on the state or DNR for enforcement. Jim Winkler suggested that if it becomes a repeated offence, we should register it with the DNR warden in order to build a case.

- Wake Enhancing Boating Operation Concerns:
 - Jim Winkler stated that the Sawyer county board has put a recommendation to the state to have more explicit wording in the proposed regulation on wake enhanced boat operations and Oneida County is considering the same. He is working on the issue.
 - Kevin has sent out email to Senator Felzkowski and Representative Swearingen expressing HLPRD concern about wake enhanced boating.
 - All expressed concerns about the type of boat classification that can be misleading, our concern is boats deliberately operating in a transitional means to enhance the wake /wave behind the boat.
 - Lenore Lopez felt that local ordinances would be taken in consideration by the state legislators and perhaps a speed regulation would be appropriate.
 - Jim commented that most of the people at the local town hall meetings within Felzkowski/Swearingen districts were supportive of more restrictive wake enhanced boating regulations. Oneida County has obtained a grant which is looking to conduct a lake classification study (depth, size) for the county in order to classify lake sensitivity to different impacts.
 - It was decided to table any plans for local ordinance of wake enhanced boat operation.
 - Kevin should continue to email our concerns to all of the Senators and Representatives in the committees reviewing these regulations.
 - Dusten proposed we keep this as a standing topic for discussion and put something in the April newsletter.
 - Jim and Lenore stressed that we should urge our constituents to contact their representatives.
 - Kevin reiterated what our recommendations would be:
 - Only operate at depths greater 20 ft

- Only operate at greater than 700 ft. from shore
- Only operate in daylight hours (9am – 7pm)
- All boats have their ballast emptied completely.
- Aerator status:
 - All aerators are operating.
 - Open items:
 - Warning signs, replace sign at boat launch, add new signs on north end of lake, Kevin to order
 - Easement letter, proposed changes to be approved by Paul Evert
 - DNR annual report – Dave to update
 - Reimbursement of loan thru 2026
 - Annual dissolved oxygen monitoring.
- Fish Stocking
 - Continue to follow-up with vendor
 - 5000 bluegill & 5000 crappie
- Town of Tomahawk Board member:
 - Lenore is working with Two Sister Lake on wake boating regulations
- Oneida County Board member
 - New email address for Jim: jwinkler@oneidacountywi.gov

The next commissioner meeting is April 6, 2024. This meeting was adjourned at 10:51.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Collins
Horsehead Lake P&R District #1