

APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS ON MAY 17, 2014

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSIONERS
PIPE LAKES PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
January 11, 2014**

ATTENDING:

Curt Deering, Tom O'Hern, Greg Warner, Joe Zaspel (Johnstown Board Representative), and Herschel Brown (Polk County Representative).

ABSENT:

Stephanie Boysen and Brooke Thill.

GUESTS:

Carol Vantine

MEETING:

Chair, Curt Deering called the Meeting to order, at 8:05 AM.

Public Comment:

No one spoke at this time.

Minutes Approved:

The meeting minutes of the November 8, 2013, were approved.

Treasurer Report:

Mr. O'Hern reviewed the budget and expenditures to date. There is one outstanding payable of \$4000 for the aquatic survey. He noted 75% of this expense is reimbursed from the EIS Grant. A search for new funding for this expense must begin in 2016. The budget was unanimously approved.

Old Business:

Five-Year Plan:

Mr. Warner shared a draft report evaluating progress toward the goals outlined in the Five-Year Plan of 2009. This report is attached to these minutes. The Commission approved sharing this report at the Special Meeting in May 2014.

Water Quality:

Mr. Warner presented a proposed a One Year Water Quality Plan. This plan is attached to these minutes. Mr. Brown moved and Mr. Zaspel seconded the adoption of the plan. The motion passed unanimously.

An email will be sent to solicit volunteers to serve on a reconstituted Water Quality Committee.

The 1-year plan and the 5-year Action Plan review raised several important issues and questions. The Commission noted and acknowledged the wonderful contributions lake owner volunteers make in taking measurements, water sampling, etc. It is also recognized that volunteers may not always be available when water samples need to be taken such as after large rainfalls in early spring. The

Commission discussed several options to address sampling challenges. These include:

- Recruit and train more volunteers
- With District approval, hire professional to sample
- A combination of volunteers and professionals

The Commission decided to conduct benchmarking with other lake districts and investigate other resources such as hiring a county employee or a professional firm. Information will be gathered and discussed during the water quality committee for recommendation to the April Commission meeting and presentation at the Special Meeting in May.

In a related water quality matter, the Commission discussed correspondence from Mr. Bresina raising questions about water quality issues and the Pipe Lakes web site. Following lengthy discussion Mr. Zaspel moved and Mr. O'Hern seconded the following motion:

- To defer the overall data analysis by Mr. Bresina that was approved at a previous meeting and to defer the \$1500 budget approval at the November 8, 2013 meeting for anticipated professional assistance with analysis. Any expenditure to date should be submitted and will be paid.
- The motion passed unanimously.

The correspondence also raised questions with the status of the Pipe and North Pipes Lake website and in particular, the continued use of J&J Services. Mr. O'Hern noted the annual cost to J&J Services is less than \$400. Although it is recognized that many materials on the web site are dated, the documents are current. The Commission discussed the need to query the property owners to evaluate the need for the web site or at least the content. A brief survey will be developed and taken at the May Special meeting and through Survey Monkey to evaluate other potential methods of sharing information and keeping lake owners connected. Mr. Brown moved and Mr. Zaspel seconded the following motion:

- To defer any decisions regarding the Pipe and North Pipe Lakes web site and the use of J&J Services until such a time that sufficient guidance from property owners is available.
- The motion passed unanimously.

Fish Stix Projects

Mr. O'Hern reviewed status of completed and proposed projects. Ten more projects are planned however only sufficient trees for 5 more projects have been identified. Hardwood trees 50-55 feet tall are needed. These must also be easily accessible. To donate, please contact Mr. O'Hern.

Ms. Vantine provided an update on the Grant. She continues to contact lake owners to take advantage of the shoreland protection money available. She reiterated the need to walk the streams and identify any actions that need be taken, with landowner approval.

New Business:

Mr. O'Hern proposed and the Commission approved moving forward with nominating Dick Hollar for PCLAR volunteerism award.

Polk County Update:

Mr. Brown reviewed his rationale for submitting proposed amendments to the Polk County Zoning Ordinance. He believes there exist much misunderstanding of these proposals and provided some perspective and background on his thinking. He also noted what he felt were breakdowns in the process to date. He encouraged the Commission to inform property owners of the process for information and public meetings on his and other's proposed changes.

Township Update:

Mr. Zaspel reported on the early season challenges with the Township's snow grader mechanical problems. He also reviewed the revised supervisor districts and mentioned candidates. This information is located at

<http://www.co.polk.wi.us/landinfo/pdfs/GeneralMaps/SupervisorDistricts/Supervisor15Dist.pdf>

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.

Respectfully

Greg Warner, Secretary

**Pipe and North Pipe Lakes
2009 Five-Year Action Plan
Assessment and Recommendations**
January 2014

Planned Management Actions and Assessments with Recommendations		
Lake Protection Education - educate motivate and sustain		
Actions	Assessment	Recommendations
Mailings of educational materials to District Members	Probably not a good action going forward.	Continue with web site enhancements. Use DL for more regular notification.
Small group guidance meetings led by District leaders	Difficult to achieve.	Use technology for regular committee or task force meetings.
Reports to local government units	Seems to be in place.	Continue while building succession.
Monitoring Studies		
Lake Clarity Characteristics - every 2 weeks May through October 15	Have not met action goals with some measures.	Need to document SOPs, recruit more volunteers and/or consider paying for measures at certain times of year.
Major stream monitoring - sample during 5 runoff events	Not clear from the data if this occurred	See above. Need for volunteers throughout the calendar year.
Enhanced stream monitoring - evaluate retention Structure	Retention structure completed	Ensure appropriate measures from structure are conducted
Shoreland		
Increase protected shoreland on Pipe Lake from 67% to 80%	Not clear if this is accomplished	Need a volunteer to conduct assessment using publically available information
In lake projects		
Invasive species	CBCW program	Continue with increased monitoring
Tree falls	2 completed. Others under consideration	Continue with plans
Critical habitat areas	Not clear if review accomplished-DNR	Re-assess, if needed, seek volunteer to coordinate
Aquatic plant survey	Achieving goal	Continue per DNR guidelines
Outer Watershed		
Road construction and maintenance	Specific culvert issues resolved	Re-evaluate all culverts
Stream Bank stabilization	On-going	See 1 year plan.
Farm management practices	Most if not all under nutrient plans	Carol Vantine verifying Danniger and Elk Farm properties
Phosphorus retention projects	Retention basin for North Pipe Lake	Completed, need to gather appropriate data

Water Quality One-Year Plan Proposal
January 2014

1. Recruit Volunteers to serve on Water Quality Committee
 - a. Must commit to 3-5 conference calls between now and March
 - b. Send email to DL with specific date for responding
2. Document Current Practices
 - a. Lake Measurements
 - b. Stream Measurements
 - c. Retention Basin Measurements
 - d. Volunteers
 - e. Procedures
3. Develop Consensus
 - a. Are we doing what is most important at this time with what we know?
 - b. Are there additional measures that seem to make sense at this time?
 - c. What will cause us to replace, stop or add to what we are doing?
4. Stream Inspection Spring 2014
 - a. Conduct physical inspection of all streams entering Pipe Lakes
 - b. Determine specific actions, if needed
 - c. Determine date, with alternative and participants
5. Affirm Farmland Status
 - a. Danninger property
 - b. Elk Farm
6. Develop Contingency Plan for CBCW Program