

MEETING MINUTES



March 26, 2021

Present from Board: Kevin Horrocks, Gary Pulford, Chris Bedwell, Mark Laustrup, Dick Laumer, Jeff Aspenwall, Jim Coors, Mike Persson, Paul Eckerline

Present from Committees and Guests: Alf Sivertson, Rick O’Neill, Dan Tyrolt

Recording Secretary: Mark Laustrup

Kevin Horrocks called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to accept the February minutes was made by Paul Eckerline and seconded by Dick Laumer. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer’s Report: Chris Bedwell summarized income and expenses for the month. Donations have reached \$60,000. Legal and Limnotech bills were paid along with \$2000 to the Lac Courte Oreilles Conservation Department for the Aquatic Plant Management Plan update. Income versus budget is looking good with a \$18,000 cushion. Kevin Horrocks mentioned that we should pay as much of the musky spawning habitat project with Dan Tyrolt’s grant as we can to preserve funds. A motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made by Paul Eckerline and seconded by Dick Laumer. The vote was unanimous.

Aquatic Plant Management Plan: Kevin Horrocks said that comments are open through March 30. Someone asked if any comments have come in. Dan Tyrolt said that he has received no comments. Jim Coors replied the same. Gary Pulford said that he saw one, thanking COLA for doing what they do. Kevin Horrocks reminded that we need to make sure the LCOCD payment is in line with WDNR reimbursement requirements. The next step is to submit for WDNR approval April 1.

COLA Certification: Kevin Horrocks mentioned that we had to resubmit for certification as a recognized lake association. WDNR has received it but Kevin is not sure when we will be notified.

Eco-Harvester Operation Costs: Kevin Horrocks received notification that operational costs are not covered by the AIS grant. He questions as to whether this is accurate after reviewing program guidance. Dick Laumer asked if anyone asked Lost Land/Teal about what they are doing about operational costs. Gary Pulford said that they did not operate the Eco-Harvester in 2020 because of Covid.

Closed Session

SSC Scope Statement Draft:

Open Session

Eco-Harvester: Kris Sivertson was unable to attend but provided Kevin Horrocks with an update. Final payment and delivery are scheduled for May 1. Training will occur with delivery. Chris Bedwell has the check for \$60,000 from the Eau Claire Foundation and is ready to pay the manufacturer. The permit application has been turned in. Kris thinks we have enough personnel. Winter storage will occur at LCOCD and as a backup, Paul Eckerline's friend. Kevin summarized the launch sites available on the lake, including Trails End Resort. If possible, leave the boat in the water when we can. Dave Zimmer asked about how the plants are unloaded and potential problems with wind and conflicts with ramp use. Jeff Aspenwall mentioned that the harvester will not be operating during peak recreational use. Disposal sites were discussed. A farmer on Hwy 27 is interested. The Tribe will also take the plants. Paul Eckerline also has a place for plants. Kevin got a quote of \$300 for eco-harvester graphics. We should also add magnetic signs for vehicles. Kevin wants a planned effort on graphics. Jeff Aspenwall suggested adding buoys with Eco-Beast grazing area signs. Alf Sivertson mentioned staging the Eco-Beast at Wismo on July 4. It would be great PR and a good way to introduce the machine to the lake users. Kevin said that we need to tie plant harvest back to water quality and phosphorus reduction. Jeff Aspenwall would like to see us compare the plants removed with Eco-Beast versus the chemicals used to treat same area.

Musky Bay Spawning Restoration: Mike Persson spoke with Ben Crary at Limnotech this morning and no organics have been detected in the sediment samples. In Mike's opinion, open water disposal is not an option. GeoBags are not an option either. Land disposal also has considerations; high N/P would impact groundwater. Dan is working on invoicing so we can use his grant money. Kevin Horrocks is not impressed with the WDNR response; they should be out front with this project to restore musky spawning habitat and asked if we can move up the chain of command to get around some of these project impediments. Dan Tyrolt said that we need to submit the application and argue for a reasonable and cost-effective solution. We need to sit down with Limnotech and put the application together.

WDNR Cisco/Whitefish Survey: Gary Pulford said WDNR is Madison is looking at how this might happen. Dan Tyrolt mentioned that he has a grant to set out temperature and oxygen loggers with GLIFWC and EPA. Dan also said that WDNR is surveying for cisco and whitefish every couple of years on LCO. It seems there may be a communication problem within WDNR.

Shoreline Buffer Update: Mark Laustrup provided an update on the project and emailed the Limnotech memo to the COLA Board. The results of the pilot project are encouraging. Dan Tyrolt suggested asking Limnotech for a scope of work and budget so he can look for grant money to cover the cost. Mark will contact Ben for a scope of work and budget to complete the project. He will also work to get WDNR concurrence on the approach.

Wolf Lane Construction: WDNR said it does not violate OHWM regulations. Sawyer County is waffling on enforcement and arguing after the fact variances on all violations. There is no penalty for violations in Sawyer County. Alf Sivertson said that we need to attend the Board of Appeals hearing and say this is not acceptable and that we will take appropriate action if an after the fact variance is granted. Gary Pulford suggested meeting with Sawyer County Zoning next week on-site and go over the 5 issues at stake. Gary Pulford, Kevin Horrocks, Mark Laustrup, Mike Persson, Alf Sivertson and Chris Bedwell will attend the meeting.

Bass Lake Town Issues: Kevin Horrocks summarized the issues with Bass Lake Township on camping and ATV use. Kevin said that Jay Kazlowski said that they do not allow the rental of campsites. It is not a township issue. These rentals must follow camp site regulations and he has shut down a number of

them. Jim Coors suggested that we inform the membership of the issues. Dan Tyrolt explained the rationale behind Phil Nies' suggested resolution to change to the camping ordinance. Jim will contact Phil Nies, get a copy of the resolution and send out an email blast.

Water Levels: Pass

2021 Annual Meeting and Picnic: Pass

Adjourn: 5:06