

MEETING MINUTES



September 25, 2020

Present from Board: Kevin Horrocks, Jim Coors, Chris Bedwell, Mark Lastrup, Dick Laumer, Jeff Aspenwall, Kris Sivertson, Paul Eckerline

Present from Committees and Guests: Rick O'Neill, Dan Tyrolt

Recording **Secretary:** Mark Lastrup

Kevin Horrocks call the meeting to order at 3:10 PM.

Approval of Minutes: A motion to accept the August minutes was made by Jim Coors and seconded by Kris Sivertson. The vote was unanimous.

Treasurer's Report: Chris Bedwell summarized income and expenses for the month. There was a \$1000 donation from August that did not get reported in time for last month's financial reports. A few memberships came in. She paid donations to St. Francis Mission and Bass Lake Township. Legal invoices of \$10,016 as well as LimnoTech invoice of \$965 were paid. She downgraded the web service plan to better meet COLA needs. COLA should be able to utilize our Square credit card processing account to take recurring payments from donors, so she will work on getting that option up on the website. The budget looks good for marketing/fundraising costs still to come in 2020. There is approx. \$7,000 remaining in the budget for legal costs, and \$2,500 remaining in the LimnoTech budget. Dan Tyrolt will submit the \$2,000 bill for the updating of the Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Chris will be gone in Jan and Feb and will need help with checking the PO box and depositing checks at the bank. She will still manage all financials including credit card donations. A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Kris Sivertson and seconded by Jim Coors. The vote was unanimous.

AIS 2020 Reimbursement: Jeff Aspenwall has not had time to work on it. Get any information that you have to Jeff and he will work on it after the first of October.

Musky Bay Project Status: Mike Persson, Gary Pulford and Kevin Horrocks had a phone meeting. We are still trying to figure out what permits are necessary. Max Wolter (WDNR) updated Kevin on the musky population. They found a naturally spawned musky in their netting work.

Aquatic Plant Management Plan: Dan Tyrolt sent out the draft of the plan and we need to review ASAP. Dan sent the plan to WDNR for comments. We need to set up a Zoom meeting within the next couple of weeks and then put it out for public review. Following review, we can then adopt the plan.

State of the Lakes: The email version of the questionnaire was sent out on September 14th. A printed version will also go out. Jim Coors said that 82 people have already responded. We have received

positive feedback so far. Jim asked the board to make sure we fill out the questionnaire. Jim Payne commented on the lack of buffer zones.

Eco-Harvester: Kris Sivertson asked about down payment authorization. Kevin Horrocks said that it has already been authorized. Kris is looking at Insurance. Kevin asked if we need to meet with the manufacturer. Kris will inquire. He mentioned that the trailer to haul harvested plants will come out of Rice Lake and cost about \$6,000. They will have it on the lot and we can wait until the first quarter of next year to place the order. Kevin mentioned that a farmer on the west end of the lake is interested in the compost. Dan Tyrolt provided answers to questions the farmer had about the plants spreading in his fields. Dan also mentioned that LCO College will accept some and we can use the LCOCD property. Kris will contact the manufacturer next week about providing the down payment. Kevin has names of people who are interested in working on the machine. Kevin will provide Kris with an email authorization.

Fundraising Plan: Alf Sivertson was unavailable for the Zoom meeting. More information will be coming from Alf and Kevin Horrocks on what we will be doing. Rick O’Neill asked how we will track donations. If anyone has any ideas/concerns, provide to the entire board.

COLA Donation Model: See Fundraising Plan

2021 Budget/Projects: Skip

SSC Update: Closed session.

CWA Action: Closed session.

501(c)(3) Certification: Jim Coors asked the Eau Claire Foundation to transfer \$4000 to COLA and they would not do it. We are not 501(c)(3) without the certification letter. This doesn’t impact Eco-Harvester funding.

AIS Update: Kevin Horrocks will apply for the grant extension.

2021 Surveys: Dan Tyrolt said that he recommended septic survey every 10-years in the Aquatic Plant Management Plan update. Given that we completed a septic survey in 2014, we can put off a new survey to 2024. The shoreline buffers need work. Dan included buffers in the aquatic plant management plan. WDNR and Minnesota have developed protocols. We should undertake a new survey within the next two years. Dan developed a time line.

Grant Writing: Kris Sivertson will handle the Eco-Harvester. Scott Van Eagan will be on the zoom meeting for the Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Dan Tyrolt does not think a grant extension is going to be a big deal. Dan will look in to what we can do.

Watershed Forestry: Paul Eckerline said Ellison will put together a presentation. They will meet with FutureWood. Paul will contact Ellison and get back to Kevin Horrocks.

USACE Watershed Grant: No movement according to Dan Tyrolt

Water Levels: Three individuals have been badgering the county about water levels. They want to lower the lake level. They cite a 1937 study that set the level. The reference marker used is no longer in existence. The county will try to determine where the official measurements should be taken, as well as what the “nominal” water level range should be.

Jeff Aspenwall reiterated the water levels in Little LCO were low during the spring of 2020, specifically the week of Memorial Day, as well as September. Attempts to traverse the channel between the lakes was difficult, if not impossible on at least one occasion. Returning the Billy Boy dam operation to status quo (pre-2020) allowed the water levels to rise a couple inches, at least enough to provide for more accessibility through the LCO/LLCO channel. However, with the onset of autumn, the levels have been allowed to drop once again to the point where even a small pontoon will bottom out before reaching the bridge from the LLCO side. Larger watercraft are assumed to have similar issues.

Since the channel is only exit from Little Lac Courte Oreilles, formal requests via email to the Sawyer County conservation officer have been made, in the hopes of closing the Billy Boy dam gates, at least enough to afford removal of watercraft in preparation for the upcoming winter. A public access to LLCO does not exist.

Feedback from owners on the big lake (Lac Courte Oreilles) indicates many have had trouble getting their boats off their lifts during the summer of 2020, due to the lower than recent memory water levels. Some have resorted to extending their docks by twenty to thirty feet as well.

Adjourn: 4:45