

Not Approved – draft v2
Post Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District
Commissioners Quarterly Meeting, December 12, 2020
Minutes

1. The PLP&RD commissioners' quarterly meeting was held on December 12, 2020, virtually via a Zoom call format. Chairperson John Steber called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m. Commissioners present for the meeting: John Steber, John Raisleger, Andy Joswiak, Jeff McKinney, Tim Prunty and Phil McGrath. Carol Feller Gottard could not access the call because of technical difficulties but sent in a report. There were two attendees in the audience, Steve Brettingen -Bookkeeper and Ken West – Dam manager.
2. The Minutes from the August 8, 2020 Quarterly meeting were distributed via email in advance to the commissioners. Edits to the first draft had been submitted prior to the meeting. No further changes were requested, and a motion was passed to accept the minutes as written.

The Minutes from the August 8, 2020 Annual meeting were reviewed for any final edits. None were made. A motion for approval will be made at the District's 2021 Annual meeting.

3. The Treasurer's report, year to date through November 30, 2020, was presented by Steve Brettingen the PLP&RD's bookkeeper. Balances as of November 30, 2020: \$69,842.06 for Total Assets; \$60,585.07 for Total Income; \$40,772.81 for Total Expenses. In the discussion that followed it was noted:
 - a. The largest expense for 2020 was \$15,495 for work at Isle of Pine Boat Landing. John Steber reported the District will be receiving a reimbursement of approximately \$6,500.00 from the DNR.
 - b. The reimbursement check from the DNR for the Lake Management Study is expected soon. John Steber is in contact with the DNR.
 - c. The largest deviation to the 2020 budget was the lower than anticipated expenses for weed harvesting.
 - d. Steve stated the district is in very good financial shape.
 - e. A Motion was approved unanimously to accept the Treasurer Report.

4. New Business

a. Proposed Habitat Work on Upper and Lower Post Lakes

i. Taylor Curran, Fisheries Management Technician Advanced, DNR presented a program for a winter lake habitat project on Upper and Lower Post Lakes to be completed during the upcoming winter months. Below is the summary submitted for the project. The full document is posted on the webpage.

1. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is purposing a winter lake habitat project on Upper and Lower Post Lakes
2. Large woody habitat is lacking in Upper and Lower Post Lakes
3. Large complex woody habitat is important for a variety of fish life history needs. This includes spawning cover and/or substrate, hiding/resting cover for adult and juvenile fish, and substrate for periphyton and invertebrates which are important food items for a variety of fish species.
4. On and offshore fish sticks will be used
 - a. Fish sticks are a standard structure used by fisheries staff to mimic naturally fallen trees.
 - b. They consist of live full-sized trees not taken off the immediate shoreline.
 - c. Project will be completed on the ice (late January-March)
 - i. Minimum of 15 inches of good ice is needed
 - ii. 3 weeks estimated work time

5. Goals

- a. Supplement naturally recruiting large woody habitat
 - b. Improve habitat by increasing the amount of wood habitat available for various fish species
- ii. A thorough discussion followed on the procedure and merits of the project. Placement in Lower Post near Isle of Pines was questioned because of concerns about navigation disruption in that area. Taylor assured us this would not be the case as the placement would be very close to the shoreline. Placement near Upper Post's south shore was questioned because of the proximity to property owners in the area. Taylor said placement would be approximately 200 yards offshore in the deepest portion of the lake and the trees will be weighted sunk with rocks. This is the most conservative location for Upper Post and the placement would not impede boating or swimming.
- iii. The total budget for the project is \$5,500. The WDNR has \$3,500 to contribute which will leave a \$2,000 short fall. The WDNR will also be seeking donation 25 hardwood trees and large rooks, preferably available within close proximity to the project.

- iv. The Commissioners recommended the PLIA be notified of the project to see if they may be interested in contributing. Andy will reach out to the PLIA on Taylor's behalf.
 - v. A motion was made, reading, "PLP&RD commits \$1,000 to the DNR's Habitat Work on Upper and Lower Post Lakes as presented, by Taylor Curran on Dec. 12, 2020 with these funds provided as directed by Taylor." The motion carried. Those in favor: Tim, Andy, and John Steber. Opposed: Phil, Jeff, (concern of blockage of navigation lanes on Lower Post.) Abstained: John Raisleger.
- b. Consider a Proposal to Change the District's Accounting Firms.
- i. KerberRose and Fuller CPAs submitted proposals to provide accounting services for 2021. Tim Prunty led a discussion on the merits of both proposals. There was a wide variance on the total cost for each of the proposals (Fuller – lower; KerberRose – higher) that had to be considered. It was noted KerberRose has a long history of working with the district under the leadership of Steve Brettingen.
 - ii. A motion was made to retain KerberRose for one year as the accounting firm for the district. Those in favor: Phil, Andy, Tim. Opposed: John Raisleger, Jeff. Motion carried.
- c. Boat Landing Committee:
- i. John Steber led a discussion on committing the district to paying for the complete renovation to the main boat landing on Upper Post. The board reviewed the responsibilities of the Town of Elcho and PLP&RD District for the maintenance of the lakes three boat landings. A motion was made, "PLP&RD takes responsibility for improvements and upgrades to the lakes three boat landings." The Motion passed with no opposition.
 - ii. John Steber led the discussion to consider a plan for signage at all three boat landings. (Discussion points listed below):
 - 1. The committee members agreed that the signage for all three boat landings need to be upgraded and that it should be consistent at all three landings.
 - 2. Members agreed to recommend that each boat landing would have the same signage, which will consist of two sign boards. One sign would be a 48" x 48" WDNR Invasive Species Station (see photo below). The other board to be a Lake Rules & Map sign, approximate size to be 48" x 72". The Lake Rules and Map sign (see layout in e-mail attachment) will feature a list of our basic lake rules and a map of the lake showing the location of our designated Slow No Wake areas. It is also recommended that a roof be included over the Rules & Map sign board. These two sign boards would replace the present approach of placing individual signs on numerous posts (see photos below).

3. Existing kiosks to be removed.
4. Andy Joswiak agreed to take the lead on the design and building of the sign board structures and the other committee members agreed to help as needed.
5. The cost of just the signs will be approx. \$500.00 per boat landing. The cost of the structure (posts, hardware & roofing materials) has yet to be determined.

A motion was made to approve the signage improvement recommended for all three boat landings, as presented today at the meeting. The motion was approved. Andy will take the lead and report back on costs as those become available.

- iii. John Steber led a discussion to consider issuing a RFP to provide pre-engineering plans for renovations of the Main Boat Landing. It was noted that the WDNR will require that stamped engineering plans be obtained for both permits and funding assistance for the improvements to this landing. The district will be seeking both state and federal grants, which could pay for a majority of the associated costs.
 1. John Steber asked for clarification on whom and how to choose an engineering firm, should it be the Town of Elcho or the PLP&RD. A motion was made, "Contingent on the Town of Elcho's approval, PLP&RD will work with the engineering firm MSA of Stevens Point, Wisconsin to begin work on improvements to the main boat landing." The motion was approved with no objections.
 2. Jeff McKinney will add to the agenda for the next Town of Elcho Board meeting, asking for approval of PLP&RD recommendation to begin working with the engineering firm MSA for the boat landing project.
- iv. Roof on the Elcho Storage Building – John Raisleger led this discussion, detailing the leaks in the roof at the District's storage building in Elcho. Jeff McKinney will investigate having the company that installed the new roof at the fire house, assess the situation with our roof. No further action was taken at this meeting and this should be an agenda item at our next meeting.

5. Old Business

- a. None Reported

Committee Reports

- a. Boat Landing Committee –See New Business for the report.
- b. Weed Harvesting – John Raisleger reported that he will be completing a final report for the DNR on the harvesting records for 2020.
- c. Lake Safety – Andy Joswiak reported there are 17 buoys on the lakes and fall removal was completed. There will be the usual maintenance completed before installation in the spring.
- d. Dam – Jeff McKinney led the discussion. He will update the Management Plan to reflect that Andy is listed as a backup Dam Tender. Other edits will be made as needed.

Coordinator Position updates

- a. Citizen Lakes Monitoring Network – Andy reported he will take action to request Upper and Lower Post are included in this program for 2021
 - b. Website Development – Phil McGrath acknowledged the fine work from Rose Prunty.
6. Carol Gottard submitted a written report that Molly McKay resigned her position with Langlade County to take a position as a Park Ranger, her dream job. Chris Arrowood has been hired as the county's new Conservationist.
7. The 2021 Quarterly and Annual meeting dates were confirmed. All in person meetings will be held at the PLIA building. If a virtual format is required, it will be announced well in advance. Below are the meeting dates and time
- March 27, 2021 9:00 a.m.
 - May 22, 2021 9:00 a.m.
 - August 7, 2021 9:00 a.m.
 - December 4, 2021 9:00 a.m.
8. This meeting was adjourned at 10:59 a.m.