



The Church Pine, Round and Big Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Annual Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2023

The 2023 Annual Meeting of the Church Pine, Round and Big Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District was called to order by Chair Mike Reiter at 9:00 am.

Thirty six residents signed in and attended the meeting and thirty one lake residents voted for the board members.

Opening remarks were given by Mike Reiter. Board Members in attendance were Mike Reiter, Beth Hartman, Warren Wasescha, Jerry Tack, Ann Layton, and Keith Karpenski. Committee Chairs Tom Campbell and Kel Kobernick were also in attendance. The meeting was held at the West Immanuel Church Servant Hall. There was a handout available to those present at the meeting and now available on the website.

Secretary's Report: The minutes for the August 27th, 2022 Annual Meeting were presented and copies included in the handout. Jerry Tack made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes. John Schulte moved to approve which was seconded by Rachel Starbuck. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Aquatic Plant Management Committee: Mike Reiter reported. An Aquatic Management Plan is updated every 5 years providing guidance on monitoring and treating invasive species in the lakes. This is an important step in obtaining grants to help offset the cost of monitoring and treatment. Our largest grant was for Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP). The CLP beds have been controlled to the point that the remaining beds are too small to be treated effectively and were not treated in 2023. They will continue to be surveyed and monitored and treatment restarted if warranted in the future. We will make future decisions regarding treatment under the guidance of the county and DNR.

Big Lake Internal Load Study: This study is being done by the University of Wisconsin Stout to try to identify sources of phosphorous in Big Lake which contributed to algae growth and impaired water. The overall goal is to keep Big Lake off the impaired waters list. Additional testing was done this year. The data is now being analyzed by Steve Schieffer and we hope to have a report this fall. A copy will be posted on the website when received.

Healthy Lakes Initiative: Beth Hartman reported that all open projects were completed.

In the fall newsletter a survey was included to solicit interest in shoreline plantings, rain gardens and diversions. Eight landowners completed the surveys indicating they were interested. At this point no one has finalized plans to be submitted for the grants. The DNR has a website with good information on this program that residents should look at if they are interested. For eligibility for next summer the grant would have to be written in October.

Purple loosestrife control has continued to be worked on by the Healthy Lakes Committee, made up of Cheryl Beardslee, Dave Fodroczi and Beth Hartman. Last year, 2022, permits for chemical treatment were secured with permission from the landowners for some of the larger sites. The treatment areas were noticeable however two treatments are needed and follow up permits were received and treatment done this year. Not all landowners were willing to participate but the committee continues to work with them as well as with landowners with new sites. For this fall the committee has also treated smaller areas by pulling and bagging purple loose strife which is very visible this time of year. It is recommended that any landowners with small patches do the same.

Loon Platforms: The Loon Platform on Round Lake was moved to the other side of the channel to a bit of a more protected area. There were loons nesting on the platform but no confirmation of eggs or babies. Another loon platform was added on the bay near the channel of Church Pine Lake. The only activity this year appeared to be geese. Jane and Jim Campbell may consider relocating for next year.

Fish Stocking Committee: Kel Kobernick presented. Walleyes were stocked in October of 2022; a total of 3000 walleye were stocked in Big Lake and Church Pine from Central Wisconsin Fish Farm. In the past fish stocking has been supported by the Lake District and by Earl Mork of the Big Lake Store based on the success of the ice fishing contest. Because of poor ice fishing conditions this year there was no contribution from the contest. Additionally, the DNR has implemented a change requiring the walleyes to be stocked are from the Chippewa Strain of walleye, which the DNR indicated are only available from the St. Croix Band of Ojibway. Their price is \$4.50 per fish vs. \$2.50. Because of the increase in cost the number of fish to be stocked in 2023 will be 1300 of the same size, 8-inch walleyes. Anglers have been catching walleye of legal size, so we know the stocking is working. A DNR Fish Survey was done this summer. The preliminary report from the DNR indicates the lakes panfish are of excellent size and good population. The bass in the lake are abundant but run a little small. This is good for other fish populations. Although not intended to survey for walleye, the survey stumbled upon a number of legal-size walleyes. The official report will be posted to the website when it is available.

Social Committee: Ann Layton presented. Mother nature had her own plans for the 4th of July parade this year. For a summer with very little rain, the hardest rain of the year fell at noon on the 4th. Better luck next year. A Pontoon Concert with "North of 64" playing was held on August 12, 2023. It was a beautiful summer day with 30 to 40 pontoons, boats, kayaks, paddle boards and swimmers enjoying the music. The Social Dinner was just held a week ago at UW Wanderoos. A beautiful evening and good time for the 100 people who attended. Sherri and Bob Singer did a great job coordinating this event again this year. Sherri noted that a few people RSVP'd but failed to show up.

This makes it difficult for pricing. We had a non-motorized parade Sunday of Labor Day weekend in 2022 and are planning to have the 4th Annual Paddle Parade Sunday, September 3, 2023. Join us at 12:00 Noon on the north end of Round Lake by the Bridge.

Web Site Committee: Tom Campbell reported. The website analytics were on the power point slides and available on the website. The website has historical data such as minutes, grant information and management plans. It is an excellent resource for new residents and includes a link to the Shoreland Property Owner Handbook from Polk County.

Navigation and Buoys: Jerry Tack reported. The Slow No Wake Buoys were removed at the request of the DNR because we did not have permits and they were in what is a slow no-wake zone by statute. The problem is not all boat and PWC operators know the rules or follow them. Jerry continues to work with the DNR on the permitting process. An ordinance from the Town of Alden is required for the permit request and was received. The process with the DNR continues with the hope of having buoys on both sides of the channel and both sides of the bridge. Also affecting navigation is the proliferation of lily pads around the channels and bays on the lake. A committee has been formed to work on plans and permits for removal. Additionally, lower water levels means dredging may have to be considered again.

Boat Access Landings: Keith Karpenski reported that there has been no change to the status of the Church Pine Landing project. Change in personnel at the DNR has delayed the project. Of note is the utility company is planning to do something with power lines in the area and would like to work with Alden. Overall, the town of Alden is in charge. Their concern is to make the access more accessible and improve the safety on 45th Avenue by having parking off the road and boat landing not blocking the road. Keith noted overall the number of complaints and usage at all landings in Alden is down from the high in the 2020 and 2021. Regarding the Big Lake landing, a new company for the portable toilet was secured because of cost increase by former company due to abuse and trash in toilet. Also discussed the problems with power loading boats at landings causing deep holes. The answer is not to fill the holes but rather to try and recover the fill that washes out. The road crew will attempt to do that when their back hoe is available.

Landing Camera Update: Tom Campbell reported. The camera is there to identify and prevent Aquatic Invasive Species from entering our lakes. A new system was installed following vandalism and other problems with the old system. The new system is a standalone system that relies on solar and batteries as well as a phone unit. The new system has worked great all summer. There is more information on the website for the I-Lids Monitoring including video captures and usage statistics.

CBCW Committee: Warren Wasescha reported that we again had trouble keeping inspectors through the summer. Annette Viebrock is in charge and started the year with 3 inspectors was down to one but is back up to 3 and hopes to continue with them to the end of the season. We have only 300 hours of inspections this year to date vs. 436

hours last year. The total hours and dollars used can influence future grant amounts. Consideration will be given to increasing wages that have not been increased for two years. Although it may look like an easy job when you see them sitting enjoying the weather it can be difficult negotiating inspections with less than courteous boaters. We again plan to continue the program next year and plan to have Cheryl Clemens apply for the grant.

Treasurers Report: Warren Wasescha reported. An audit of the financial records for the year ended December 31, 2022 was completed by Kel Kobernick. A summary of his review and findings is included in the power point, the conclusion being that the financial records are in good order and well maintained and that they fairly represent the operations and fund balances of the Lake District. Thank you to current treasurer Warren for doing a good job for the Lake District.

Warren then presented the Annual Operating Plan (AOP) for 2023 Year End and Year to Date 08/15/2023 and 2024 Budget proposals and the Non-Lapsing Funds summaries (NLF) for the same periods. Detailed statement included in handout and power point.

New Business:

2023 Budget Approval: 2023 Budget Proposal calls for the levy to remain the same. Warren highlighted the larger expenditures and some of the changes in the budget. Grant matching expenditures declined for CLP as treatment has been suspended and fish stocking expenditures to increase as noted above in committee reports. We look for increases to education and training to get more people involved in committees and to serve on the board. A motion to approve the 2022 budget was made by Jim Campbell and seconded by Jane Campbell. Motion passed.

Election of Commissioners: Mike Reiter presented the board's nominations. Warren Wasescha and Beth Hartman's terms are expiring. Warren has agreed to seek another term. Beth is stepping down at this time. Many thanks for the time she has served and especially for her work on Healthy Lakes Grants. Mike solicited nominations from the floor and receiving none continued with the written ballot as required. A numbered ballot was provided with handout packages to be used by landowners. Write-in candidates can also be entered on the ballot. Write-in candidates were solicited. Secret ballots were cast with Warren getting 31 votes. There were write-in votes for Bob Singer and Rusty Tuttle. They will be approached by the board to see if they would be willing to be appointed and serve on the board. Attending board meetings would be a good way to see what is involved. Another way to get involved would be to attend the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership meeting in Stevens Point in April. Please consider getting involved in the health of your lakes.

Closing Remarks: Mike Reiter presented, reminding the residents to access the website for information throughout the year. A motion to adjourn was made by Rob Starbuck and seconded by Ann Wasescha. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Secretary: Ann Layton

Signed:

Title: Secretary

Date Approved: