

Mid Lake Protection and Management District

Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 1, 2023
8 a.m. CST
Woodruff Town Hall

Board of Commissioners

Present: Joe Pilarski, Scott Bullock, Andy Bullock, Barb Smith, Robert Grant, Mike Timmons (Town of Woodruff), and Jim Winkler (Oneida County)

Joe Pilarski called the meeting to order at 8:09 a.m. CST

Prior Minutes:

The minutes from last year's annual meeting on July 2, 2022 were given to district members for review. Joe mentioned that all meetings are posted on MLPMD website under the events page. As always, any mistakes to the minutes are Andy Bullock's fault and definitely not the secretary. Approval of the minutes were motioned by Andy Bullock and seconded by Julie Hudson. Vote: Unanimous Aye. Motion passed. The minutes were approved and are to be posted on Mid Lake District website.

Harvesting report and weed management:

Joe Pilarski stated that Eddie Heath from Onterra reported that no Eurasian Milfoil was found on Mid Lake this year. Last year there were patches located on the lake and this year no samples have returned Eurasian Milfoil. Onterra did detect curly leaf pondweed, which is common in Mid Lake. Curly leaf is another invasive species, but it is less aggressive than Eurasian milfoil. This success appears to be result from hand harvesting early. The board feels that chemical treatment is an absolute last resort. Currently, treatment plans prioritize hand pulling and Dash (vacuum). It is the most economical way to combat invasive weeds while simultaneously protecting the lake the most. Scott Bullock reminding the district that this good news does not mean that we will not have invasive weeds in the future and the entire district must remain vigilant in its protection. Robert Grant mentioned that the every other lake on the chain has had to use chemical treatment because areas were too impacted by Eurasian Milfoil. Last year Minocqua went back to primarily using hand pulling again. Last year Minocqua/Kawaguesaga had 228 dives that cost hundreds of thousands of dollars and it is important to hold on to funding in order to quickly respond to threats.

Joe Smith presented Harvester report. It was estimated that last year there were 26 loads. Haven't been out yet this year yet to collect weeds because they growing later this season. Please place piles in locations where it is easier for the weed cutter to access. Ideally combine piles with your neighbor. Weeds on docks will not be picked up. Please do not include yard waste in piles. Saturday pick up will continue through season. Ed Bruner has stepped done from operating the cutter. A personal thank you from Joe Smith to Ed for all of his help over the years. Joe mentioned that if we can't find someone to run the weed cutter we will have to hire an outside company.

Education Opportunity with Stephanine Bosimeneue:

The comprehensive lake management plan was approved in October 2022. A special thank you to Robert Grant and everyone else who helps so much. Educational opportunities are one part of the plan. Such an opportunity will occur on 7/6/23 with Stephanie Bosimenu (the aquatic invasive species specialist). Stephanie will come to Mid Lake (Grundy Point) and provide invasive species training to all who would like to learn more on invasive species on Mid Lake. Program starts at 9am and will last about an hour. Upon the completion she will paddle around the lake, with anyone that wants to join her and look at invasive species on district member's property. For those interested there are grants to improve shoreline for members seeking financial assistance.

Lake Water Sampling:

A big thank you to Dennis for doing the lake water sampling for so many years. He will no longer be doing the water sampling and the district is looking for another volunteer. Dennis is willing to help train anyone that is interested. The phosphorus level in the lake is a large concern because it can lead to algae blooms. Please be cognizant of the lawn care products that may run off into the lake. Joe Pilarski has all of the lake sampling data collected last year and will share with anyone that would like to see it. Lake sampling takes about 15 mins and occurs monthly from May through August.

Approval of Treasurer's Report:

Barb Smith presented the treasurer's report. We ended last year very close to what was predicted (\$-15,000). The district has been trying to spend down excess funds while still holding enough reserve funds to combat invasive weeds as needed. This year the budget expects to spend down excess funds similar to last year (approx. \$-15,000). As of last night, there was a balance of \$44,145.53 in the checking account and \$114,960.29 in the CD. Last year it was requested to try and find something that would earn more money than the CD and the bank laughed at the notion. Since CD rates have gone up this year and Barb will check again.

Robert Grant reiterated that although the district funds seem like a lot of money, Minocqua and Kawaguesaga spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in the last 12 months hand pulling invasive weeds. Lake Tomahawk operates two mechanical harvesters that run all the time and they are also doing chemical treatment (applied for another DNR permit this year) that will cost approx. \$70K for one treatment. Even though Mid Lake is much smaller, the entire lake is well suited for weed growth. Lake Tomahawk only has approximately 10% of the lake that promotes weeds due to its depth. The actual area being treated between the two lakes are comparable. Any boat coming into our lake with a fragment of Eurasian Milfoil can reseed. The natural flow of water is from Lake Tomahawk into Kawaguesaga.

Dan Stengle motioned to approve treasurer's report and seconded by John Johnston. Motion passed with majority vote.

Proposed Budget and Levy:

Barb Smith presented the proposed budget and levy. The board recommends leaving the mill rate at 0.8. Andy Bullock mentioned that the District is in a good position by not having to generate funds. Generating funds takes time and without reserve funds set aside, the district will be unable to act quickly and decisively to combat invasive weeds. Motion to pass proposed budget by Dan Stengle and seconded by Marc Daley. A vote was called to keep the Mill Rate at .8. Motion passed with majority vote.

By Law Amendment Proposal:

The board wants to ensure that no one representing the board can go to any entity without the permission of the board and district. Mike Timmons mentioned that current bylaws do not address ethics. Any individual representing the board must have consent of the board prior to engaging any organization or entity. Since this is not addressed in the bylaws, the board recommends the amendment:

“Any person can have their own opinion on issues for Mid Lake, but to speak for the district the following shall apply: Any member of the Mid Lake Protection Management District representing the District shall have prior permission to do so. To be granted permission, there shall be a meeting of the whole body or the board at a posted published location where they will grant that approval. Any Board member may be removed from office for doing so without said permission. This would not apply to a Board member doing specific duties that need continuing action for representation or day-to-day operations.”

Having this language in our by-laws will prevent any board member from misrepresenting the district. Robert Grant summarized that the board wants to make sure that anyone approaching the town of Woodruff, the county, or the State making requests on behalf of Mid Lake have concurrence of all the residents (or the board) to do so. Phil Steffes made a motion to accept the By-Law amendment proposal and seconded John Johnston. Vote: motion passed with majority vote.

Election of New Board Members:

Andy and Robert have been on the Board for nine years. A large thank you for the many years of dedicated service to the District. Board members are limited to three 3 year consecutive terms. Chris Yamaya and Sharon Carroll have both volunteered to fill the board vacancies. There was a motion to close the nominations by Mike Spada and seconded by John Ross. Both nominations were unanimously elected to the board.

Public Comments:

Note: Comments are limited to 2 minutes so the meeting does not unnecessarily get extended.

Public Comment: John Ross. Wanted to thank the elected officials of the district. Additionally, wanted to thank Mike Timmons for ensuring that the roads were always cleared last winter.

Public Comment: Boat parade. Anyone interested be out on the water at 1:00 p.m.

Public Comment: Chris McCann. Without question this is the highest quality board ever assembled. He is delighted with the two new positions that were just elected

Public Comment: Jim Winkler. Serves on three different lake districts. The turnout for Mid Lake annual meeting is very impressive. Some larger lakes have much smaller amount of members coming to meetings.

Date(s) of future meetings:

The next meeting will be the annual meeting held at Woodruff Town Hall on July 6, 2024 at 8 a.m. Motion to set date on July 6th by Dan Stengle and seconded by John Ross. Vote was unanimously approved, motion passed.

Adjournment:

At 9:51 the meeting was adjourned by Joe Pilarski.
