

Mid Lake Protection and Management District

Annual Meeting
Saturday, July 6, 2024
8 a.m. CST
Woodruff Town Hall

Board of Commissioners

Present: Joe Pilarski, Barb Coulter Smith, Scott Bullock, Sharon Carroll, Chris Yamaya, and Lenore Lopez

Not Present: Mike Timmons

Joe Pilarski called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. CST

Prior Minutes:

The minutes from last year's annual meeting on July 1, 2023 were given to district members for review. Joe mentioned that minutes are also posted on MLPMD website. Approval of the minutes were motioned by Joe Smith and seconded by Sarah Evans. Vote: Unanimous Aye. Motion passed. The minutes were approved.

Harvesting report and weed management:

On 6/19/2024 Onterra performed their annual assessment of Mid Lake. This allows the district to stay on top of invasive species and allows us to have Aquatic Plant Management remove any invasive weeds that were spotted. This year no Eurasian Water Milfoil was detected. There was some Curly Leaf Pondweed which is not a surprise. It is very common on the chain with particular problems in Minocqua and Tomahawk. A map of the lake was passed around for the district to review showing the path Onterra inspected to include dive sites. If any district members see possible EWM please take a photograph and email it to the board so we can have Onterra investigate that specific location. As a reminder, the weed cutter is only allowed to cut specific DNR approved lanes. Clear cutting the lake is not allowed. If it were that would likely lead to invasive species taking over the lake.

Joe Smith reported that last year there were only 15 loads of weeds (a new record low). This year there has been one large mat of Curly Leaf, but in general the weed cutter will only go out if there are weeds to cut. This is an effort to maximize efficiency and save the district money. As a reminder, do not place weeds on docks. They will not be picked up. Please stack weeds where the cutter can get to shore and pick up. Please do not stack weeds on lawns but rather keep them on the edge of the water where the pick up crew can be easily get them.

Robert Grant asked if the district has considered hand pulling Curly Leaf. This is going to be discussed with Aquatic Plant Management. Hand-pulling is one of the primary weed mitigation strategies that the district uses but has been directed at EWM to this point. The board will also look into early cutting and the feasibility to accomplish it. There are logistic challenges that have to be overcome to do early cutting or possibly contract out the weed cutting.

Lake Water Sampling:

Phil Steffes has taken over from Dennis Hirtz. Dennis has been sampling for the last five years. Mid Lake has been water sampling since 2001 and has become one of the DNR's oldest data sets. The DNR provides a report every year and it will be posted to the website. All historical reports are also available on the DNR website. The greatest concern to the health of the lake is phosphorus. Everyone should make an effort to try and reduce the amount of phosphorus they use. The most common cause of phosphorus entering the lake is from lawn fertilizer. Currently, the health of the lake is good, but the phosphorus is a major concern because it promotes weed growth (both native and invasive).

Approval of Treasurer's Report:

Barb Smith presented the treasurer's report. We had some funding coming in from a grant that was unexpected. This means that the district ended the year with a positive \$6,342.85. The current checking account balance is \$56,350 and the CD balance is \$119,209.50. Last summer Barb and Joe were able to renew the CD at a much better rate. So far this year the district has earned \$2,830 in interest.

Barb realized an issue with assessed values when trying to suggest a mill rate. Barb spent over 20 hours this year finally figuring out (to no one's fault) that it has been calculated incorrectly. This comes down to the difference between assessed value and equalized value. Historically, the difference has not impacted the district before. The Dept. of Revenue has changed the format on their website. There is now a form that auto populates the tax assessment. Traditionally we have always used the assessed property values provided by the county. We are supposed to use equalized property values which are calculated by the Dept. of Revenue. This value more accurately reflects market value.

The board suggests a mill rate between .6 and .7, but would like to remind everyone that the mill rate is a vote for 2025 taxes and we won't see the funds until 2026. Barb estimated that payroll is expected to be less this year and we were able to save money by leasing an older truck from Lenz. Motion to approve treasure's report by Jane Evans. Mark Bailey seconded the report. Vote: Unanimous Aye. Motion passed. The treasurer's report was approved:

Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP):

Sharon and Joe have been working together on new grants. New paperwork has not been released yet. The Surface Water Grant is the previous grant that has allowed the District to use our CMP to manage our invasive species. That funding does not allow for the management of native species. Management goal #2 on the CMP is managing aquatic invasive species (AIS) and goal #3 is monitoring aquatic vegetation (Onterra). The CMP allows us to apply for grants. Once the forms are released the district will apply for new grants.

The stakeholder survey is part of our CMP. We are supposed to do them periodically. It is an anonymous survey to find out what is important to the district members. It should come before the next annual meeting. It is the best way for the board to understand what are the highest priorities on the lake.

Ordinance 323-1(C): Mid Lake and Enhanced Wakes on Mid Lake:

The town of Woodruff asked the board if we would like the ordinance sign reposted at the entry of Mid Lake. Do district members want to keep the ordinance on the books? Due to the size and depth of the Mid lake, enhanced wakes can damage the lake. Mid

Lake is not ideal for enhanced wakes needed for wake surfing. Does the district want to recommend something similar to the town of Newbold. The town of Newbold does not allow artificially enhanced wakes (ex. ballast tanks and/or bags) on lakes under 1,500 acres. It appears that the State of Wisconsin will be creating a state law regarding enhanced wakes and Oneida County sent a recommendation that enhanced wakes should be 500' from shoreline with depths more than 20'. Board members made the distinction between wakesurfing and wakeboarding, and the focus is on the enhanced wake itself and not the activity. Dan Stengel had a motion to put a sign back up at the entry of the lake with the wording at the discretion of the board in conjunction with the town with preferred wording to include a shallow lake and no enhanced wakes. Motion was seconded by Mike Hardina (sp?). Vote: majority aye. Motion passed.

Approval of 2025 Proposed Budget:

Barb Smith anticipates approximately \$42,000 in income without about \$38,500 in expenses resulting in a surplus of \$3,500. It is the recommendation of the board to set budget by the board and adjust the mill rate to meet the budget. It is expected that the mill rate would be set at 0.7. It was brought up that interest earned by the district counters inflation each year. Mary McCann motioned to approve budget as proposed by the board. Seconded by Mike Hardina (sp?). Vote: 29 Aye, 2 Nay. Motion passed. Dan Hicks motioned to ignore previous motion and reopen topic for discussion until topic is discussed in more detail. Nick Iordachescu seconded the motion. Vote: 4 Aye, 17 Nay. Motion failed.

Election of New Board Members:

There are two board members that are leaving. Scott Bullock has reached the end of his term and Chris Yamaya, is moving and unable to fulfill the rest of his term. Scott Bullock is running again for the board. The other candidate is Vince Grzetich. Andy Bullock motioned to close nominations. The motion was seconded by Robert Grant. Vote: unanimous. Motion passed. The election was unopposed. Vince and Scott are elected.

Public Comments:

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

Public Comment: unknown. Please be aware of light pollution. Keep outdoor lights restricted to your own property.

Public Comment: Eric Lambrechts. Wave runner owners must make sure that riders understand the laws and make it safe for everyone on the lake.

Date(s) of future meetings:

The next meeting will be the annual meeting held at Woodruff Town Hall on July 5, 2025 at 8 a.m. Motion to set date on July 5th by Jane Evans and seconded by Mary McCann. Vote was unanimously approved, motion passed.

Adjournment:

At 9:58 the meeting was adjourned by Joe Pilarski.