



Volume 35, Number 2, August 2020

2020 ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING

State law is specific as it involves lake districts and does not allow virtual annual meetings. In addition, state law does not allow the use of proxy, absentee or mail voting.

Due to Covid-19, the annual meeting for 2020 will be held on **Saturday September 12th promptly at 9am.** Please arrive a little early to allow for parking and registration. The meeting will be held **outside at Meyer park directly behind Norway Town Hall (see attached map on next page).** The rain date is September 19th at 9am. A rain date decision will be made by the chairman of Wind lake management district before noon on Friday September 11th and will be posted on our website and at Town Hall, Ace hardware, Town Bank, and the post office.

The meeting will be held near the gazebo shelter in the lawn area behind Town Hall. The board will be set up in the grass to the west of the gazebo to allow people with limited mobility to sit under the gazebo shelter as well as near the paved path. While we will have some chairs available for attendees, but we are asking everyone to **bring a lawn chair, pen or pencil, and umbrella if needed or desired.** We have reserved both shelters in the area to prevent other groups and to allow us to spread out. **We are requesting that everyone social distance and wear face covering as per all state requirements.**

The parking lot located next to the gazebo is reserved for mobility challenged individuals. Both the upper and lower parking lots at Norway Town Hall are available as well as overflow parking at Norway Lutheran Church.

Two microphones will be set up in the grass areas to allow attendees to voice their comments. Please do not sit next to the microphone as we will have socially distanced lines forming to allow for comments. **We will have several important elections at this annual meeting.** One of which is the weed harvester option. We will be voting on our budget, included in this mailer shows two different budgets. One budget shows the purchase of a weed harvesting machine and the other budget shows the continuing of hiring an outside firm to harvest our weeds. Wind Lake Management District (WLMD) did apply for and receive a grant for 35% of the cost of harvesting machine acquisition.

Kathy Aron has decided to pursue other interests and submitted her resignation effective immediately. The board has accepted the resignation. We wish Kathy a happy retirement and thank her for 35 years of service to the WLMD. Without Kathy we probably would not have a lake district. We have very large shoes to fill with Kathy's departure.

Currently, the board has 5 members, 3 elected and 2 appointed. The board has voted to recommend that we enlarge to a 7-member board, 5 elected positions and two appointed positions. The Town of Norway and the county of Racine appoint the two members. The board is looking for a motion from the floor to enlarge the board to 7 members. We will have a vote on that motion. We will also be voting for one existing 3 year board position (currently held by Michael Bluemel) and if the motion to enlarge passes, we will also be voting for two new board positions – the top vote getter will begin a 3 year term and the second highest will begin an initial 2 year term. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

When you attend the annual meeting, you must stop at the registration table to receive a ballot(s).

Eligible voters are:

Anyone of legal voting age, who owns property or lives within the boundaries of the Wind Lake Management District.

- Absentee or proxy or mail voting is not allowed
- All landowners, regardless of their primary residence can vote
- Anyone over 18 living in the district is eligible including renters.
- One must be present to vote
- Once voting begins, no one additional can receive a ballot
- If you own multiple properties, you will only have 1 vote

Please bring an ID with your address in the district or if your ID does not show the correct address then also bring a tax or utility bill in your name to show your eligibility for voting.



2020 ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING AGENDA

Saturday, September 12th, 2020 - 9am at Norway Town Hall

RAIN DATE: Saturday, September 19th, 2020 - 9am at Norway Town Hall

Call to Order - Pledge of Allegiance

Introductions - Board Members, Guests

Approve Minutes of 2019 Annual Meeting

Budget Hearing and Approval - Resolution 1-2020:

Whereas the Board of Commissioners has proposed the enclosed budget for the WLMD for the year Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2021.

And whereas, notice of the Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting was provided to residents and landowners;

And whereas, the board has proposed the annual special charge be set at \$220 lakefront, \$130 canal and \$90 off lake;

And whereas, the board recommends the projects presented herein;

And whereas, the 1997 annual meeting gave the Board authority for short-term borrowing only to cover grant reimbursements not yet received;

And whereas, the 2010 Annual Meeting approved the levy of irrevocable taxes to repay the state loans;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the proposed budget is hereby approved;

Be it further resolved that the projects included in the budget, as may be amended by this Annual Meeting, are hereby approved;

Be it further resolved that the charges will be placed on the 2021 tax bill with no penalties;

Be it further resolved, that the WLMD board is authorized to apply for available grants;

Be it further resolved that the authorization for short-term borrowing only to cover grant reimbursements not yet received is continued through this budget year;

Board has recommended to enlarge to 7 people (5 elected and 2 appointed). Looking for motion from the floor to enlarge board to 7 people.

Election of Commissioner – Current board member Mike Bluemel's term is up for re-election. Nominations from the floor are welcome.

If needed – election of two additional commissioners. Nominations from the floor.

New Business

Adjourn

A Board of Commissioners meeting will be held immediately following the Annual Meeting to elect officers.

**Wind Lake Management District
2021 Proposed Budget**

Annual Revenue

Lake Dues	\$130,000
Property Transfer Fee	\$800
Interest	\$600
Total Estimated Revenue	\$131,400

Note: All property owner payments for the Alum treatment are complete. The District has one last payment in 2021 to complete the loan.

Past Expenses/Proposed Budget

Expense Category	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020	2021 Proposed Contract Harvester	2021 Proposed Purchase Harvester
	2019/2020 Approved	2019/2020 Actual		
Meetings/Seminars	\$2,500	\$0.00	\$1,500	\$1,500
Postal Expenses	\$1,600	\$699.66	\$1,600	\$1,600
Office Equipment Maint.	\$150	\$0.00	\$150	\$150
Office Supplies	\$400	\$124.61	\$400	\$400
Phone/Faxes	\$800	\$537.01	\$800	\$800
Publications	\$500	\$604.50	\$500	\$500
Insurance	\$2,000	\$1,350.00	\$2,000	\$2,000
Print/Publishing	\$1,600	\$971.38	\$1,600	\$1,600
Mileage/Per Diem	\$4,800	\$4,598.00	\$4,800	\$4,800
Misc	\$400	\$125.00	\$400	\$400
Website	\$1,200	\$1,086.55	\$1,200	\$1,200
Secy/Tech Support/DP	\$9,600	\$9,600.00	\$9,600	\$9,600
Attorney	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$1,000
Accountant	\$550	\$0.00	\$550	\$550
Weed Control/Harvest/Pickup	\$80,000	\$82,134.00	\$87,500	\$97,550
USGS	\$10,410	\$10,410.00	\$12,000	\$12,000
Geese Control	\$3,000	\$0.00	\$3,000	\$3,000
Property Maintenance	\$2,400	\$46.98	\$2,400	\$2,400
Contingency	\$4,000	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$1,000
Emergency Action	\$4,000	\$0.00	\$4,000	\$4,000
Loan – Alum Treatment	\$36,350	\$36,350.16	\$35,036	\$35,036
Dam Operation	\$6,000	\$6,000.00	\$6,000	\$6,000
Total Expenses	\$173,260	\$154,638	\$177,036	\$187,086

NEED-TO-KNOW INFORMATION

This year has proved to be a difficult year to manage the plant growth on Wind Lake. With very little snow cover for most of the winter, a short ice season on the lake and a warm early part of summer has combined for a large amount of plant growth in the lake. In addition, early season rain and high-water levels have also caused delays in chemical treatments.

Our plant growth control plan has many considerations to consider including:

- There is no pre-emergent aquatic herbicide so we cannot spray areas to prevent the growth of plants.
- We cannot harvest areas if the plants are 2-3 feet below the surface, so harvesting can only happen when the weeds reach the surface.
- We are limited by what the DNR permit allows. Water depth must be over 3' and we must leave 1' of plant growth on the lakebed. No cutting into the lakebed is allowed.
- Native plants need to protect the lakebed from the expansion of invasive species.
- Violation of the permit rules can lead to warnings, fines, and the rescinding of our harvesting permit.

Homeowner steps:

The DNR allows all homeowners the ability to clear an area 30' wide in their lake frontage as far out as they chose to a depth of 4'. This can be done by the manual method of raking to provide plant removal and the owner can remove both invasive and native plants in the 30' area. The raked vegetation can be placed by the roadside for pickup.

Aquatic Plants (weeds):

Milfoil is a significant problem in the NW and NE ends of the lake and was very heavy this year. We do have a strong covering of native plants over the lakebed which helps to prevent Milfoil and other invasive species including Starry Stonewort from expanding. Our most common native plant is wild celery.

Invasive Species:

We have continued to use chemical treatments to combat both Milfoil and Starry Stonewort (SSW) as well as other invasives. SSW was found in Wind Lake in August of 2017. SSW has continued to spread to other lakes in the area. In 2020 we continued to use our AIS grant to treat SSW in a few channel areas in shallow water. 2020 is the last year of the grant and the DNR currently is not offering any grants for the treatment of SSW. The DNR is continuing to evaluate the different treatments done for SSW for effectiveness.

Algae:

Filamentous algae is a slimy mat-type algae that accumulates along the shorelines. Nitrogen levels in runoff fuels filamentous algae growth and due to the heavy rains in spring and early summer, Algae has been a problem this year.

Weed Chemical Treatments:

We have conducted both SSW treatments in navigational channel and larger chemical treatments in other parts of the lake for invasive growth. All treatments are done under the supervision of the DNR. We concentrate most of our treatments on navigational areas. Treatments can only be conducted when either invasive species are present or when a nuisance conditions blocks lake use.

Harvesting:

We have conducted 5 weeks of harvesting this year, concentrating on navigational lanes, and cutting lanes through the milfoil and removing floaters.

Roadside Weed Pick-up:

The roadside weed pick-up program continued the summer to give landowners a place to go with the raked lake plant debris. Pickups are done 6 times per season.

Goose Control:

Wind Lake did not do a goose roundup this year. Our numbers of geese were not sufficient at the time the decision needed to be made.

Boat Inspection:

Due to Covid-19, the boat inspection was cancelled this year. A decision has not been made for 2021 yet as to whether the program will be held.

Preventing the spread of Invasive Species:

History has shown that once invasive species are present in a lake, it is pretty much impossible to completely eradicate it. Prevention is the key! Here are some steps that are recommended:

- Do not move your boat and fishing equipment from lake to lake without thoroughly decontaminating it.
- Remove all plant fragments from your boat, trailer, anchor ropes, live wells, etc.
- Dump all your bilge water before leaving a lake.
- Do not transport fish in water. Dump all water and put your fish on ice.
- Flush your motor cooling system between lakes
- Keep your boat and equipment dry docked for a week after using a lake will help prevent the spread of invasives.
- Try to avoid launching into a lake with a "dirty" boat launch, one that has lots of weed fragments floating around.
- Check out the Wisconsin DNR website for more information on Clean Boats.

Addresses on Piers:

Please consider putting your house numbers on the end of your pier so they are visible from the lake. This will help with the plant management on the lake by making it easier for the contractors to find specific areas.



GOOD V.S. BAD, NATIVE V.S. INVASIVE

Wind Lake has experienced many problems over the years, from water quality problems to Eurasian watermilfoil, from too-high water to too-low water. Each year seems to present a new challenge.

Since August 2017, the newest, and most significant challenge for Wind Lake is the highly invasive, Starry Stonewort (SSW).

SSW complicates everything we do.

Back in the 80's the water quality on Wind Lake was so poor that the main problem was pea-soup, smelly algae blooms. There were very few native plants, and most of the plants in the lake were curly-leaf pondweed and milfoil, both invasive species.

As work began to clean up the water quality, clear water led to more aquatic plants (weeds). Milfoil seemed the happiest with the new conditions, growing thick and dense, blocking boat traffic, and choking large areas of the lake. A couple of years, over 200 acres were blocked by milfoil growing to the surface on the east and NE side of the lake. To make matters worse, filamentous algae, that slimy surface algae, covered the milfoil on the surface, clogging water intakes on boats.

The District responded by harvesting channels through the milfoil so lake users could access the open water areas. Shoreline areas of milfoil were chemically treated to try to reduce the access problems.

Once the water quality and runoff problems were addressed, the native plants started to rebound. In 2011, 23 different plant species were present in Wind Lake. In 2017, the number increased to 29 species. Milfoil declined in that time going from 63% frequency to 20%.

Good weeds, in general, are less dense, have a thinner architecture, and often can be boated through. Native weed beds are great for the fisheries. Invasive species weed beds are generally very dense and can quickly block boat traffic. Dense, monotypic stands of invasives negatively affect the fisheries.



Good: Wild Celery and Pond Weeds



Bad: Starry Stonewort and Filamentous Algae

MINUTES – 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

Sept 7, 2019

Present: M. Bluemel, B. Rosenquist, R. Meyer, R. Schopp, J. Bellante, K. Aron, Craig Helker from DNR, and approx. 80 residents.

M. Bluemel called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and introductions of the board were made.

The 2018 Annual Meeting minutes were approved as printed.

Craig Helker, Biologist with WDNR spoke about SSW. SSW continues to spread, despite the District's best efforts using herbicides. The District is doing surveys of the plants to monitor change. WDNR is also interested in how the management of SSW goes. The District has had good success controlling SSW in the shallow channels, but not the large, deep water area. The WDNR grant will continue into 2020. A Grass (triploid) carp was found this year in Wind Lake by an angler. It is hoped that this is an isolated fish, not indicative of multiple grass carp.

An update on the past year's activities was given:

No goose control roundup was done in 2020. The procedure was changed from USDA to the State. Because of the changes to the requirements, and the cold wet weather, meant Wind Lake did not have enough geese to conduct the roundup.

The dam has not been open since the 10th of July, and the lake is down just about 6 inches, so not much will change this fall starting Oct 1 for the winter level.

The District conducted chemical treatments this summer to treat the launches and channels for SSW \$8,700 spent on chemicals for SSW, paid in part by the State grant; \$9,000 was spent for regular treatments. Treatments were done on June 5 (a month later than normal because of weather), July 8, July 30, and Aug 27. Harvesters were on the lake for 161 hours, for \$32,000. SSW control has been mostly successful. The NE end of the lake has been the most difficult to manage because of high growths of coon tail.

Roadside pickups were conducted. Because of greater loads, the current contractor is raising their rate substantially, so the board will look for another contractor.

Wild celery has expanded its reach in Wind lake from 45% in 2017 to almost 70% in 2019. Once it begins to release and float, the District cannot go between piers to pick that up. The good news is that it has almost eliminated the growth of milfoil in many areas that were problems and has prevented SSW from moving into the boat launch area.

R. Mayer presented the proposed Budget and the proposed change to move to a calendar year budget. This proposal would approve a 1-year budget until June 30 and a 6-month budget from July 1 through Jan 1. The proposed budget maintains the current rate of billing and the current rate of expenditures. M. Bluemel read the resolution to approve the budget. There was a motion to approve the Budget and Budget Resolution as proposed. After a 2nd to the motion, the motion carried, approving the budget as presented unanimously.

B. Rosenquist is up for re-election as commissioner. After a call for nominations, B. Rosenquist and T. Flunker were nominated for the position. The two candidates were asked to give a short presentation of themselves and why they are seeking the position. After the vote, B. Rosenquist was re-elected to the board for a three-year term.

(Continued on the next page)

Under New Business, M. Bluemel indicated that he and B. Rosenquist investigated the cost of buying a harvester and looked at the equipment and supplier. The harvester would be larger and have a greater load capacity than what is currently used by the contractor. Cost would be \$170,000; a trailer for \$57,000, total of \$227,000. A grant of 35% would mean a cost to the District of \$147,550. A truck would be needed, but not funded with a grant. Jerry Kotarak asked if the purchase would change the charges to the property owners. He made a motion to apply for a grant and purchase a weed harvester and trailer with \$165,000 so the District could have a harvester on the lake in 2020. K. Aron said that the motion is not valid because the expenditure was not included in the approved budget, and notice of the expenditure was not given to all the property owners in the district as is required. The board did not conduct the investigation on expenditures and possible grants, and they did not include those in this budget. The budget that is posted and distributed must detail large expenses. This type of expenditure cannot be made at this Annual Meeting after the budget has been approved, therefore, the motion is invalid. The motion last year was to investigate the purchase, but so far there are a lot of unanswered questions and budget items related to the purchase and operation of a harvester program. He said he was to move forward and have a harvester on the lake cutting next summer. But the proper process has not been followed to date. These items must be noticed and published prior to any vote. In addition, the District does not have an extra \$165,000. There are outstanding loan balances that must be paid.

E. Stewart spoke to the issue of the harvester acquisition. She is concerned that people believe that if we have our own equipment, we can cut whatever and wherever we want. K. Aron referred to the harvesting permit map to show that only certain areas are approved to cut, and only certain plants are approved to be cut. E. Stewart said a grant is not guaranteed. A bid process must be followed. There are concerns about the various cost items and that they have not been properly flushed out yet.

J. Kotarak pointed out that Little Muskego has 4 harvesters, yet we have none. He said he does not think the costs need to go up.

Another landowner pointed out that we need more information so we do not get into a situation where we spend all this money but cannot use it more than we cut now.

Another asked what the process is to move this forward. K. Aron explained that there are two issues here. One is purchasing a harvester, the other is cutting weeds in 2020. In the past, the board has decided at the February meeting how much harvesting time to commit to. That decision is a balance between the need and the budget. Historically, the board has decided on 2 and sometimes 3 weeks of harvesting. The board has never voted to cut more than that. The board can decide to commit to additional weeks of cutting up front to be on the contractor's schedule or risk them not being available. The second is the process to purchase. The board needs to finish the investigation of harvester issues and development of costs, how those costs will be divided between the various taxing categories (on lake, off lake, and canal), what grants have been acquired, add the project budget to the Annual Meeting notice and budget, bring it to the Annual Meeting in September 2020.

A landowner pointed out that the board did not follow through on the proper procedures to be able to vote at this meeting. K. Aron said the committee that was created included M. Bluemel and B. Rosenquist. Once the initial budget numbers were pulled together, at a great amount of effort on their parts, there were still many items to resolve, which would require a huge effort.

(Continued on the next page)

Annual Meeting Minutes continued...

The issue of a Special meeting was raised. K. Aron explained that one can be called, using the same procedures as an Annual Meeting: two-week notice, an agenda, and explanation of the reason for the meeting. That meeting could then vote on the issue. This is all contingent on the committee getting their work done and compiling all the information. Once they do that, then the board must consider it, make final decisions, and decide on the questions for the Special Meeting. A question was asked if there can be additional people on the committee to help do this work. The agreement with the Town allows the District to dump weeds there during the 2-week harvesting. It does not include a full-time harvesting program. R. Schopp said the site is filling in and another site may be needed.

A resident made a motion for the special committee with the two board members to gather all the costs and information, bring it to the board in January board for further discussion. There was a second to the motion. K. Aron explained the board in January will begin to review the information, determine how it will be charged to the property owners, and then determine if it should go to a special meeting or the next annual meeting. M. Bluemel asked for a show of hands to see how many in attendance are interested in purchasing a harvester. It was clear that a majority of those present want to proceed with a harvester. M. Bluemel asked for a vote on the motion, all approved.

M. Bluemel said the latest information on this will be posted on the website.

There was no other business to come before the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 9 pm.



NOTES

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WIND LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

P.O. Box 222
Muskego, WI 53150

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

VISIT WLMD.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION

- Meetings, schedules, agendas, and minutes
- Information about who to contact for various activities
- Links to other lake-related sites
- The latest lake depth map of Wind Lake
- Important Notices

Join our *email list to receive meeting notices and current updates. To join, email us at info@wlmd.org

*Because your email address will become part of our formal records, it will also become public record and available to anyone upon request under the open records laws.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Ron Mayer	414-614-5859
Joe Bellante	262-895-6694
Ralph Schopp	414-531-6020
Bruce Rosenquist	262-895-3942
Mike Bluemel	262-895-2502

Commissioners meetings are usually held the 4th Thursday of every month, with the November and December meeting combined. Meetings begin at 7pm at the Norway Town Hall. All residents are welcome to attend, but please note that meeting dates are subject to change. Always refer to our website for the latest up-to-date information.

QUESTIONS?

Email us at info@wlmd.org