

LAKE EAU CLAIRE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Annual Public Meeting Minutes:

August 19, 2023: 2:00pm @ Eau Claire County Club House Park

E20510 County Road SD, Augusta Wi 54722

1. Meeting call to order initiated:

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mike Lea at 2:07 pm

Board of Commissioners introduced to all meeting attendees.

Members present: Mike Lea, Dean Boehne, Joe Bechtel, Todd Mayer, Bruce Logterman

2. Meeting Minutes from last year's annual meeting were provided and reviewed.

Mary Wagner motioned to accept last year's meeting minutes (dated August 20, 2022) as printed, Duane Ives 2nd the motion, Motion Carried.

3. Audit Report: Dean Boehne

Dean communicated that representation from Friends of Lake Eau Claire Jill Weisenbeck (Treasurer) executed financial audit of the LECPRD financial reports. No issues were found and no questions or objections were raised.

4. Treasurers report: Dean Boehne presented and walked-thru the financial report for 2022 Actual and January - June 2023.

Dean presented details on total revenue and expenses experienced.

- No questions or concerns were raised.

Marlo Orth made motion to accept Treasurer Report as printed, 2nd by Dan Esser, Motion Carried.

5. Friends of Lake Eau Claire Update: Lori Bechtel

- Friends of Lake EC work in partnership with the LECPRD on efforts related to the betterment of Lake EC.

- The Friends of Lake EC will be having their annual meeting following the LECPRD meeting today along with a picnic.
- Sponsorships were up in 2022-2023 season.
- Calendar raffle in progress
- The Golf Outing brought in \$5,500. Ice Fisheree brought in \$5,000.
- Annually Friend of Lake Eau Claire Associations raises about \$34,000.
- Expenses in the past year included: \$50k to LECPRD, used pontoon purchase, trap cleanout, fish cribs, tree falls. Total of \$56,000)

6. LECPRD Chairman Report: Mike Lea

Why was the lake so green this year?

- Algae bloom was heavy due to weather factors. Watershed influences, There has been a few things identified as issues feeding into the lake. Further analysis is underway.
- It was stated as a reminder to everyone that the aeration system does NOT clear water.

Things accomplished:

- Sediment removal – 25,000 cubic yards were removed from our main traps.
- Below Troubled Water trap area, the scouring is very evident.
- The walkway at the aeration equipment house was improved.
- Hay Creek dredging – additional dredging in the mouth of creek was attempted. We had mixed successes. East channel cleaned out well, but west channel had some issues with getting excavating equipment stuck often. Future analysis will take place for better results in coming years.
- Sugars Landing boat launch area was greatly improved. Thank you to Willie Thomas for his efforts to make this a great option for lake users.
- Equipment purchases of Boat, motor, trailer, onboard equipment, drone, and survey equipment.

2024 Projects:

- Skid Row Project: \$276k from EC County - \$60k from DNR to contribute.
- Boat landing improvements
- Dredging of channels
- Create trap by Eagles Nest area.
- Create trap close by Skid Row (first bend)
- Create trap in junction between Eagles Nest and Skid Row
- A new deposit site is being finalized for these new traps to have closer access for dumping.

Fish Habitat:

- Goal of 500 structures consistently. We have reached that goal.
- Replace some of the aging fish cribs.

- Tree drops for fish habitat are a continued effort.
- Deep water fish cribs will continue, and efforts are underway for improved design options.

7. New Eau Claire River Watershed Association – Mike Lea

- This is a new Association this year.
- The purpose is to get everyone in the EC River watershed to contribute towards improvement projects that help everyone in the watershed.
- Allows for a broader reach related to grant applications and eligibility.
- Equipment can be purchased as a central controlled group and utilized with the watershed waterways.
- Five (5) counties, 900 square miles (lakes, rivers, creeks, ponds, etc.)
- LECPRD has donated \$1,000 to the new Eau Claire River Watershed Association
- A motion was made by Fred Poss to for the LECPRD to join this new association.
- Discussion points:
 - o How many other lake districts/etc. have joined this association? (5 others)
 - o Is there a list of initiatives this new association will be focused on? (mapping of lakes, sediment control, what are the influencers/contributors of green or contaminated water, detailed survey maps showing water gain/loss)
 - o How is the fee structured? (Annual, specific annual amounts have not been determined. Discussion of \$500-\$1000 for organization and \$50 individual)
- Vicki Reed 2nd the motion – motion carried.

8. 2024 Proposed Budget: Dean Boehne

Dean walked through in detail the proposed 2023 budget. No change in LECPRD tax levy rate, maintain a 1.75 mil-rate.

- Explained additional dollars in the budget coming from grants.
- A question was asked about contingency amounts. Dean explained.

Motion made by Duane Ives to accept 2024 Budget as presented. Lori Bechtel 2nd the motion. Motion carried.

9. Adopt Tax Levy to meet proposed budget (Mike Lea)

Board of Commissioners was looking for a Motion to accept the tax levy of 1.75% mil rate. Cathy Lea made the motion, Tom Hartell 2nd the motion, the Motion Carried.

9. Elect one Commissioner for 3-Year Term

Nominations were opened to the floor. Mike Lea was nominated. No other nominations were made. Mike Lea accepted the nomination. Voting was executed by secret ballot. Mike Lea received a unanimous vote to win the election.

10. Motion to destroy ballots

The Board of Commissioners requested a motion to destroy ballots after the meeting. Cathy Lea made motion, Duane Ives 2nd the motion, Motion Carried.

11. Set Date and Time for Next Meeting

Next LECPRD Annual meeting will be August 17th, 2024, 2:00PM at Lake Eau Claire Clubhouse. Our goal is to continue to partner with Friends of Lake Eau Claire Association in scheduling the two annual meetings together. Mary Wagner made a motion to accept this date, Dan Esser 2nd the motion, Motion Carried.

12. Adjourn

Mike Lea made motion for meeting to adjourn, Dean Boehne 2nd the motion, Motion Carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm