

## Draft Minutes

### Montello Lake Inland Protection & Rehabilitation District

#### Second Quarter Board Meeting August 26, 2017

#### Montello City Hall Community Room 9:00 AM

1. Roll Call. Commissioners Easter, Muchka and Roth present. Also present County Representative Borzick and City Representative Jordan.
2. Commissioner Roth made a motion, Jordan second to amend the agenda to include citizen comments at the end of the meeting.
3. Treasurer's Report . Second Quarter, 2017. Jordan/Borzick approved as presented.
4. Minutes. First Quarter Commissioner's Board Meeting. Borzick/Muchka. Approved as presented.
5. Update on Montello Lake Management Plan progress. Terms and conditions have been accepted and signed by the MLIPRD. Contract with Wisconsin Lake and Pond has been signed. A request by the Board for volunteers to assist the Board with the updated lake management plan (subject to grant approval). Anyone interested in assisting, should sign up after the meeting. Those who signed up are: Tony Smith, James Newsome and Don Pielin. PI Survey done. Formal results of the survey are expected in two weeks. The next step in the management plan process is to prepare a grant application. The deadline for the next grant submission is December 10<sup>th</sup>.
6. Harvester Report. The harvester has been operating about two hours per shift per day since mid-July. This is due to a hydraulic pump not functioning properly causing overheating. Aquarius came out to replace the pump and had the wrong pump. They will order the pump and let us know when they will return to install the correct pump. It has been difficult for the harvester to enter into some of the bays due to lake levels fluctuating. John Stratka stated the lake dropped approximately 6 inches last week. Barb Jordan reached out to the dam operator with no response. The Mayor is scheduling a meeting with the owner. Barb will attend. Commissioner Easter will reach out to Ted Johnson to find out what department of the DNR has oversight to the dam.
7. Website Update. Ian Kuhn has taken over updating the website. Currently he has been uploading Meeting Agendas and Minutes.
8. Citizen Comments.
  - Don Pielin made a presentation including pictures. Attached to the minutes, for record, is a transcript of his presentation. Mr. Pielin suggested the lake is in need of a drawdown. Commissioner Easter stated that in order to acquire the City's and business approval of the last drawdown, MLIP&RD

committed to a minimum period of five years without a subsequent drawdown.

- Michael Frank contacted owner of the dam, Dwight Boller regarding lake levels. Mr. Boller stated they are regulating the lake levels based on flow rate. The flow rate determines the amount of electricity they can generate and the income they receive.
- Kathleen McGwin is concerned with the cattails overtaking the shoreline. She requested including spraying the cattails as a part of the lake management plan. Commissioner Easter indicated the Board is proposing a lake wide treatment in the spring.

9. Adjourn Jordan/Muchka 10:010am

Respectfully Submitted

Elsie Roth

Secretary

Don Pielin presentation.

To understand the changes in the lake, we need to look also at the changes in the Montello River. As the river meanders southward into the lake, its course has changed and it enters the lake a bit further north, leaving the Sky Lodge and several other properties upstream from it no longer on the river channel. The river entering the lake is being forced along the shoreline of Colonial Shores by the large weed masses in the center and along the eastern shore, eroding that shoreline as it heads southward. This erosion ultimately has caused a great deal of silting on the opposite side of the lake especially along the shoreline of the upper part of Wisconsin. The Lake Plan called for periodic drawdowns to both control the invasive weeds and compact the bottom to add depth to the lake. Currently the District is spraying parts of the lake for seasonal weed control and doing limited weed harvesting in certain parts of the lake. These procedures remove only a limited amount of the biomass from the lake. The vast majority of the weeds die and decompose on the bottom, mixing with the silt carried by the river to create a great growing medium for the next season of weeds. While there are complaints about the lake level fluctuations caused by the dam operations, the ultimate cause of the shallow water is the constant addition of silt to the bottom of the lake. The DNR recommends these periodic drawdowns for Montello Lake as a method of preserving the lake for future generations