

Montello Lake Inland Protection and Rehabilitation District Special Meeting
Minutes- April 9th, 2022; Montello City Hall 9:00am

1. Call Meeting to Order with Open Meeting Rules by Dan Easter
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call- Present: Ken Borzick, county representative; Venice Muglar, City of Montello representative and all 3 board commissioners: Dan Easter, Sandee Muchka & Mimi Pierson
4. Agenda for 4-09-22 Special Meeting approved by the board
5. Reading of the minutes by Mimi and Approval of Quarterly Meeting 2-12-22 by vote
6. Montello Lake Depth Project Updates:

Open Discussion for those attending- 43 signatures with 57 in attendance

- Stan Mulzark- questioning why we can't but the dam.
 - The cost and time to control and care for dam is not currently an option.
- Cheryl Ravenscroft- supports the Sedimentation study
- Dennis Wrycha- Would like the lake levels to be re-evaluated by the DNR
 - Dan explained that the DNR water management does not control the lake levels and only enforces the current level, which have been determined in the 1970's by the Core of Engineers. We will continue to explore if a re-assessment can be done
- Amy Verhagen- Is there a single entity that can address all our issues of water levels, aquatic plant management and water quality?
 - No there is no one governmental entity that can care of all these. This project will need to be coordinated with several agencies such as DNR, City of Montello, MLIPRD and engineering companies
- Rob Nowak- asked about fish quality and lake levels
 - The board is hoping to coordinate any future repairs on the dam with this dredging project is approved by the district to reduce strain on fish populations.
- Tom Hilts- We voted to do a drawdown at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Why was it not done?
 - The board was asked by the City of Montello to defer the drawdown out of concern for the stress on the dam with a drawdown at lower level causing more damage to an area already in need of repair. This damage is said to be repaired by the new dam hydroelectric operator, Dwight Shane, in coordination with the City of Montello. We have been told that this will be repair in the near future within a few years.
 - Several members in the audience reporting the new operator is currently working on replacing the gate mechanism so that it will be automated in the near future
 - Venice is reporting that the City Mayor will be meeting with the new operator and the board requested that one of the commissioners be present as well.
- Bill Faulkner, Sue Fitchel, Lou Walte, Jim Anderson, Barb Jordan support the study

- Chris Pierson- Importance of caring for the lake just like care and maintaining your property and home

Vote by show of hands to see if the board has support to begin the feasibility of dredging project with Sedimentation study; all put one in the room approves

7. Ken proposed a motion to approve the exploration of a future dredging project on Montello Lake and incur necessary prospective costs, subject to public support, proper analysis, financial wherewithal, with all Local, County and State approvals. Sandee 2nd, the motion was voted on and approved
8. Mimi proposed motion in seeking a new bid from Ayers Engineering for the Sedimentation study for the purpose of seeking DNR consent to future dredging project on Montello Lake. Discussion on the need for other engineering companies bid. Mimi contacted 2 other companies with no reply to the request. This is a professional service and open bidding is not required per Statue 33 but attempts to contact other companies was done. Ayers is the company that worked with Lake Redstone in a successful dredging project in coordination with Jeff Shure, who is the Water Management Specialist for the DNR in our county. Dan second and it was approved.
9. Lake Manager and harvest operator positions have been posted and advertised. 3 interviews have been scheduled. John continues to be willing to educated and assist with transition
10. Early harvesting permit- Dan contacted the DNR regarding the early permit that Buffalo Lake district was able to obtain. Per DNR Ted Johnson, this is only for a very small areas and is a trial only. We are not able to participate in this.
11. We are planning on having a chemical treatment this year and will be working on scheduling with Wisconsin Lake and Pond.
12. Commissioner position will be open for election at the annual meeting. If anyone is interested in running for the board, please let one of the current commissioners so you can be put on the ballot.
13. New website is not up and running yet due to the number of archived minutes from the old site to the new.
14. Final public comments were heard with support for the dredging project
15. Meeting was adjourned at 10:05