

Montello Lake Inland Protection & Rehabilitation District

Minutes –Quarterly Meeting – February 17, 2024 – Montello City Hall – 10:00 am

Draft

1. Call Meeting to order by Mimi Pierson at 10:00 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call – Present: Venise Muglar, City Representative; Ken Borzick, County Representative; Don Gibson, Secretary; Mimi Pierson, Board Chairperson. Present via telephone: Sue Fichtel, Treasurer
4. Minutes from 11/18/2023 and addended Minutes from 12/18/2023 were discussed and approved.
5. Old Business
 - a. Dan Easter will be managing Worker’s Compensation and Liability Insurance as the Insurance Consultant.
 - b. Aquatic Plant Management Proposal for Professional Service from Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource (a Jones Lake Management Partner) was discussed. Three services will be provided:
 - i. Chemical Nuisance Aquatic Plant Treatment for 9.9 acres \$5,325
 - ii. Whole Lake Point Intercept Aquatic Plant Survey \$3,750
 - iii. Updated Lake Management Plan \$8,500
 - iv. Total cost \$18,102

Discussion of the proposal: The District can treat up to 9.9 acres without obtaining a special permit from the DNR (which is difficult to obtain). The 9.9 acres, and thus the cost, will be reduced by treatment by District members along Pier/Dock/Shoreline (see “c” below). The Lake Management Plan must be completed every 5 years (2019 Plan cost \$6175). Due to services being a “service”, competing bids are not necessary.

After discussion, a vote was taken, and the Proposal was passed unanimously.

- c. Discussion on District members Pier/Dock/Shoreline treatment for 2024 was entertained. In 2023 members were able to pay for a 30 foot x 30 foot area around their shoreline/pier/dock to be sprayed when the treatment for the lake was completed. The cost for 2024 has not yet been determined but should be approximately \$65 for each property. Mailers will be sent to District members and responses will need to be received by the date specified on the mailer. As stated above, the treatment around docks and piers will affect the total acres treated (9.9 acres). One acre would represent about 48 District members treating their areas.
6. New Business
 - a. Restocking fish – At the Annual Meeting there was a discussion regarding restocking the lake. The decision to restock was postponed until a survey of fish could be made. Scott Bunde from the DNR was contacted and he will do an electrofishing survey in the Spring once the water temperature reaches approximately 65 degrees. After the results of the survey, a decision regarding restocking can be made.

- b. Job Postings for Harvester Operators – Art Schick is the Lake Manager. After discussion it was agreed that the Lake Manager should determine the number of operators needed. If more operators are required, the Lake Manager can interview and assign positions. Board members are willing to assist the Lake Manager if requested. Pay rate for Harvester Operators in 2023 was \$18/hour. Returning harvesters will be paid \$19/hr
 - c. Update on Dam Repair – No activity by the City currently. Three questions will be addressed to the City:
 - i. Have any grants for dam maintenance and repair been researched?
 - ii. Does the city have any funds allocated for dam repair?
 - iii. Has there been any recent communications with the dam operator regarding repairs?
 - d. Wisconsin Lake Convention in Stevens Point will be held April 10-12, 2024.
 - e. Items for next Quarterly Meeting
 - i. Web site maintenance, current contract to end in May 2024
 - ii. Results of Fish Survey, if available
 - iii. Restocking of lake discussion
 - iv. Dam repair
 - v. Harvester Operator status
 - f. Date of next quarterly meeting – May 11, 2024 (10:00 a.m.)
 - g. Date of Annual Meeting – August 21, 2024 (10:00 a.m.)
7. Public comments
- a. Comments regarding dam and who pays for repair. Questioned why the owner of the hydraulics (dam operator) did not pay for repairs. The City of Montello has a lease with the owner of the hydraulics and the City is responsible for the maintenance of the dam.
 - b. Can the Lake District create a lower bag limit of panfish in the lake? Discussion resulted in that the District could create a lower limit but enforcement would be difficult since it would not follow the DNR bag limit.
8. Adjourn at 11:08 a.m.