

NSTLRA Board Meeting Minutes

8:30 AM

July 7, 2016 P

Phelps Chamber of Commerce

Members present: Roger Ganzer, Ron Ottoson, Bob Bailey, Kay Ottoson, Michael Wade, Margot Pederson, Joe Fritzsche, Susan Pamperin

Minutes from 6/15/2016 approved.

Susan will add amendment to bylaws to the May meeting regarding Treasurer language and replace the posted 5/25/2016 minutes on the website.

Amy Peplow and Jay Wittman were present as prospective Board Members

Treasurers report: Joe Fritzsche

Joe shared a printed report of expenses incurred for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016. A copy was distributed to each board member in attendance. He reported that the major change in expenses is the bill paid to Onterra for lake treatment. This has also been the largest contribution year in recent years, likely due to the increased information to create awareness of the need for treatment of North and South Twin.

Officially at this time there are 207 Association members. There are a total number of 496 properties of value on North/South Twin lakes. 454 actual owners but some of those properties may have multiple owners. There will be opportunity for people to sign up for membership/renewals/activities at the picnic and annual meeting next Saturday (7-9-16)

Lake Management: Cap Pederson (not present)

Treatment and weed pulling are presently going on in both lakes. Jay brought up that people think of weed pulling as a means of dispersal. He suggests that there is a method of informing people that this is not true. Other lakes are going through major pulling programs.

Lake District Plan-Michael Wade

Mike brought up the huge amount of traffic on the lakes over the 4th. He saw of specific concern that boats were not observing safety conditions when moving through the channel from one lake to another. Options were suggested as to what we could do to increase awareness of other boats. We cannot police this, and at the time when we are trying to initiate a lake district it may come across as we are trying to impose restrictions. Margot will add something to the fall newsletter to make people aware of the problem.

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Trees for Tomorrow- Mike attended this workshop in June. Mike was able to network with other lake districts in the area. He shared a story regarding a boat launch at another lake where it was discovered that a boat carrying milfoil and zebra mussels from South Twin was trying to launch there without cleaning the bottom of their boat. We need to up our awareness of how we can monitor this issue.

Other lakes seem to be doing a great deal to avoid this issue. We have 3 boat launches that make it difficult to monitor. Possibly some volunteer hours during peak times at the boat launches can be discussed in the future. Lake users that do not clean off their boats can be fined \$200 if reported to the DNR.

Mike attended a Long Lake District meeting. He found them to have a very well organized meeting with their Milfoil well controlled resulting in no EWM problem. He distributed a handout of notes taken at the Long Lake of Phelps Lake District Meeting recently. They use the Diver Assisted Suction method which has been very successful. Their assessment for property owners of the lake district is based on equalized value. William O'Connor from Madison is their attorney and Mike felt he was a very knowledgeable asset. He shared that 2/3 lake districts assess a flat rate in that all property owners pay the same amount. 1/3 assess by using an equalized value rate.

Lake District Implementation Plan

Mike shared a handout with Board members entitled North and South Twin Lake District Project Plan updated 6/2016. This includes the entire plan, entities responsible for each step, and the needs related to each step.

Question raised by Mike how to include the Conover and Phelps Town Boards to facilitate cooperation with formation of the Lake District. Mike suggested getting on the Town Board agenda to be able to discuss this with them where they can ask direct questions. Property owners have been notified but town boards have not at this point. One community (either Phelps or Conover) has to be represented on the board for the Lake District.

How to get the message out and continuing to provide additional information out was discussed. Newsletter, website, and the individual mailing to property owners are good options. Roger suggested that a mailing including a map detailing individual properties (and a notation of who is an NSTLRA Association member) be shared through direct mailing similar to the printed newsletter/EWM mailing that went out to all members this past spring. Other options for sharing may be considered.

Roger suggested that we locate a person from another lake who already has formed a lake district and would be willing to speak with people voicing concerns about our potential lake district as an opportunity to answer questions from concerned property owners. We are still unable to give any dollar amount as to what it will cost. It needs to be stressed that members of a Lake District have an

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annual meeting where the annual budget is voted upon and they have input in it. After considerable pressing by board members present, we were able to hear that we were likely talking about lows hundreds of dollars as opposed to thousands of dollars added on to property owners' tax bills. Many board members feel this is a major concern and people have to know a ballpark of what kinds of dollars for which they may be responsible. This will undoubtedly be asked at the Q&A time during our upcoming Annual Meeting regarding the formation of the Lake District.

Mike also shared a document that detailed Petition signing and the rules governing this in relation to creating a Lake District.

Long Lake District has voted to eliminate the Association and all social events now go through the Lake District. Jay questioned that if the state knows that lakes with Lake Districts have a way to assess the property owners, does it impact on the amount of money that could be awarded through grants? Mike responded that the state does like working with lake districts and it may even be in our benefit forming this Lake District for that reason.

If the Lake District goes into effect, what happens to the money from the lake Association? Discussion was that money can be donated to the District or a Bridge loan can be provided to pay expenses for treatment until the revenues catch up based upon assessment.

Boundaries: no exceptions due to business owners. Maps need to be drawn up, maybe through the Vilas County. Some exist from last round of trying to establish the Lake District but they may be outdated. Mike said there may be an advantage to starting fresh.

Roger will contact Town Board chairs of Conover and Phelps as a courtesy visit.

Membership- Bob Bailey

Membership directory will be updated and sent out again at the end of summer. Due to last newsletter, a request has been made encouraging all members to update or provide email addresses. This has produced so far about 10 responses of mostly members that wish to be informed through email as well as some non-members who also wish to be informed.

Joe, Bob, and Susan will come up with some way of coordinating a way to keep the email updated.

Annual Meeting Agenda-Roger

The agenda will be taped to the wall as will additional information for viewing. In addition, the documents sent to all Association members with the Annual Meeting reminder have been printed and will be posted at the Conover Community Center.

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Agenda was changed to include Q&A Lake District towards the end of the meeting to allow more time for this and to ensure that all other items can be covered. Swimmers itch was brought up and it is suggested that it at least be discussed since it is a concern for many property owners.

Wine glasses and coffee mugs will be sold. These will also be sold at the Wine Tasting in August. Clothing will also be sold at meeting.

Clean Boats Clean Water

So far no response on securing a coordinator. Mary Schindler has provided a well-written job description which was also sent out to all members in the Annual meeting reminder.

Socal Committee-Kay Ottoson

Aug. 17 Wine Tasting at Lannys 5-8 PM. Tickets will be sold at the annual meeting. Charge is \$25 per ticket in advance.

Newsletter- Margot

Next newsletter will be printed in October and articles should be forwarded to Margot. Information for lake District will be handled in single mailings to emphasize the importance.

Board Meeting Dates

August 18

September 6

Other Business

Susan asked who takes care of cleaning Hwy K and Hwy E since the sign indicates that NSTLRA is responsible. The Vandenheuvels are in charge of this. Margot will be in touch with them to find out how things are going and if they want something to be put into the October newsletter.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM

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