

**CLAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT  
ANNUAL MEETING, AUGUST 25, 2012  
10 a.m Moose Lodge, Siren, WI**

Chair Deb Schoepke called the August 25, 2012 Annual Meeting to order at 10 a.m. at the Moose Lodge on State Road 70, Siren. Board members present were: John Carlson, Dave Hauan and Tom Stoffel, Secretary/Treasurer. Deb introduced machine operators, Bob Gideo and Jon Schoepke. Also present was Tony Havranek, Biologist for St. Croix Tribal and Environmental Services. Sixty-eight land owners were present.

The minutes for the 2011 meeting and the financial report for the last year were available for all in attendance. Chair Deb Schoepke asked if there were any questions about the minutes from the last meeting, none being voiced, Jon Schoepke made a motion to accept the minutes as printed. Motion seconded by Dennis Krieger and carried.

Secretary/Treasurer stated for everybody's information, Chair Schoepke and he were only taking one half their salary for the past year.

Treasurer Report: Chairman Schoepke asked if any questions about the financial report. None being heard, Bruce Stafford made a motion to accept the financial report as written. Don Martin seconded motion. Motion carried.

Bob Gideo gave a report on the condition of the harvesters. No weed harvesting was done in 2012. He and Jon Schoepke have been working on the harvesters lately. All have been run and the oil has been changed, chains have been lubricated so when we resume cutting they will be in working order.

A long discussion was held on whether the harvesters should just all be sold and we buy new harvesters if and when we resume cutting again. A land owner said the harvesters are deteriorating as they sit. Tom stated the last new harvester we bought about 12 years ago cost \$150,000 and it is very likely that a new harvester now would probably cost in the vicinity of \$200,000. After further discussion, Jon Schoepke made a motion we sell our small harvester, elevator and trailer. Bill Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board has discussed in the past the possibility of putting a building up on the Lion's property. The Lion's really do not want a building the size we would need that big on their property. Board member Dave Hauan has recently bought a piece of property directly across from the landing on the east shore on the south end of the Upper Clam. He proposed that he would do all necessary dirt work, put up a 47 x 72 x 14-foot-high building and sell it to the PRD for \$100,000. Discussion was held on this proposal and the general consensus was it is too much money not knowing what the future would bring. Question was asked what the timeline was if we decided to buy new equipment,

thought to be about six months. Question asked what we pay Lions for rent, answer \$750 per year. Question was asked and discussion was held about possibly shrink-wrapping harvesters. General feeling was that it could be done but not really air tight and since they are parked on class five gravel, they will still rust. If harvesters were shrink wrapped it would make a good place for rodents to live. Tom Bergstrom made a motion to have a spring meeting to consider proposals for a new building. Don Martin seconded motion. Motion carried. In regard to shrink wrapping harvesters, David Thiets made a motion to check into shrink wrapping harvesters. Jim Lang seconded motion. Further discussion was held regarding a dollar amount to be spent. Don Martin amended Dave Thiets motion by putting a \$5000 amount to be spent on shrink wrapping. Dave Thiets withdrew his original motion to check into shrink wrapping harvesters and seconded Don Martins motion for a \$5000 cap to be spent. Motion carried.

Tony gave a recap of the late fall and winter activities in relation to the carp removal. The highlights were radio tagging, marking, Fishing Assessment Report, removal in winter and spring, modified design of experimental enclosures from 2010, plant survey to determine future plan for weed harvesting, catfish and game fish surveys, continue to cut off the southern most bay to protect the last wild rice remaining and put together a population estimate for the carp.

Radio tagging: 18 new tags were placed in fish in the fall of 2011. 2 additional radio tags were put into Clam Flowage downstream, which serve Bashaw, Long and Spencer Lakes. The purpose being to see how or if the fish are moving into Clam Lake system. This winter Tony plans to fly the lake twice a week, takes about two hours to double check the location to determine where to attempt to harvest the carp. The fish tend to stay in the deep water in the center of the lake. A large number of fish were taken in Sun Fish Bay in the winter. Spring netting took place on the northern shore on Lower Clam. There are no carp inside the cutoff net area on the very south bay of Upper Clam.

Marking: At the start of 2011, 1445 carp had been marked. Tony stated that he felt that was not enough carp. Each time marking is done by clipping a different fin. For the last year we have taken out just under 3000 carp with only a 5-6 percent recap. Tony would like to see that percentage around 10%. So far we have taken out 189,000 pounds between April 12, 2011 and April 12, 2012.

DNR Fisheries Report: The catch rate for bluegills greater than 3 inches was 262 per mile in 1995. In 2011 it was 80 per mile. The catch rate for blue gills greater than 6 inches in 1995 was 163 per mile. In 2011 it was 7 per mile. For trout in 1995 it was 148 per mile and 2011 it was 0 per mile. Black crappies do not seem to have the same effect on the carp larvae as sunfish, the black crappie population stayed relatively the same. Question was asked about putting more sunfish into the lake. Tony stated he would rather take a "wait and see approach". Yes, we need the sunfish to keep the carp population in check but we also need vegetation to protect the fish. Tony is anxious to see if we have an improvement in the population next spring of the bluegills. Question

was asked about keeping the dam closed longer into the fall so it would be easier for the commercial fisherman to do the netting. Tony stated the commercial fisherman has modified the net used and the results were a big improvement in getting the net out of the lake which was filled with carp. Question was asked when the dam is pulled to lower the lake and general consensus was October 30. Question was asked could the draw down be postponed until after a netting attempt in January so there would be more water in Sun Fish Bay? General consensus was it would create a dangerous situation relative to the ice. Question was asked what percentage of carp did the 189,000 pounds represent? Tony thought about 30%. Tony reported the carp catch rates: .9 in 1995 and 15.3 in 2011.

Tree drops: Last year at the annual meeting Tony's initial plan was to put tree drops on land owners properties who volunteered to have them done to create natural habitat for "young of the year" fish. Tony has rethought the process based on the fact of how shallow our shores are and how much of the tree would be in the lake. He has applied for a fish and wildlife grant to do modified enclosures in shallow water so that bluegills could get in but carp could not. Email Tony anthonyh@stcroixtribalcenter.com or get in touch with me via email shadyoaksresort@aol.com .

Tony has modified the experimental enclosures. This year he just built two, one being a closed, seeded enclosure and the other being an open, seeded plot. He planned on checking next week for the results.

Question was asked whether the wild rice germinates every year. Tony stated he does not know. There are a lot of variables that go into germination of wild rice. He does see an improvement in the amount of wild rice in the lake, he attributes this to the 189,000 thousand pounds of carp that were removed.

A plant survey was done again this year, the final report will be out in the next two weeks. Preliminary indications show that there is additional decline in the density of plants from the 2009-2011 surveys. Tony wants to identify specific areas to try and increase the density of plants after the 2012 survey is completed.

After the carp removal this past year, Tony looked at the mark and recapture numbers. He estimates that we have about 80,000 carp in the lake which results in about 640,000 pounds of carp; Tony estimates that would result in 275 pounds per acre. Our goal is 100 pounds per acre. After the removal of the 189,000 pounds of carp, he estimates we have about 254 pounds per acre, so we are working in the right direction.

Question was asked "you are funded through 2014". "What happens when you go away"? Tony stated that Clam Lake has a special meaning to him. His intention is to keep being involved. Tony explained the process involved with working with the commercial fisherman. It costs the PRD and the Tribe in the fall and spring for marking the carp, his cost is about \$2000 per day. In the winter his costs are subsidized by the carp the commercial fisherman removes from the lake. The St. Croix Chippewa Tribe has a vested interest in the controlling of the carp because of the wild rice. We need to keep doing the shocking and surveys and ficht netting to keep track of the carp population so we keep it under control.

Question "would the DNR do anything in the future if we ended up with high water situation in the spring allowing the carp to swim right over the dam and up the river into the lakes and we would end up with the same problem potentially", Tony would like to continue putting radio tags into the carp to verify where they came from. Tony also thinks something happened to the sunfish population to prohibit the sunfish from continuing to control the carp population by feeding on the spawn and larvae.

Question: "should we consider banning catching sunfish?" In a report there was a point about reviewing current guidelines. All he said there is a whole new process for that to take place and it takes 4 years.

Comments were made about the number of catfish in the lake. The increase in their population happened the same time as the increase in the carp population.

Question: "What is the reason for the green algae in the lake this summer and is it hazardous to the people that use the lake". Tony really didn't know but he referred people to a couple of websites with Polk County Health Department and the Land and Water Department in Polk County. He didn't have information about Burnett County.

NEW BUSINESS: Long term storage in regard to the hydraulics systems to the machines, a land owner recommended to overfill the systems to eliminate air in the system. Jon Schoepke explained we do not have regular hydraulic fluid in our machines, but vegetable grade hydraulic fluid.

ELECTIONS: Three positions on the board are up for election. Secretary/Treasurer, and 2 board members. Dave Clements being one of the board members, he chose not to run, the other board member being John Carlson. Jon Schoepke nominated Bob Gideo to the board, 2nd by Don Martin. Jon Schoepke motioned a white ballot be placed for Tom Stoffel, John Carlson and Bob Gideo. Motion carried.

Question was asked about no wake zone on the river. Land owner stated that the DNR will not enforce the no wake zone. The PRD put the buoys in, we have to take care of the enforcement. Tom stated maybe the county sheriff would be willing to do it.

BUDGET: After a short discussion period, motion was made by Jon Schoepke to keep the mil rate at one quarter of a mil and was seconded by Jim Lang. Motion carried.

Motion was made to adjourn by Tim Morehead and seconded by Carol Bihner. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tom Stoffel, Secretary/Treasurer