

## CLAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

August 23, 2014, 10a.m. at Moose Lodge, Siren, WI

Chair Deb Schoepke called the August 23, 2014 Clam Lake PRD Annual Meeting to order at 10 a.m. at the Moose Lodge on State Road 70, Siren. Board members present were: Bob Gideo and Tom Stoffel, Secretary/Treasurer. 58 land owners were present.

Duane (Duke) Krebs, dam keeper gave some history and facts about the dam. The lake level was established by the Wisconsin DNR. The gauge is at the narrows and he checks it every day. There are three dams, one at Clam Falls, Clam Lake and downstream at Clam Flowage. The operators of the three dams communicate between themselves regarding the levels of the three dams. We can't get rid of the water in our lakes as fast as we receive water from Clam Falls. The dam was built in 1936, it holds back about 8 feet of water. A question was asked about the possibility of the dam at Clam Falls being abandoned or destroyed. He indicated there would be no change in our lakes. When does he lower the lake level? He lowers lake level after the muskrat season, the earliest being end of October. Question: do any of the dams produce electricity, at one time the dam at Clam Falls did produce electricity.

Tony Hvraneck, previously Biologist with St. Croix Chippewa Tribe, now employed at WSB & Associates, Inc., gave a quick update since 2009 on what happened to wild rice and the estimate of carp in our lakes. He stated there was a lot of partners in this project including the PRD, State DNR, BIA, Burnett County, US Fish and Wildlife and SEH. His new company has been contracted by the St. Croix Chippewa Tribe for Tony to continue working on this project. The project is now funded thru 2018. He described this project as being a "long haul" project. To date we have taken out approximately 400,000 pounds of carp. The original population was estimated at 70,000 fish and about 640,000 pounds. We had some initial success and removed 150,000 pounds. Our goal is to reach 100 pounds of carp per acre of water on Clam Lakes. Last year we installed a "cut off" net on the south bay of Upper Clam, we saw significant gain in the amount of wild rice that was protected by the net. We harvested almost 300 pounds of wild rice to be used for reseeding at a later date. Another thing we are watching is recruitment of bluegills. Bluegills are the main predator of carp spawn and larvae. We are looking for year old bluegills and finding very little. We were limited this past winter of removal of carp because of poor ice conditions. The St. Croix Tribe is in the process of building their own net so in the future they won't have to be limited by the availability of the commercial fisherman. Question regarding how the dam is involved of the carp getting in the lake during high water. There is no "head" so the carp can get over the

dam and into the river. In regard to the dam at Clam Flowage tests indicate those carp never left Clam Flowage to go upstream into our lakes. No carp other than Clam Lake carp affect the carp population in our two lakes. One of the questions involved in all this is what actually happened to the bluegill population? The St. Croix Tribe has installed "four fish sticks". They are located behind Big Mike's, DNR land and Tribal land, all on Upper Clam. Water quality is important to deter the carp. Water quality can be improved by shoreline management and improve septic systems. Question was asked about stocking bluegills to expedite the control of the carp. The reason we won't is because the Clam Lakes are so large the number of bluegills needed would not be feasible. Question: Why not put a ban on bluegills and make them strictly catch and release. Tony stated the issue with that is the DNR has changed how they enact new regulations, it's a long process and takes a year cycle to enact it and would be a two to three years to enforce it and would be four to five years before it is over. Question was asked how much damage the gulls do to the fisheries and Tony didn't know the answer to this. Question was asked how did you get the carp out of the area protected by the net? Tony said they installed the net in the spring when the water was very cold which is not conducive to the carp being in there.

SECRETARY/TREASURER REPORTS: 2013 annual meeting minutes were available to landowners upon arrival at this meeting. The motion was made by Jon Schoepke and seconded by Tom Warner to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed. Motion was made by Roger Durbahan and seconded by Jon Schoepke to accept the Treasurer's Report, motion OLD BUSINESS: Bob Gideo was going to talk about the new building but he had to leave for a family function. Jon Schoepke said the plan for the new building is to house all our trucks and have a place to work on the machines inside when needed. Sale of the new machine: one person called Deb Schoepke interested in the purchase of the machine with a rent to own option. They emailed back and forth about the possibilities and the possible buyer just stopped communication. Tom Stoffel talked to Randy at Spooner Machine about selling our machine and Randy said they are working with a broker to sell machines when an organization buys a new one from Spooner Machine. His name is Rick Knauf. Rick had been over to look at our machine, trailer and conveyor and estimated the value at \$20,000 as a package. Discussion was held and we still want to sell the small machine (it has a steel hull as opposed to stainless steel hull on other machines), question was asked about possibly taking our machines to other lakes to get some use out of them and generate a little income. The board has discussed this and felt the benefit doesn't exceed the liability. Jon Schoepke made a motion to leave the sale of the machines at the discretion of the board. 2nd by Craig Diettel. Discussion was held, motion

NEW BUSINESS: A land owner that lives close to the dam reported there is new black top road down to the dam. There is a sign that says "no fires". What is the purpose of the sign if there are no repercussions. People build fires right on the road.

BUDGET: Motion by Jon Schoepke to have the budget remain at a ¼ of a mil, 2nd by Bill Johnson. Motion passed.

ELECTIONS: Bob Gideo, John Carlson and Tom Stoffel are up for reelection. Jon Schoepke made a motion a white ballot be cast for all three board members, Jim Lincoln 2nd motion. Motion passed. Motion was made to adjourn by Bob Grueschow, 2nd by Barb Grueschow. Motion carried. 2015 PRD Annual Meeting will be held August 29.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Stoffel

Secretary/Treasurer