**Clam Lake PRD Winter Meeting**

**October 25, 2018**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Tim Hickey, Board members present: Bob Gideo, Jim Lang, Rick Peterson, Tom Stoffel and Dave Ferris.

Dave Ferris, from the Burnett County Land Conservation, has been added to our board due to the statutes governing lake PRD’s.

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Jim Lang motioned to accept the agenda and Rick Peterson seconded. Motion carried.

**SECRETARY REPORT**: Minutes from the annual meeting were not available. Rick Peterson requested that the formula for the new, approved, mill rate be posted on the website so people can be aware.

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**TREASURER REPORT**: was distributed to all board members, motion was made by Jim Lang and seconded by Rick Peterson to accept the Secretary Report as printed. Motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Update on equipment.**

A new dump truck was purchased for $10,500, well under the $20,000-$25,000 approved. Blue Collar Garage went through the truck and said it was in very good shape. A few modifications to the sides will be needed.

We are having Spooner Machine will do all the minimum necessary repairs on the old elevator, at a cost of $10,000-$11,000, because the grant for the new elevator isn’t guaranteed. The purchase of a new elevator is on hold as we work through the grant process. We will have two elevators, two cutters and two trucks working next spring.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

We are meeting with all the stakeholders for the fishery and weed management of Clam Lake to understand how each sees the current condition and how we can work together moving forward.

**Additional Attendees:**

Wisc. DNR: Craig Roberts, Pamela Toshner

St. Croix Tribe: Jeremy Bloomquist, Cody Mattison

Comments (some are paraphrased) that were made during the round table discussion (identity of the speaker for all comments is not available)

* Dave Ferris - The weeds were so bad in the 70’s, the ducks could walk across the lake.
* Dave Ferris - There is about 35 feet of sediment at the bottom of the lake. The lake could be 50 feet deep.
* Pamela Toshner - due to the water quality, high phosphorous, the lake has been designated as an impaired lake.
* Pamela Toshner - Education is the key for people to understand what they should expect from the lake.
* Dave Ferris - This year was an anomaly due to the late ice out and early warm up.
* ??? - The clear water, due to the removal of the carp, plus the quick warm up was a perfect storm for weed growth.
* Rick Peterson - Is there more than one solution to managing the weeds, is harvesting the only solution?
* ??? - New lake property owners are not aware of the history of the lake.
* Dave Ferris - New people may not know how to use the lake when it is weedy because they haven’t seen it like this before. They have to understand that this is part of being on Clam Lake.
* Tim Hickey - I have seen the lake where there were almost no weeds to where this year there was a tremendous number of weeds, is there a way to balance those two extremes out?
* ??? - Shallow lakes pose a unique situation because the lake conditions can change rapidly.
* ??? - Wind, boat motors, jet skis, and harvesting can uproot weeds because they are rooted in muck. This will cause the floating mats.
* Pamela Toshner - Many lakes experienced more weeds this year so we have to be realistic about our expectation and how much we can control.
* Pamela Toshner - The DNR received a lot of complaints, from many lakes, about the weedier conditions this year.
* Tim Hickey - Did we drop the amount of carp too low?
* Craig Roberts - Commercial fishermen are going to take as many as they can to make it worth their time.
* Dave Ferris - Carp have always been on the lake.
* Craig Roberts - Bluegills help control the carp population.
* ??? - We need to take steps to increase bluegill population.
* Dave Ferris - It might be worth considering changing the bag limit from 25 to 10 for bluegills to help the bluegill population. Or put in a size limit.
* Dave Ferris - The growing degree hours in a typical summer is about 2400. This year already we have had 2800 growing degree hours and we still have some time left.
* Jim Lang noticed a lot of bluegills coming up with the weeds during harvesting.
* Craig Roberts - DNR will have a better idea of the bluegill population when they test next summer.
* Craig Roberts - DNR does not designate a lake as a recreational and/or fishery.
* Jim Lang - We got a late start this year harvesting weeds and we had several down periods due to the condition, and availability, of the equipment.
* Dave Ferris - It is not realistic to think that in a typically shallow weedy lake, you are not going to have weed problems from time to time. The bigger motors etc. will have a detrimental effect.
* Jeremy Bloomquist - The netting for the wild rice is put in place right after ice out and they are taken out in the fall.
* Dave Ferris - We need to get the harvesting started earlier.
* Tom Stoffel - In past years we cut about 50 acres. The last two years we started out with a permit to cut 17 acres because we really didn’t have a weed problem. As the summer wore on, we were allowed to cut almost anywhere we wanted to.
* Tim Hickey - The weed problem we had was more the Curly Leaf Pond Weed that came up in the spring and died off about June 1st.
* Pamela Toshner - You guys need to make a proposal for your cutting needs for next year and submit it for approval. It can be done anytime.
* Tim Hickey - We need to have a Point Intercept Survey done before we can move forward with a new Aquatic Plant Management Plan because the one completed a few years ago doesn’t reflect the lake in its current state.
* Tim Hickey - Many property owners are wondering if this year was just an anomaly or is it a sign of things to come and will it get worse.

**To Summarize:**

The St. Croix Tribe

Their primary interest is managing wild rice. The wild rice is showing some promising redeveloping in the south and southeast side of Upper Clam.

They are currently monitoring the growth of the carp population as they know that the carp have a detrimental affect on the crop. The DNR is not issuing carp harvesting permits this year partly due to the fact they are restructuring the permit process. The vast majority of the carp are juveniles and, because they are too small, cannot be harvested using the current nets. Using a net with smaller holes isn’t an option because it could have a devastating affect on other fish populations.

The DNR is concerned with both the water quality and the fish populations. They have stated many times that there are two distinct types of lakes relative to water quality, clear or turbid. Clear lakes promote the population of large mouth bass, northern pike and bluegill. In addition, it will also have a high density of aquatic vegetation, a high density of wild rice and a high density of waterfowl. A turbid lake, in this case caused by adult carp, will increase the population of walleye, channel catfish, yellow perch and carp population. In addition, it will have a low density of aquatic vegetation, low density of wild rice and a low density of waterfowl. Noticeable algae blooms are also common with turbid lakes due to the algae being stirred up from the bottom. The DNR does not designate any lakes as fisheries and/or recreational lakes.

**Notes:**

The first step to understanding what is happening to the lake is completing a Point Intercept Survey. The best time to do the survey is after ice out and before the weed harvesting begins. We will contract with Matt Berg, from Grantsburg, to complete this survey next Spring.

​There is a commitment from all stakeholders to continue to work together to improve the lake conditions.

Jim Lang made a motion to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Tom Stoffel, motion carried.

**MEETINGS IN 2019:**

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**Spring April 27, 2019 – Siren High School Auditorium**

Summer - TBD

August 24, 2019 - location to be determined

​Winter – TBD

Respectfully,

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Tom Stoffel, Secretary/Treasurer

(Tim Hickey assisted in creating the minutes)