

MINUTES
2021 ANNUAL MEETING
THE DISTRICT OF CLAM LAKE

Review and Approval of [2020 Annual Meeting Minutes](#) – Anthony Snider

- Minutes are on clamlakeprd.com (see link above)
- The 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved

Treasurer Report – Tom Stoffel

- Treasurer Report for July 31, 2020 to April 1, 2021 was distributed (please see Appendix below for report)
- In addition to the ending April 1 balance reported, the CLPRD has incurred an additional ~10K of expenses which brings Cash on Hand to ~38K
- There was limited discussion and the Treasurer Report was approved

Committee Reports

- First, Rick Peterson gave a brief explanation of work division for CLPRD board members:
 - Aquatic Plant Management Plan – Tim Hickey
 - Lake Operations – Jim Lang
 - Lake Levels – Rick Peterson
 - Communications – Anthony Snider
 - Treasurer – Tom Stoffel

Aquatic Plant Management Plan Report – Tim Hickey

- To acquire an annual weed cutting permit from the DNR you must have an updated Aquatic Plant Management plan (every 5 years). Our last approved plan is 2014.
- An early step in this process is a Point Intercept survey for both lakes which started in 2019 and was completed with some delays early 2020 (see [APM Tab on clamlakeprd.com](#))
- With the Point Intercept surveys complete we contracted with LEAPS (Dave Blummer) to prepare an APM plan.
- We were granted a temporary weed harvesting permit for 2020 as we continued to work through the APM planning process, however the DNR would not extend a temporary weed harvesting permit for 2021
- Draft APM plan is now complete (see [APM Tab on clamlakeprd.com](#))
- Important to note there are 4 required goals as we work through the APM plan process:
 1. maintain the native weeds of the lake (i.e., Small Pondweed)
 2. maintain water quality

- 3. responsible fish management (less of an issue for Clam lakes due to current abundance)
- 4. control invasive weed species (i.e., Curly-Leaf Pondweed)
- Interested parties that we are working with for the APM plan process include:
 - Wisconsin DNR
 - St Croix Tribe
 - Clam Lake property owners
- This spring, weed development was the “perfect storm” due to lack of snow, early ice out and record high June temperatures. This isn’t necessarily indication of future years, but got the attention of the DNR. They are partnering with us for a weed harvesting solution while we continue to finalize the APM plan.
- Tim and Dave Blummer went through a summary of the Clam Lakes eco system that included (for details see [2021 Clam Lake PRD Presentation Materials](#)):
 - size of the water shed and impacts to our lakes
 - past v. current wild rice development and its importance as a natural resource
 - current invasive Curly-Leaf Pond (CLP) weed growth

DNR Weed Harvesting Approvals (2021 Only)

- For Lower Clam the DNR granted permission for us to clear cut, at 2ft depth, the CLP from lower clam. We are seeing CLP development in upper clam, which is new, and will continue working with the DNR for potential solutions
- For Upper Clam the DNR granted permission to cut a 50 ft lane through middle of the lake on the north end, cut a lane for access to the river on the south end, and to cut access lanes from the bays to open water.

Q&A

Q - Can navigational lanes be cut for open water access on Lonestar Road (upper Clam Southwest Corner)

A – Yes

Q – As a long-term property owner in Hideaway Bay, and knowing harvesting permission have recently changed to allow less cutting in this area, what remedies do we have?

A – With the current DNR weed harvesting rules we are allowed to cut navigational lanes only to open water north of the island in Upper Clam and we do not see that changing in the future.

Q – Knowing the weed explosion this year, and anticipation of similar winter / spring conditions in the future, can we get a jump start on weed harvesting earlier in the season?

A – The DNR now requires us to bed map weeds prior to cutting each spring which starts at ice out and visible emergence. In a normal year we anticipate this process to allow cutting to start in mid-May. This year was an exception due to DNR leadership transition and APM plan approval delays mentioned above.

Q – Seeing the St Croix tribe is happy with the wild rice development in the south end of upper Clam, and the river flows north, why do they care about weed harvesting in the bays north of the wild rice?

A – The weed harvesting rules north of the wild rice in upper Clam is controlled completely by the DNR for the purpose of fish management.

Q – Can we change the status of the Clam Lakes with the DNR from a fishery to recreational lake?

A – We have spoken with the DNR on several occasions on lake status and the DNR does not categorize lakes in this manner.

Q – If the wild rice continues to spread in upper Clam north from the south end, will that impact weed harvesting plans in the future?

A – We do not anticipate weed harvesting rules changing from our current navigational lane to open water allowance

Q – Is there a survey of the amount of wild rice growth in Upper Clam?

A – We are not aware of any survey, or have that information available

Weed Harvesting Crew – THANK YOU!

- Big thank you again for the 2021 weeding cutting crew:
 - Jim Lang
 - Tim Hickey
 - Joe Wilkerson
 - John Hagar
 - Doug Lamere

- Many hours of work go into cutting and maintaining the equipment

Lake Operations Report – Jim Lang

- The 2021 weed harvesting permit was applied for in March
- Harvesters were launched early this year, May 10th, in an effort to be proactive understanding the early ice out and spring weather conditions would create early weed growth

- After delays mentioned above with APM planning and harvesting approvals from the DNR, cutting of the CLP beds (high priority) in lower Clam began only to have the blue machine hydraulic motor fail the first day which did impact operations.
- Over a 16-day period, including as much as 10-11 hours a day, 124 loads were removed from lower Clam
- The harvesters were moved to Sunfish Bay and southeast corner of upper Clam, but once cutting began we encountered 2 cutter head failures which has created further delays
- We will continue to work as fast as possible with repairs to continue cutting, but we anticipate further delays understanding current weed density and age of our equipment

Q&A

Q – Is it time to buy a new harvester?

A – YES! This will be discussed later in the meeting

Q – Has the weed harvesting equipment / technology improved since we last purchased harvesters for the Clam Lake PRD?

A – The new machines we are exploring use similar technology, and we haven't seen significant improvement in technology to date

Q – How much does normal boat traffic positively impact weed growth?

A – Very little, and even with normal harvesting and removal of native weeds will grow back which requires multiple cutting through the growing season

Q – Why is Lower Clam first priority?

A – The large beds of the invasive CLP needs to be removed ASAP to prevent further spreading

Lake Levels – Rick Peterson

- USGS and Burnett County installed an automated water gauging systems in 2020 for Clam Lakes
- This is used to manage the Clam Dam and gate activity
- Monitoring water level gauges and cameras are located at Soderberg Road, Malone Road, Clam Dam Park and the 70 Bridge (Narrows)
- Water level range must be maintained at 949.40 - 950.20
- Burnett County goal is to maintain the level at 950.10
- Ultimately this tool would be used to automate the lake levels with new dam gate automation

Q&A

Q – The lake seems to be consistently lower over the past couple of years
A – The Clam Lake PRD has had these discussions with the current Clam Dam operations (Burnett County) and their historical records do not show this. We also asked about potential calibration issues at the 70 bridge, but was assured that many benchmarks were performed after installation and this is not an issue. The PRD does understand that from simply looking at personal docks and boat lifts levels are lower. We will continue to partner with Burnett County to help with this issue. Another approach would be to pursue litigation against the county to raise the levels but would be expensive and would impact current tax rates and budgets

Q – Did Clam Falls receive funding to keep / replace their current dam?

A – Yes – Clam Falls received funding of 2 million dollars, subject to approval by Polk County, to keep the dam. Although a great outcome for the property owners of Clam Falls this has little impact to the our Clam Lakes either way

Clam Lake 2021 Events Update – Rick Peterson

- We are still looking for volunteers for a Clam Lake Activities Committee. This committee would be responsible for organization and coordination of lake type activities sponsored by the PRD. This is a volunteer position for 3 or 4 folks that would have an interest in this type of effort. Please submit your name to clamlake6600@gmail.com if you are interested.
- Independence Day Pontoon Parade will be held on Saturday July 3, Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.

New Business Funding Requests

Water Level Monitoring System Funding

- PRD has been asked to contribute to the cost of the monitoring system
- \$20,000 funding requested from county to the Clam Lake PRD
- If approved... we would make 4 annual payments of \$5000 to county
- After discussion with property owners that centered mainly around what value it has to property owner's vs the county, the funding was NOT approved
- We may however decide in future years in favor of additional funding for this with a better understanding of actual benefits and county plans for a new dam

Purchase of new weed cutter

- The PRD has obtained two bids – Aquarius (current manufacturer of our harvesters) for \$270,000 and a new builder called Inland for \$192,000.

- After onsite review and demo of the Inland harvester it is not only cheaper but the better machine
- We will apply for a state grant to cover ~50% of cost
- Requires 1/3 down, \$65,000, to begin cutter build which will take 180 days to complete
- Obtain loan for down payment and balance
- Raise mil rate .25 for a total of .75. Example: Property Valued at \$100,000 currently at \$50 would increase to \$75 per year
- After discussion with property owners the motion to purchase the Inland harvester, and increase the Clam Lake mil rate from .50 to .75 was approved.

Other New Business Items

- The DNR is looking to potentially change the bluegill daily bag limit from 25 to 10. If you have input, please contact your local DNR (Craig Roberts - Craig.Roberts@wisconsin.gov)
- Items of note for the boat launch on highway 70:
 - county is planning improvement this fall to the current ramp
 - looking for volunteers to perform boat inspections, more information to come later the summer / fall
 - we are proposing no power loading ordinance for this ramp

Board Member Elections – Rick Peterson

- 2 positions are up for election in 2021
 1. Rick Peterson
 2. Jim Lang
- A motion was made to forgo nominations and re-elect Rick and Jim. Motion was approved.

APPENDIX
2021 ANNUAL MEETING
THE DISTRICT OF CLAM LAKE

CLAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
Treasury Report July 31, 2020 to April 1, 2021

BALANCE FORWARD:	Checkbook Balance	\$ 13,465.69	
	Edward Jones Account	\$ 25,102.12	
			\$ 38,567.81
INCOME:	Meenon Township	\$ 11,156.48	
	Siren Township	\$ 22,757.99	
	DNR	\$ 5232.50	
	Insurance Refund	\$ 100.00	
			\$39,246.97
EXPENSES:	Payroll	\$ 6,826.89	
	Insurance	\$ 4,662.25	
	Maint and Repair	\$ 4,180.22	
	Federal & State Taxes	\$ 1,681.92	
	Office	\$ 370.89	
	Miscellaneous	\$ 11,641.93	
	Bank Charges	\$ 156.20	
			\$29,520.30
ACTUAL CASH ON HAND:	Checking Account	\$ 23,189.93	
	Edward Jones Account	\$ 25,104.12	
			\$48,294.48