

MINUTES
2022 ANNUAL MEETING
THE DISTRICT OF CLAM LAKE

Review and Approval of [2021 Annual Meeting Minutes](#) – Rick Peterson

- Minutes are on clamlakeprd.com (see link above)
- There were no questions and the 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes were approved

Treasurer Report – Tom Stoffel

- Treasurer Report for April 30, 2021 to April 30, 2022 was distributed (please see Appendix below)
- There was limited discussion and a motion was made to accept the Treasurer Report and budget was approved by a majority

Committee Reports

1. 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

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.
- Because of COVID restrictions and leadership transitions within the DNR there were delays in approval of our APM plan until this year (8-year time gap)
- The plan is very extensive, covers topics such as watershed and lake characteristics, aquatic plants, wild rice and our goals and objectives in managing Clam Lakes.
- The final APM plan and appendices are located the [APM Tab on clamlakeprd.com](#).
- With completion of the APM plan we requested from the DNR permission to cut navigational channels and open water access lanes for nearly the entire lake shoreline (the exception being the wild rice beds) for both upper and lower clam. The following images were shown to illustrate the request on the next page:

**Map 2 – Nuisance and Navigation Channels and Access to Open Water Lanes
(Lower Clam Lake)**



Figure 2: White dotted line = navigation channel parallel to shore 75-ft wide; Yellow dotted lines = Open water access lanes; Light green line = 500-ft from shore; Orange crosses = wild rice

**Map 3 – Nuisance and Navigation Channels and Access to Open Water Lanes
(Upper Clam Lake)**



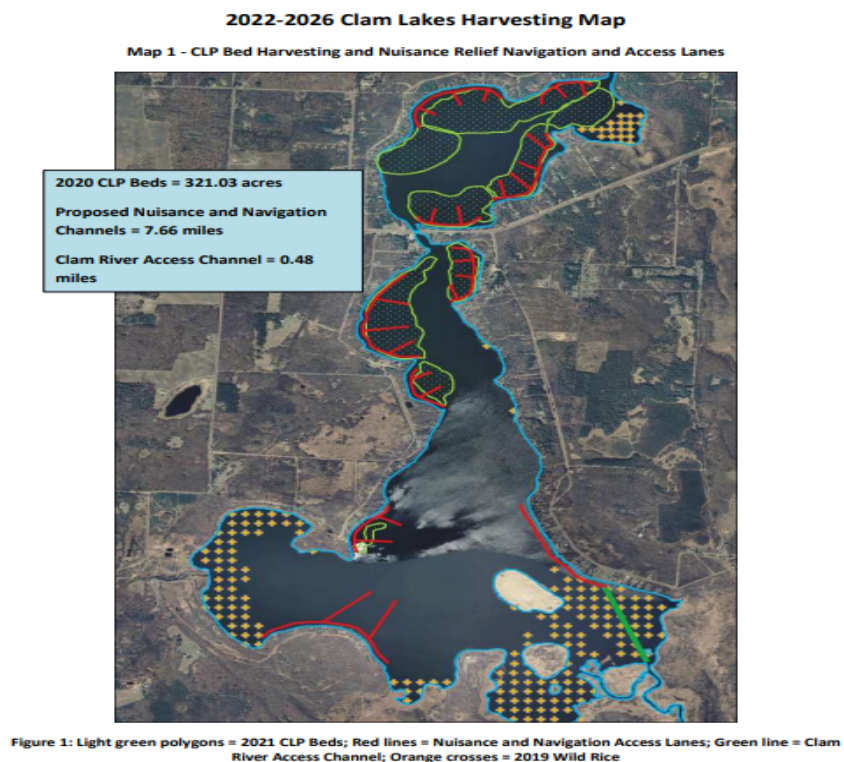
Figure 3: North end of Upper Clam Lake



Figure 4: South end of Upper Clam Lake

White dotted line = Navigation channels parallel to shore 75-ft wide; Yellow dotted lines = Open Water Access Lanes; Orange crosses = wild rice; Red line = Clam River Access Lane 20-ft wide; Green dots = areas of the lake with native vegetation considered moderate to dense based on 2019 summer plant survey results.

- The DNR reviewed our request, modified and approved the following cutting plan which is illustrated below:



- It is possible to revisit the harvesting plan if nuisance areas expand, but any additional cutting would require approval from the DNR and St Croix Tribe.
- Every year is different. Fortunately, this year some areas where we've seen significant growth in the past is less and we only cut what is required.
- It's important to also understand when harvesting the following rules apply:
 - Limited to permitted areas unless approved in advanced
 - Cannot cut in less than 3 feet of water
 - Do not disturb to bottom of the lake
 - Curly Leaf Pond Weed
 - Cut before it goes to seed
 - Cut as much as possible to prevent it from taking over
 - Native weeds
 - Lanes for navigation only
 - 100 feet from shoreline to 150 feet from shoreline
 - Spokes from lanes to middle of lake
 - Three feet maximum or half the column of water

- Do not cut wild rice or lily pads, unless absolutely necessary
- The DNR does monitor our cutting operations that the approved areas and rules are followed
- We will have to reapply each year with the above plan through 2026
- There were no questions from those in attendance

Lake Operations Report – Jim Lang

- We were able to get an early May start harvesting for the season with help from Inland Harvesters from Milwaukee with repairs to our Blue Machine.
- Started with Upper Clam (small lake) concentrating on the Curly Pond Weed emergence - 39 loads were removed.
- Harvesters were then moved to Lower Clam (big lake) where cutting began with Sunfish and Hideaway bays. So far, this season weed growth is less than the past few years.
- Then moved to the southeast corner of Lower Clam - 16 loads were removed.
- Lastly the elevator and harvester were moved to Cumberland point to cut that bay and Lonestar.
- At the time of this meeting, we are down to one harvester. The blue machine is being repaired.
- Trucks and elevators are working well.
- There were no questions from those in attendance.
- Rick Peterson provided additional commentary on the DNR harvesting permit:
 - Last year we worked new DNR leadership which created confusion and delayed our 2021 weed harvesting
 - Went to the DNR headquarters this past September to meet with the St Croix Tribe and DNR to avoid such delays for this year, which proved beneficial

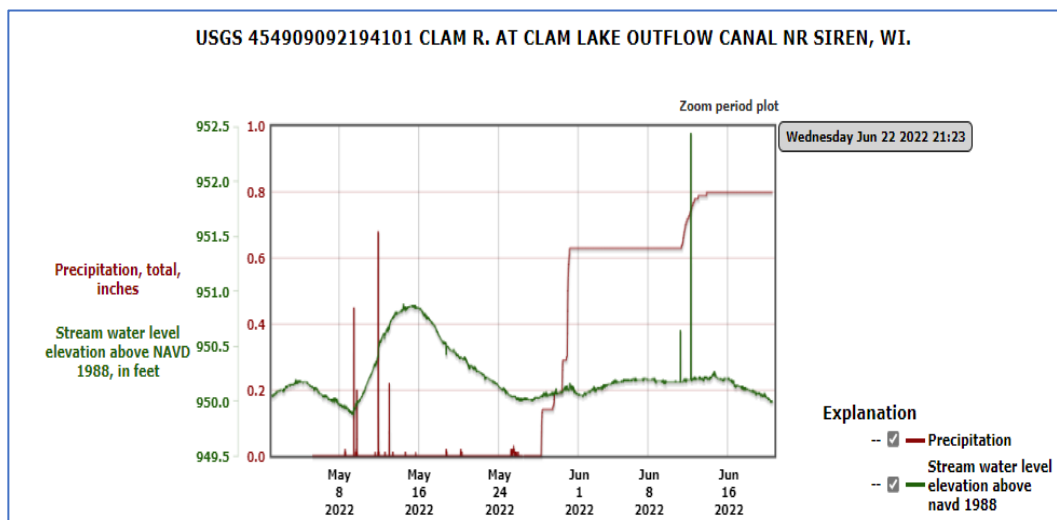
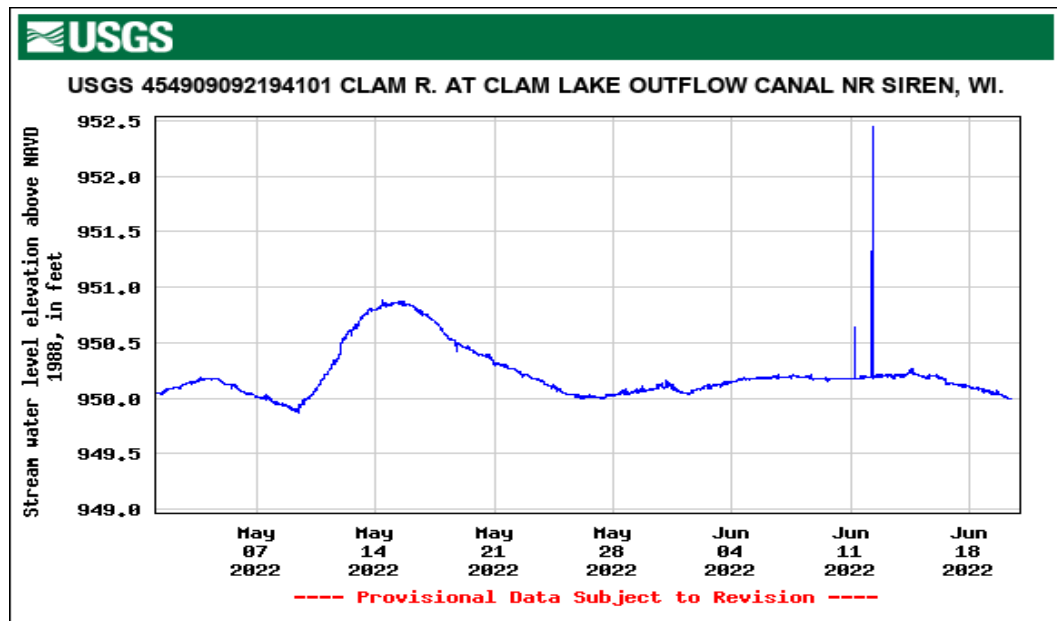
Big thank you again for the 2022 weeding cutting crew!

- Jim Lang
- John Hager
- Tim Hickey
- Joe Wilkerson

Lake Levels – Rick Peterson

- The Monitoring System has water level gauges and cameras located at:
 - Soderberg Road
 - Malone Road
 - Clam Dam Park
- Water level range must be maintained between 949.40 and 950.20 which was established as part of a court order from 1956

- The median level currently is 950.10, which the PRD worked with Burnett County to establish.
- Important to note - each tenth on the USGC steam level gauge, located at the 70 bridge, is 1.2 inches
- Burnett County owns and operates the dam. If you would like further information on dam operations, please contact Dave Ferris at 715-349-2109 ext. 2615
- To view the USGC steam level gauge it is located on our website or at [Clam Lake Outflow Canal](#)
- The following images were shown to illustrate this spring / summer lake elevation and rainfall taken from the USGC steam level gauge:



- The gauge takes a reading every 15 minutes

- Lastly, there was a comment from the audience that if you are interested in knowing the dates for the fall lake draw down you can contact Burnett County or look for posts on our PRD website and Facebook pages

Communication Update – Anthony Snider

Understanding that the communication role on the PRD is up for election this year, we wanted to provide a brief explanation of the responsibilities or the communication position

- **Clam Lake PRD Website**
 - Homestead Technologies used to build and maintain website. This development tool has been used for many years.
 - Knowledge of word processing and embedded links is sufficient for most updates
 - Approximately 2 hours per month during spring and summer, normally when most updates are made
- **Social Media (Facebook, GoFundMe)**
 - GoFundMe site was built this past winter and needs little maintenance
 - The Facebook tasks are similar to maintaining your own personal site. This includes manage roles and settings, edit the pages and its apps, send messages on behalf of the page, respond to and delete comments, and approve and remove users
 - Approximately 1 hour per month
- **General Updates (events, lake updates, meeting minutes)**
 - clamlakeprd.com, Facebook and email used for updates
 - Majority of time spent preparing annual meeting minutes
- **Maintain Clam Lake contact list**
 - Currently use Xcel to maintain contact list
 - Majority of time spent updating after annual meeting

Q&A

Q – How long is the term as a board member

A – 3 years

Old Business

Weed Harvesting Equipment Update – Jim Lang

- We continue to have issues with the right motor of the blue machine
- The problem is similar to last year's issue, which is lack power to paddle
- We are troubleshooting the help of Inland Harvesters, Force America to find a hydraulic motor that may work or a fix to our current motor.
- New silver machine is in good working order

New Elevator Issue Update – Rick Peterson

- We purchased a new elevator in August 2019 from a company called Evergreen Equipment, Hayward Wisconsin.
- Evergreen agreed to build to our specifications, but upon delivery and testing we were unable to dock the harvester to unload weeds.
- It was returned with a commitment to fix the issue.
- After several visits and communications with Evergreen we received a commitment to have the correction made a delivered to us May 2022.
- Upon testing again, we are still unable to dock with our harvesters.
- The PRD has requested a refund in full from Evergreen Equipment
- First response was they didn't have the money to provide a refund, but since have agreed but with the stipulation the PRD provide written explanation of the issues encountered with the elevator.
- We will provide the written explanation through the Benson Law Offices, Siren, WI for a \$200 fee. The meeting is scheduled for July 6.
- We did speak with the DNR about this issue, as they provided a grant of 50% of the \$30,000 and they instructed us to keep the grant portion as we will need another elevator eventually with our new harvester purchase

Clam Lake 2022 Events Update – Rick Peterson

- Independence Day Pontoon Parade will be held on Saturday July 2
- This year's event will start in Upper Clam, and progress to Lower Clam which is opposite from last year
- Because the weeds are less abundant than years past the parade should be able to move closer to shore making viewing better for property owners

Boat Launch Update – Tim Hickey

- There is a possibility that the main boat launch on 70 will be updated, but we have yet to connect with the DNR and Burnett County to understand exact plans and timeframes. More to come.
- Burnett County has banned power loading on all public landings. We are trying understand when signage will be installed and if it will be for all landings on Clam Lakes

Q/A

Q – What is power loading?

A – Using the motor to load and unload the boat onto and off the trailer

Q – Is power loading considered anything that disturbs the bottom of the lake?

A – When speaking to the DNR disturbing the bottom of the lake is not allowed.

Facebook page

- Clam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
- Must be typed in its entirety or you will get the old Facebook page
- This is a private page for Clam Lake property owners only

Clam Lake Activities Committee – 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 if you are interested.

New Business

Purchase of New Harvester – Rick Peterson

- The PRD is purchasing a new harvester that was approved at last year's meeting
- Total purchase price is ~\$190,000, which hasn't changed from original bid even with current inflationary conditions
- We have applied and was accepted for a grant from the DNR for \$94,614
- Big thanks to Jim Lang for all the work provided to complete the grant process
- We've paid first installment of \$63,075 (\$47,000 DNR, \$15,000 PRD)
- Construction of the Harvester is underway but we don't have an estimated completion date yet
- Second installment is due half way through construction. This will consist of a 50,000 loan and 13,000 from current PRD funds.
- We are currently researching a 4.5% interest loan from the Wisconsin Board of Commissioners of Public Land. This will require we notify property owners through a postcard mailing, similar to our annual meeting notification, the intent to acquire this loan and meet again to approve such a measure.

- We also have spoken with US Bank for an equipment loan at 7.09%, 5-year loan that allows us to pay in full after 1 year without penalty. Because the PRD is an association and does not have one individual responsible for the loan (a guarantor), the interest rate is higher.
- The last installment due at completion - \$63,075 (\$47,000 DNR, \$15,000 PRD). It's important to note the PRD is responsible for the entire amount, and must show delivery and proof of purchase to receive the remaining \$47,000 grant from the DNR.

Q/A

Q – Is there a warranty for the Harvester?

A – We will have to look at the purchase agreement for exact details of the warranty.

Q – Where is it being built?

A – Burlington, Wisconsin. The DNR included half the transportation fee (\$1500) in the grant.

Q – Will the new harvester accommodate our current elevators

A – Yes

Q – Will we have enough funds to pay the last installment from the PRD

A – At time of delivery we should have the funds to cover payment prior to receiving the final \$47,000 of grant money

GoFundMe – Rick Peterson

- A GoFundMe site was suggested in last year's PRD annual meeting to help with cost of lake operations.
- From April 2021 to April 2022, we spent \$18,000 maintaining the harvesting equipment and 20,000 labor.
- We want to see how much money is donated through the GoFundMe site before asking for tax rate increases in the future, if necessary

Future of the PRD – Rick Peterson

- Jim Lang and John Hagar are retiring from the Lake Operations team after this season.
- We need people to help with these positions or we will not be able to continue weed harvesting.
- These are paid positions.
- You are not required to be on the board.

Board Member Elections – Rick Peterson

- 1 position is up for election in 2022
- Nick Johnson was nominated and approved to the PRD

Final Q/A

Q – What is the carp situation on Clam Lake?

A – There hasn't been much information concerning carp harvesting that we are aware. We did receive some updates last September 2021 that the carp population isn't causing concern yet, and that commercial fishing isn't interested due to limited payback for harvesting. This does not however mean that the St Croix Tribe won't harvest carp themselves. It's also our understanding the wild rice harvest has been excellent which is the main driver for harvesting carp.

Lastly, sunfish help control carp population of lakes by eating carp larvae. We have seen the sunfish population grow over the past several years and hope this helps in managing the carp.

Q – What is the percentage of weeds that captured in the harvester that is cut?

A – We recently posted on both Facebook and our Website a study done at Chautauqua Lake, New York concerning the amount of debris left behind by weed harvesters. The link can be found here: [Harvester Effectiveness Collecting Weeds](#). The effective rate is 90+ in picking up the materials that are cut by the harvesters. We also understand this is not a study done on our exact harvesters but know their equipment is similar.

It's also important to note that wind and boat traffic will create floating weeds and this spring has been exceptional windy.

APPENDIX
2021 ANNUAL MEETING
THE DISTRICT OF CLAM LAKE

CLAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
Treasury Report April 30, 2021 to April 30, 2022

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| BALANCE FORWARD: | Checkbook Balance | \$ 32,715.97 | |
| | Edward Jones Account | \$ 25,102.12 | |
| | | | \$ 57,818.09 |
| INCOME: | Meenon Township | \$ 26,593.31 | |
| | Siren Township | \$ 28,141.13 | |
| | GoFundMe | \$ 2,176.95 | |
| | | | \$56,911.39 |
| EXPENSES: | Payroll | \$ 19,437.62 | |
| | Insurance | \$ 3,995.17 | |
| | Maint and Repair | \$ 17,695.30 | |
| | Federal & State Taxes | \$ 5,633.92 | |
| | Office | \$ 401.47 | |
| | Miscellaneous | \$ 2,709.08 | |
| | Bank Charges | \$ 75.00 | |
| | | | \$49,947.56 |
| ACTUAL CASH ON HAND: | Checking Account | \$ 49,862.71 | |
| | Edward Jones Account | \$ 15,105.51 | |
| | | | \$64,968.22 |