

Please Note: These minutes were reviewed by the WALPRD Board. However, they have not been officially approved. This will be done at the annual meeting in 2023.



White Ash Lake
Protection & Rehabilitation District

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

July 23, 2022

The meeting was called to order by WALPRD Chairman at 10:06 AM

1. **Minutes from 7/17/2021 Annual meeting:** 2021 Annual Meeting minutes were mailed to all. Leonard Feyen moved and Roy Timm seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the 2021 annual meeting. Motion carried.
2. **Treasurer's Report/Audit Report:** Treasurer reported account balances. Current expenses for July included payroll, fuel and other general bills. Jan Beck moved and Brian Johnson seconded the motion to accept the Treasurers report. Motion carried. Audit of records were completed by Phil Seppamaki and are in good order. Phil was thanked.
3. **Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APM Plan) by Flambeau Engineering:** Flambeau representative, Tiffiney, presented a power point presentation of the 2021/2022 APM Plan which will be posted in its entirety on the website www.whiteashlake.com It was noted that the best APM plan for White Ash Lake is to begin weed harvesting in May to the first week of June. This will help stop seed formation. Then continue to harvest thru out the season. Herbicides are not recommended because they are cost prohibitive (\$1,500-\$2,000 per acre), the entire lake must be treated for multiple years, and it would require applying for a permit and receiving approval from DNR and approval from Tribal Council. Herbicides would affect protected Wild Rice.
4. **Dredging Update:** Jim Kimbllin stated discussion of the dredge process started in 2016; DNR permit was applied for in 2019 and approved; DNR grant was applied for in 2020 and approved in 2021 with reimbursement of 50% of the dredge cost. On 7/26/22 the sediment removal company owner will complete a site visit of the channel between the north and south lakes and set a date for the dredge which will take 5-7 days. Exact dates will be posted on the website www.whiteashlake.com 172nd Ave will be closed to thru traffic and signage will be posted. The District has sufficient funds to pay for the dredge

and will receive 50% of actuals costs from the DNR grant. Jim made a request for help from volunteers to remove debris and branches from the channel downstream from the dredge area. This will keep the beavers from building dams and maintain a clear passage thru the channel.

5. **2023 Proposed Budget:** WALPRD Treasurer reviewed current YTD expenses, 2022 budget amounts and the proposed 2023 budget. Mike Beck moved and Roy Timm seconded the motion to accept the 2023 budget. Motion carried.
6. **Harvest Report/AIS Report:** Wayne Christen Lake Manager, reported that both lakes were harvested twice. More hours to date this year have been logged for harvesting than last year at this time. Less weeds were collected. This is most likely due to reduction in weed population as shown in the APM presentation. DNR permit harvesting guidelines are being followed. Training of a few new people to help with harvesting has begun. Property owner Jane Myhre questioned why the permit does not allow harvester to go all the way to the river bridge. Wayne provided the following permit guidelines. On the Apple River at the outlet of White Ash Lake, the cut may extend downstream as practical based on water depth more than 3 feet, and this will be about 3/8 mile to where the depth becomes too shallow to operate the harvester. The harvester shall avoid any direct path through wild rice. In addition, to assure that wild rice is not damaged when it is early growth stage, small and not readily visible, the cut in the river shall not occur until after Memorial Day.

Colton Sorensen, Polk County Representative, also noted that it is illegal to pull out wild rice by hand as it is a protected plant which has been decreasing in recent years. Colton explained Polk County manages the volunteer Citizen Lake Monitoring program for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). White Ash Lake currently has Mystery Snail, Purple Loosestrife plants and Curly Leaf Pondweed. Wayne/Lake Manager has been doing some reporting regarding this. The Healthy Lakes program for property improvements is available with grants for rain gardens, diversions, fish sticks, 10X30 native plantings and infiltration. White Ash Lake's north landing is owned by Polk County and a decontamination station was installed per the August 2021 Illegal Transport of AIS ordinance. Goggles are currently missing but may have blown off. A volunteer is needed to maintain the bleach solution in the sprayer at the station. Katie Engman volunteered to maintain/fill the sprayer and will be in contact the WALPRD Clean Boats/Water Coordinator. If a 2nd bleach water sprayer for swap out is wanted, they are available at Menards for \$20. Colton's summary from Polk County will be posted on www.whiteashlake.com with links to the Shoreland Property Owner Handbook and the Polk County Land and Water Resources Dept Facebook page.

7. **Water Testing Report:** For the north lake, Jessica Flanery was not present. WALPRD Chairman relayed the report. All tests have been completed. Water clarity is 6-7 feet and phosphorous is less than the last 3 years which is good. DNR explained that fish kills were a result of lack of oxygen due to a deep winter freeze and late ice off. On the south

lake, Mike Beck reported that clarity is also good with phosphorus levels down. The Beck's will be moving so Darren Bliese volunteered to take over Water Test reporting for the south lake.

8. **Clean Boat/Clean Water Program:** Lisa Barland-Johnson was unable to stay and present her report so WALPRD Treasurer relayed the report. 35 hours of monitoring was logged. Goal is to have clean boat/clean water monitors on high traffic days such as upcoming Labor Day. More information is available at www.whiteashlake.com. Sign-up sheets and Lisa's contact information were available on the information table at this meeting.
9. **Town of Apple River Report:** Kerry Bryan stated Apple River has contracted with a new road maintenance company. Road construction updates can be found on the website www.townofappleriver.com. The biggest news for 2022 is the purchase of the property next to the Apple River Town Hall to expand the Fire Response space. This expansion will help firefighters cover more response area and possibly provide ambulance service. The annual Firemen's breakfast is August 27th and your support would be much appreciated. Ditch clean up continues and volunteers will be provided with trash bags & vests. Apple River Township will pick-up the filled bags. If interested contact kbryanwi@gmail.com
10. **Election of One Commissioner:** Ballots were handed out to attending property owners. WALPRD Chairman asked three times if there were any floor nominations for the open position. No new nominations were voiced. Results were: 40 votes to elect Jerry Campbell for a 3-year term and -0- floor nominations/write in candidates. Election results accepted.
11. **Other Business:**
 - Dan Rand was thanked for helping compile the survey information for the APM plan.
 - Jane Myhre requests research into White Ash Lake District property boundaries on the Apple River and detachment of her property from the WALPRD. She would like this placed on next year's Annual Meeting agenda.
12. **Adjourn:** Brian Johnson moved and Mike Beck seconded a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:33 PM