

MINUTES: Special Meeting
PINE LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
April 7, 2021

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Ferris at 9:02am. Present at the Hiles Town Hall was Mark, commissioners Jim Kurzynske, Terry Kloehn, EJ Kutchie and Jerry Duhn. Karl Tauer was also present representing the Town of Hiles. On a zoom meeting call was Larry Konopacki, from the office of Stafford Law and Tiffany Kleczewski from Flambeau Engineering.

The meeting was posted 24 hours in advance of the actual meeting time.

The agenda was reviewed. Motioned by Terry to proceed with the agenda, seconded by Jim. Passed

Jerry Duhn read the minutes of the past meeting held on March 12th. Motion by Terry to approve the minutes second by Jim. Passed.

EJ presented the current financial balances-

Account Balances as of 3/31/2021

Business Checking \$19,653.04

Money Market \$126,247.75

Money Market \$36133.05

CD \$75,000.00

Total \$255,061.44

Two large disbursements were made to Town of Hiles for the Ayres Dam proposals and for Attorney Fees.

Motioned by Terry and seconded by Jerry to approve the finances. Passed

The special meeting agenda: To Discuss an Agreement to Transfer the ownership of the Dam from the Town of Hiles to the Pine Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District.

Mark started the discussion. The Town of Hiles Board, Karl Tauer, Brian Bukovic and Mark Farris, met and the Town Board is all in agreement to work on the transfer of the Dam to the Lake District. There will be a formal discussion of this transfer at the next Town of Hiles Board meeting on April 14th.

Mark then turned the meeting over to Larry Konopacki for comments. Larry comments are as follows:

The Town is very engaged with this transfer. The Town understands that this will delay the total bridge/ dam project but it is the right thing to for the Town and the District as a whole.

The "extra time" for the project will allow us to work on the water level project. It is understood that there is total dissatisfaction of the current water level order of 90.0 to 91.0.

The goal is to get the DNR involved to move forward with the transfer of the ownership. The Lake District board needs to take action to get approval for the paperwork to proceed with the application to the DNR.

The Town Board has voted on the approval to move forward to investigate the transfer.

We are waiting on the Engineering firm of Ayers to present proposals for an Adjustable Gated Dam Designs to the Town of Hiles. The Lake District will also need to be a part of these proposed designs.

The Lake District needs to dig into the public survey results from last year and visit with the residences that have concerns with an increase in the lake level.

We need to be ready for the Lake District membership to approve the transfer of the Dam ownership from the Town of Hiles to the Pine Lake District at the Annual meeting in July.

The Lake District will need to be thinking about a point person who will be the dam representative for the Lake District and the spokesperson with the district membership, the Town of Hiles and the DNR.

There are some benefits to shifting the ownership of the Dam to the Lake District. The Town of Hiles was NOT successful for a Dam grant two years ago. With this change to the Lake District and a new cycle of grants there may be some funds available.

The Town has agreed that with the potential transfer they will contribute 50% of the new designed Adjustable Gated Dam.

Upon the conclusions of Larry's remarks, Mark wanted to comment on a thank you to Karl and the Town Board of having the discussion last week and approving to move the transfer of ownership forward.

Terry asked Karl if in the future the ownership of the Dam was with the Lake District would the Town of Hiles be interested to contract to the Lake District for Dam Adjustments. Karl responded, No.

Tiffinay commented that when the Dam is Designed the engineering firm will deliver a document on the maintenance of the dam and what maintenance would need to occur monthly, quarterly and annually. A Maintenance Schedule Plan. Larry added there will also be a separate Emergency Plan.

Mark commented that we will need to have an annual budget for maintenance and liability. Larry added that there is a lot of immunity in government bodies ie: The Lake District and the Town of Hiles to be sued and liable for downstream dam events. (PLEASE NOTE: Following the meeting Karl told Mark and Jerry that when we talk to insurance companies for liability insurance to make sure we ask for "low risk" coverage since there is no one immediately impacted by dam flow.)

Larry asked- Is there anyone on the Lake District Board NOT in favor of moving forward on the Dam transfer from the Town of Hiles to the Lake District? Everyone on the Lake District Board is in agreement to move forward.

Mark then spoke about the costs of the Dam in a little more detail. If the cost of the dam is \$300,000, half of the costs would be to the Town of Hiles. For the remaining amount of \$150,000 to the Lake District we could use \$50,000 of our general funds and then obtain a 10 year loan through the Wisconsin Public Land Commission. With some low interest rates of 3-4% and a payback period over 10 years we would need to approve about \$12,000 per year (over 10 years) for the loan payoff.

A spring letter will be going out in the next 2 weeks. The topics for the letter will be:

- Gated Adjustable Dam Design proposals for Ayers and discussions with the DNR.
- Water Order Level Change discussions with the DNR. Working as a district to eliminate any opposition.
- Transfer of Dam ownership from the Town of Hiles to the Lake District.

- Ask for any comments, feedback, questions or concerns that can be addressed at the Quarterly Meeting to be held on May 29th at 8:30. (Memorial Day Weekend)

A District member asked Tiffiney- On the subject of grants, since Pine Lake is the Head Waters to the Wolf River will we get any priorities to have a grant approved? Tiffiney responded that the next cycle for grants comes up in August. We need to be ready to submit for a grant at that time. Earlier in the cycle you have a better chance for approval versus if you wait 6 to 9 months or at the end of the program.

Terry made a motion- For the Lake District to move forward with the initial paperwork to transfer the dam from the Town of Hiles to the Pine Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. With this transfer there is an agreement that the funding for a new Gated Adjustable Dam will be 50% by the Town of Hiles and 50% to the Lake District. Jim seconded the motion. Passed.

Larry made an analogy to our course of action. The initial paperwork between the Town of Hiles and the Lake District is like putting an offer in on a home. We have both agreed on this offer. We have some work to do prior to closing ie: approval of the transfer from the DNR and approval of the transfer from the Lake District Membership. Once all the paperwork is approved and organizations approve the final transfer, it is similar to sitting down at a table at a home closing and signing papers to make the final transfer of ownership.

NEXT STEPS

Larry will rough draft the newsletter to be proof read and ready for mailing in the next 2 weeks.

Tiffiney will work on a financial and other documents that will need to be submitted with the transfer of ownership request to the DNR.

A discussion was held on Clean Boats/ Clean Water. EJ has developed a schedule of about 700 hours at \$12/ hour. Mark advised EJ to set the rules on how the staff should submit hours to get paid.

Mark would like to have a sign made to be placed on the Lake District Buildings on West Pine Lake Road. Everyone was in agreement thus Mark will pursue getting some signs made with the email address posted on the sign.

Next meeting will be April 22, 2021.

Adjourn

Being no further comments. Meeting adjourned at 10:05am.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Duhn, Secretary