**TLTF Executive Meeting Minutes**

**July 23, 2020 10:00 a.m.**

Present: John Greenwood (Moderator), Todd Nicklaus, Don Olson, Glenn Hartley, Reid Badeau, Bill Wulf,

Shannon Murray, Patrick Goggin

Absent: Jeanne Nienow, Craig Nienow

Minutes prepared by Kathy Raczkowski

John Greenwood called the meeting to order at 10:14 a.m.

**Agenda Items:**

* Introductions
* Review and acceptance of July 16, 2020 Executive Committee Meeting Minutes
* Solicitation Letter
* Lake District Petition
* Land Recorders Reviewer
* Proposed Lake District Boundary
* Resident Signature Procedure
* Next Steps

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**TOPIC**: Introductions with Patrick Goggin

**DISCUSSION**

Patrick works with UW extension lakes and DNR service center in Rhinelander to support lake communities across the state, connects to lake districts pros/cons, training, opportunities, educational resources and tools needed for lake management. Work out of DNR office but UWSP employee.

**TOPIC**: Review and acceptance of July 16, 2020 minutes

No corrections or comments from July 16th meeting Reid Badeau moved to accept the minutes and seconded by Todd Nicklaus

**Motion carried**

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**TOPIC**: Solicitation Letter

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**DISCUSSION**

* Modeled the solicitation letter from North/South Twin Lakes letter. Would like feedback on the wording, edits, additions.
* John read the letter to the group – see attached letter.
* Glenn said it’s a great letter but take “assuring that there are sufficient financial resources” and Reid agreed. Reid suggested to add a two-column table with pros and cons
* Don also suggested adding a comment saying the lake district is no way a lake association.
* Glenn said there are no bylaws for a lake district, it’s all by statute and annual meetings. The citizens decide what’s going to be done and how it’s going to be paid for.
* Some lake districts take the statue and put into by-law format
* Patrick is sending a link to the committee the guide regarding the lake associations/lake district and will give a handout with the differences between a lake association and lake district and the pros and cons
* Bill asked if it would be misleading if we tell the residents we aren’t doing anything beyond correcting the health of the lake. We will not be the boat police and we can’t tell people this anyway being a district or association. Boat patrols is moderated by the sheriff’s department.
* Explain to the residents we will concentrate on the lake and the blue/green algae and water quality on the lake.
* Patrick mentioned Lake Districts are formed to do all lake management activities and we should be broader than one issue.
* Other lake management issues suggested are
	+ General education-connecting people, how can we reduce the algae
	+ Communication – what’s going on in the world of lakes and send out emails
* Add the Purpose in the letter – education, communication and that we won’t be policeman for the lake
* Bill – educational approach on lake management practices, that people may misinterpret education and how we are going to use the lake
* Don we have already started some ex: telling people don’t put fertilizer on the lawn by the lake, etc. Good lake practices
* Todd suggested instead of the word education can we use “Resource”. We could be a resource for the lake owners
* Todd asked Pat with his experience working with lake districts “how best do you sell this to the lake residents?
	+ Pat’s response - It’s the neighbor to neighbor approach/discussion instead of sending all information in the mail.
	+ Be ready with answers for questions like taxes, here’s the numbers, projections, financial impact.
	+ Other thing is to have an education night – power point to take through the social group, what a lake district and what a lake association can do. If interested have an education forum in a high school or town hall, have a short presentation, allow people to ask questions. Do this in tandem with the start of contacting neighbors or send the mailing out and let them know you will be contacted by neighbors with the information.
	+ The word transparency is key, be honest and don’t hide anything to the residents
* Glenn – have we decided yet how many people out there we don’t feel are committed one way or another. Todd how people have contributed so far. Todd tallied up the numbers and just under 50 that contributed to our fund set up to do studies, of those 6 of the houses have turned over, of those 6, 3 are supportive and other 3 haven’t talked to yet. If you look at the parcels, may have a higher number because we have multiple owners of properties.
* Pat – pros put in front of the community is we are trying to get the other 50% engaged- we all have a stake in this lake as a landowner, property value, quality of life we would like the other 50% community engaged in our lake
* Glenn – any problem we should qualify both ways, we will have more than 51% on the owners and more than 51% of the land area. Can we double dip? Pat – suggested doing the petition first and see which way the percentage goes. Why can’t we use both? I believe you would have to choose but Pat will get back to Glenn on this question
* Pat asked if we had a website – no we haven’t established one yet. Suggested using a town hall to put information in or create a website to have a landing page especially with COVID and face to face communications for the residents to look up the information if it’s electronic and keep people engaged and good way to get information out especially with residents in different locations. Patrick has a google drive and we could put some resources out that way for the group. Todd will check to see who can help with a website put together. Patrick sent a link with how to create a website
* Instead of using cyano-bacteria aka harmful algo blume means more to people so they understand that the harmful is detrimental to the quality of the lake
* Pat – if you have exempted a certain parcel that’s a riparian be ready to tell them why they aren’t in there.

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**TOPIC**: Lake District Petition

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**DISCUSSION:**

* Glenn put together the petition – the statutes are simple of what must have in it which is a name and purpose.
* Proposed district and anticipated purpose would be – “reduction and/or treatment of the sediment of the lake” and the DNR wouldn’t like that in the petition. Pat doesn’t think the DNR would have an issue with this statement only if you plan on possibly dredging the lake
* Exhibits: Tax parcels and boundaries
* Glenn would like to have someone take the large map of all parcels that are involved and wants the list in the petition and double check to make sure they are all there and the parcel numbers are correct
* Glenn – we have 3 municipalities – Town of Rock Falls, Lincoln County and Railroad – they are treated just like regular owners? Pat – Yes, they are but don’t have to pay the tax. They can come and vote at the annual meetings. Glenn treated them like parcel owners
* Pat – be ready to answer questions are you going to tax me if I have multiple properties – tax for each? That’s when you figure in the equalized valuation of property owned or levy. People seem to be more comfortable for all property owners the same amount instead of equalized value. Most common is charging everyone the same amount – charging every family once on the lake.
* 3 procedures
	+ Special assessment
	+ Special charges
	+ General levy
* Suggest as a group of how you’re going about funding the lake and make sure you know what you’re talking about in the forum
* John suggests at the next meeting – have the 3 methods and specifically spelled out and we come to a consensus – just the 2 methods of special charge and general levy.
* Pat will invite his coworker Eric Olson to next meeting to discuss these funding options of the lake district
* Todd – one family who owns quite a bit of land around the lake, it would be great if we charged everyone the same, but the fairest way would be the assessed value
* Todd – question – statement about improving water quality – Chad Cason discouraged us to use this language because of a situation between a lake district and the DNR to improve the water quality and it got worse so there was a law suit and DNR lost, so with this the DNR has this fear they have no involvement with water quality or anything they oversee.
* Pat – suggested “Lake Health”, healthy eco system, etc.
* Bill we are cautioned against is sediment issue and encouraged by Cason and Lake Eau Claire to keep the word sediment out of the paperwork.
* Don – correct but Lake Eau Claire put in a whole dredging system
* Lake Eau Claire put in a whole sediment dredging and Pat explained charging tax money
* Eric Olson will attend next meeting to discuss assessment techniques

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**TOPIC**: Land Recorders Reviewer/Proposed Lake District Boundary

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**DISCUSSION:**

* Glenn – lake boundary was difficult, talked to county surveyor, follow the right of ways around tug lake, resort lane, rick’s road, heart lake road, follow the map. Give a legal description of the line. Piece behind John was impossible so skipped it, went around and excluded. Land services were on board and thought the description was ok.
* Legal documents – had Craig go over it with him. It’s nothing real technical, followed lines already existed. Final say will be up to the county board where the lines are.
* Pat – look right to me but in terms of what it looks like, it’s what a petition should look like, have a listing of the parcels and numbers and proposed boundaries
* All the parcels will be double checked before submitting
* Pat - send the petition to the county and they will confirm if they jive and they can put parcels in and pull parcels out

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**TOPIC**: Resident Signature Procedure

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**DISCUSSION:**

* Glenn drafted individual pages to get the signatures instead of just one page - sign the page and initial as witnessed
* The notary will have to sign each page if multiple signature pages
* Bill Wulf and Kathy Raczkowski are both notaries

**ACTION:**

* Create some cost benefit analysis re: lake district vs. lake association
* Invite Eric Olson

Next TLTF Executive Committee Zoom Meeting will be Wednesday July 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

John Greenwood

715-218-0284

<https://www.uwsp.edu/cnr-ap/UWEXLakes/Pages/organizations/guide.aspx>

<https://wisconsinlakes.org/lake-organization-website-project-comes-to-wisconsin-lakes/>