

**Tug Lake District
Annual Meeting Minutes
August 31, 2024**

Present: Don Olson, Buzz Sorge, Todd Miller, Gene Simon, Mike VanDeWeerd, Jim Venske, Amanda Venske, Bill Callaway, Jon Malm, Rick Geiss, John Redman, Reid and Mary Badeau, Jack Koltes, Dan Marzu, Roger Russ, Sarah Olson, Cathy and Blair Bandow, Shirley Gajewski, Phil and Judy Hill, Jim Koltes, Bill Wulf, Brian Russ, Rick Geiss, and Jean and John Greenwood

Motions

- Motion to accept the September 2, 2023, Annual Meeting Minutes made by Judy Hill, seconded by Mary Bandeau, motion passed.
- Motion to elect Todd Nicklaus as a Commissioner of the Tug Lake District and serve in the capacity of Chairperson made by Don Olson, seconded by Phill Hill, motion passed.

Lake Water Quality Findings Update

- Dr. Todd Miller indicated Jean Greenwood had called in 2017 about Tug Lake resident concerns with algal blooms and possible toxins. Algal testing since that time has indicated Tug Lake is on the cusp of toxicity on an annual basis regarding Phosphorus and Nitrogen.
- Since 2017 there have been two monitoring strategies for blue-green algae: 1) internal nutrient loading and 2) external nutrient loading. More water sampling and analysis needs to be done in these two areas.
- Reid Badeau gave an in-depth explanation of the internal nutrient loading procedures that he and Don Olson, representing the Tug Lake Citizen Lake Monitoring Network (CLMN), have been doing to supply nutrient loading information to Dr. Miller and the DNR.
- Special thanks was given to Barb Hartley and Shirley Gajewski who started the CLMN monitoring procedures in 1999. And, also great thanks to Reid and Don for all of their diligent efforts.
- Don Olson reported that additional water sampling is being done by UWSP staff and students to help determine the impacts in the lake and at the inlet and outlet.
- Dan Marzu, UW Agriculture Extension Educator, stated that the nutrient composition of agricultural land north of Tug Lake will be analyzed with the SnapPlus (Soil Nutrient Application Planner) nutrient management software to help farmers make the best use of their on-farm nutrients, as well as make informed decisions and justified commercial fertilizer purchases.
- Buzz Sorge, DNR Lake Quality Specialist, stated we need to reduce the Phosphorus load in the lake by 10%. If we can accomplish this with in-lake and agricultural interventions, we may be able to improve the ecological health of the lake to levels that will not require more complex interventions such as alum treatment of an aeration system.

Lake Management Plan Committee Update

- Buzz Sorge and Scott VanEgeren from the DNR and Dan Lewison (TLD Grant Committee Chair) and John Greenwood will have a DNR Lake Planning Grant Pre-Application Meeting on September 6, 2023. If awarded, the grant would pay for lake plan development. This would then lead to a Lake Management Plan Grant proposal for 2025.
- A \$10,000 Tug Lake Planning Grant was accepted by the DNR in the winter of 2024 and will need to be completed by December 31, 2025.
- There may be other DNR grants that we may want to apply for during 2025, but the Tug Lake Science Team will need to determine if what would be advisable.
- A Comprehensive Lake Management Plan Grant proposal may be considered for submission in 2026.

Finance Review - Proposed 2024 Budget Presentation and Motion Approvals

- Don Olson, Tug Lake District Treasurer, indicated that the current budget proposal for 2025 would only add \$3,500 to the Tug Lake tax levy.
- Judy Hill moved to approve the proposed budget, Shirley Gajewski seconded, motion passed.
- Judy Hill volunteered to continue to audit the budget after it has been prepared by Treasurer Don Olson.
- Rick Geiss moved to approve this audit process, Bill Wulf seconded, motion passed.
- Jean Greenwood moved to investigate the cost of having a new buoy deployed in Tug Lake, motion seconded by Shirley Gajewski, motion passed.

Next Events and Actions

- The Annual Meeting will be held at the Merrill Incredible Bank from 10 am to noon at a date to be determined in 2025.
- The Annual Tug Lake Picnic will immediately follow at the Tug Lake Park and Beach area.

Public Comment

Note: Public Comments will be heard, but no action will be taken on them. Items brought to the Commissioner's attention during the public comment section will be added to future Commissioner Quarterly or Electors Meeting Agendas for future discussion and decision.

Motion to Adjourn

- Motion made by John Greenwood, seconded by Don Olson, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

John Greenwood
Tug Lake District Secretary