

**Tug Lake District
Annual Meeting Minutes
September 2, 2023**

Present: Todd Nicklaus, Don Olson, Gene Simon, John Greenwood, Wayne Kleinschmidt, Jon Malm, Rick Geiss, John Redman, Reid and Mary Badeau, Glenn Hartley, Craig and Jeanne Nienow, Jack Koltes, Tom Boisvert, Roger Russ, Bruce, Cathy, and Blaire Bandow, Shirley Gajewski, Phil and Judy Hill, and Jim Koltes and Dan Lewison via zoom.

Motions

- Motion to accept the August 27, 2022, Annual Meeting Minutes made by Don Olson, seconded by John Greenwood, motion passed.
- Motion to accept the August 18, 2023, Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes made by Todd Nicklaus, seconded by Don Olson, motion passed.
- Motion to elect John Greenwood as a Commissioner of the Tug Lake District and serve in the capacity of Secretary made by Glenn Hartley, seconded by Don Olson, motion passed.

Lake Water Quality Findings Update

Water Quality Report from Don Olson, TLD Treasurer:

1. The summer of **2022** was not a summer of installing an aeration system, BUT a summer of lake water sampling, because..
2. Dr. Miller's scheduled May buoy installation was canceled for the summer due to electrical damage during a storm to the buoy's circuitry at his home.
3. The early weeks of spring were missed for sampling. We were focused on aeration.
4. The data collection started in early to mid-summer with help from the DNR (time and instrumentation), UWSP student Cutler Nowack (intern hired by Dr. Miller under a cost share, no workman's compensation for us), and our very own Reid Badeau (the boat driver).
5. Dr. Miller also worked out a special sample analysis cost with the UWSP lab.
6. UW-Stout collected sediment samples for nutrient analysis.
7. Basically, our FY22 budget was reallocated to the general fund (sampling) because of the cancellation of the aeration system and associated costs.
8. All in all, due to the efforts of the above-mentioned people, we saved about \$10,000 of the FY22 budget.

The summer of **2023**:

1. This summer was set up for spring runoff data collection. Flow and Phosphorus in/out of the lake was the main focus.
2. Our FY23 Annual Budget reflected another year of sampling.
3. Once this data was collected, the possibility of developing a Lake Management Plan (LMP) could be explored to focus on BGA mitigation and other lake needs.
4. Reid and the DNR did weekly sampling and lake flow recordings for a couple months. Reid is still doing some lake level samples. We are currently a seepage lake.
5. In the early summer of 2022 plus early 2023 spring, sediment analysis from UW-Stout (and alum requirements) were published, a 2022 algae analysis from DNR was published, and a Tug Lake predictive model for blue-green algae blooms vs. nutrient availability was reviewed.
6. No buoy was installed in 2023. Dr. Miller was concerned some residents didn't approve of the buoy. This is unfortunate because the \$1,200 summer rental fee for the buoy provided important data every 5-10 minutes 24-7, ~180 days. Hand sampling once or even twice a week requires many man hours, sample equipment, and ~\$9-\$18,000 in lab fees, depending on how many times a week we sample.
7. The bottom line for the summer of 2023 is that after all the data was reviewed, no definitive reason (by the scientific group) was found for our cyclic BGA blooms.
8. Marginal nutrients available in the sediment and at inlet flow were surprising results. BGA blooms here tend to collect in bays and are mainly wind-blown on the surface. Serious BGA blooms would be total water columns. **What triggers our BGA blooms? still remains our research question.**
9. We will have about \$34,000 of unspent funds from both **FY22 & FY23**.

Moving forward:

1. The DNR suggested we proceed with the Lake Planning Grant application which would be used to fund development of a Lake Management Plan. A LMP is a must for FY24 even if the Planning Grant is rejected. It is needed for future grants. Funds are in the FY24 budget if needed.
2. The DNR recommended we continue with the Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP) for periodic sampling and do additional algae samples for the rest of the summer. CLMP does not cost the district anything, as it is totally funded by the DNR.
3. Reid Badeau and Don Olson are doing the CLMP and additional algae samples this summer. The district has to pay for the additional algae sampling (~\$1,500).
4. Shirley Gajewski and Barb Hartley each did the CLMP for a decade or more each. Their efforts are greatly appreciated.

5. More sampling will be needed in the future, but DNR grants could help pay for this expense.

Other Water Quality Topics

- Tom Boisvert, Lincoln County Conservation Program Manager, discussed lake shore management strategies and next steps that could be taken regarding weed and moss growth in the lake. He encouraged the Tug Lake District to contact him at 715-539-1054 or Thomas.boisvert@co.lincoln.wi.us. He noted that water plants and blue green algae compete for phosphorus which leads to higher water clarity and quality.
- Enforcing the proper use of the Tug Lake public park and beach area was discussed. It was noted that it would be helpful if signs at the Tug Lake public boat landing and park and beach areas would directly address that boats should not be moored at the public beach. Follow-up with Tom Boisvert and Dean Bowe, Director of the Lincoln County Forest, Lands and Parks Department, was encouraged regarding this issue. Craig Nienow expressed an interest in following up regarding signs at the Tug Lake public beach and public boat landing.
- Bruce Bandow questioned how the impact of geese being on the lake might impact water quality.

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.
- The initial Lake Planning Grant proposal will be submitted to the DNR by September 15, 2023, and the final proposal on November 15, 2023. Notification of grant awards will be made by the DNR in the winter of 2024.

Lake Management Planning Grant Proposal Authorizing Resolution

- An Authorizing Resolution for the Tug Lake District to enter a grant agreement with the WDNR for a Lake Planning Grant was ratified at the Tug Lake District Annual Board Meeting on September 2, 2023. Motion made by Craig Nienow, seconded by Rick Geiss, motion passed.

Finance Review - Proposed 2024 Budget Presentation at Annual Meeting

- \$100 Administration
- \$1,200 Insurance
- \$9,000 Lake Water Quality Research
- \$7,500 Lake Management Plan Consultant – A motion was made to approve this budget item by Mary Badeau, seconded by Bruce Bandow, motion passed.

- \$5,000 Lake Planning Grant Cost Share – A motion was made to increase our 2023 location from \$2,000 to \$3,500 for 2024 by Jon Malm, seconded by Reid Badeau, motion passed.
- \$2,000 Tug Lake Beach Cost Share – Motion to approve the Tug Lake Beach \$2,000 Cost Share made by Gene Simon, seconded by Judy Hill, motion passed.
- \$200 Contingency
- Glenn Hartley made a motion to accept the Tug Lake District 2023 budget audit made by Judy Hill, seconded by Todd Nicklaus, motion passed.
- Total Budget = \$25,000 – Motion made by Glenn Hartly, seconded by Rick Geiss, motion passed.
- Fiscal Year Change – A motion to establish the new fiscal year to be from January 1st to December 31st was made by Judy Hill, seconded by Mary Badeau, motion passed. This action will align our fiscal year with the Lincoln County fiscal year which makes it much easier for the Tug Lake Treasurer to prepare expenditures for auditing.

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 2024.
- 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.

- Shirley Gajewski stated that some Tug Lake residents do not know we have a website.

Motion to Adjourn

- Motion made by Todd Nicklaus, seconded by Don Olson, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

John Greenwood
Tug Lake District Secretary