**Tug Lake District Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Type: Annual Meeting Date: July 17, 2021 Time: 10:30 a.m. – Noon**

**Location: Rock Falls Town Hall W5895 Rock Falls Drive, Irma, WI 54442**

* The Annual Meeting was called to order and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Rock Falls Town Chairman Mike Specht.
* Interim District Commissioner Chair Todd Nicklaus and Interim Commissioner Secretary John Greenwood made opening remarks about the mission of the Tug Lake Task Force which has been to provide research and information which enhances the ecosystem of Tug Lake and a spirited sense of community among all lake residents. The creation of the Tug Lake District adds the dimension of providing the economic resources needed to help mitigate the harmful effects of blue-green algae in Tug Lake.
* Because the temporary commissioners and task force have identified a number of important issues warranting consideration not included on the original Annual Meeting mailing agenda, the commissioners and task force proposed that today’s meeting be continued at a later date. However, today’s meeting would be a valuable sharing of significant issues, opinions and input from the owners and residents in attendance here today.
* To that end, Bill Wulf made a priority motion to continue this Annual Meeting to August 21, 2021, at the Merrill Incredible Bank. The continued Annual Meeting notice will contain a detailed amended agenda. The motion was seconded by Todd Nicklaus, followed by discussion and vote. The motion was passed unanimously.

**Duties of Officers and Election of Officers**

* Todd Nicklaus explained that initial commissioners are appointed by the Lincoln County Board and that they can also continue to serve as commissioners if they are voted in by the residents and if they are willing to do so. The three positions for lake residents are Chairperson who runs district meetings (or designates another person to do so), the Treasurer who oversees all district annual operating costs and special project costs, and the Secretary who manages meeting notices, agendas, and minutes. These three Board of Commissioner positions are elected by the residents for staggered terms of one, two and three years so that there is consistent turnover of commissioners and varied representation among the residents and landowners. In addition, the Lincoln County Board appoints a representative from that Board (Bill Bialecki) and from the Town of Rock Falls (Mike Specht). They are not voted upon by Tug Lake residents.

**Proposed Lake District Budget**

* Todd Nicklaus explained the rationale for the annual budget and the methods of taxation which may include a Property Tax Levy and Special Charges for the aeration project. As an example of the process, Todd presented the following two tax illustrations.\*

**Tax Illustration One**

* Per the example budget that was mailed out to all residents with the Annual Meeting Notice,

there would be a Special Charge per owner of $303.03. This assumes $20,000 per year in debt service on a $200,000 loan amortized over 15 years at 5% interest. 66 property owners would be charged for this.

* Because the Tax Levy is $1.68 per $1,000 in value, a house assessed at $100,000 would pay $168.00 per year. This assumes $17,500 in annual operating cost and an overall land value within the district at $10,400,000. Consequently, the total cost on a house valued at $100,000 would be $471.03 per year.

**Tax Illustration Two**

* The second illustration is based on a forthcoming budget based on a preliminary estimate. In this case, the Special Charge per owner would $151.52. This assumes $10,000 per year in debt service on a $100,000 loan amortized over 15 years at 5% interest. 66 property owners would be charged for this.
* Because the Tax Levy of $1.11 per $1,000 in value, a house assessed at $100,000 would pay $111.00 per year. This assumes $11,500 in annual operating cost and an overall land value within the district at $10,400,000. Consequently, the total cost on a house valued at $100,000 would be $262.52 per year.

**\*PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THESE ARE ONLY ESTIMATES.**

* John Greenwood referred to a handout entitled *The Nature of Blue Green Algae* which is an explanation by water specialist Dr. Todd Miller from the UW- Milwaukee about how blue-green algae propagate in Tug Lake. It was noted that Dr. Miller has advised us to take a measured approach regarding the instillation of an aeration system.

**Property Tax Assessment Method**

* Todd Nicklaus explained the property tax method…
* If there are multiple owners for a property, have the property listed under one person’s name.

**Social Committee** – **Annual Picnic**

* Jeanne Nienow announced that the Annual Picnic will occur right after the Annual Meeting at the Tug Lake Public Beach. If residents did not receive a notice of the picnic and food sign-up options, she requested that they contact her so the resident email list can be updated.

**Adjournment**

* Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.