

FRIENDSHIP LAKE DISTRICT
COMMISSIONERS BOARD MEETING
May 1, 2018
ADAMS COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER
569 N. Cedar Street
Adams, WI 53910

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Bob Berry at 5:35pm. In attendance were commissioners Tina Meinen, Karen Pokorny, Ron Johnson from the Town of Adams, and Lee Parlow from the Village of Friendship. There were approximately 20 district members present.

2. **Review and Approval of the Minutes from the April 9, 2018 Commissioners Board Meeting:** The Minutes from the meeting of April 9, 2018 meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Tina Meinen to approve the minutes and seconded by Lee Parlow. The motion carried unanimously.

3. **Review and Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** Tina Meinen presented the profit and loss report, dam mortgage report and a balance sheet for the month of April 2018. The Money Market account balance is \$69,350.37, the Now Checking balance is \$2395.67, the Grand Marsh CD is \$16,643.32 and Tina noted that there was an error in the reporting at the March meeting of \$16,575.81 and should have been \$16,633.43 for the CD. The Friends of Friendship Lake Fundraising Account is \$1597.19, giving a total balance in our accounts of \$89,986.55. Tina reported a check received from the Town of Preston for special charges in the amount of \$233.35 for back taxes. A deposit of \$2,200 was made into the Fundraising Account. A payment of \$1311.90 was made to Axley Brynelson for legal fees, and the monthly payment for the loan on the dam of \$811.02 was paid out. A partial payment to Ayres Engineering was made in the amount of \$9800 for the dam inspection and dam failure analysis.

Some miscellaneous office supplies, bank fees, IT services, and insurance fees were also paid, as well as postage and printing costs for the spring newsletter. The 50% down payment for the ATV to Jay's Power was made from the fund- raising account in the amount of \$3000. We now have the ATV and thanks to Property Works it is on display at their retail store and they have raffle tickets available at their store for purchase. Tina said that today she, Bob and Karen met with Mike Cummings at Grand Marsh Bank and signed the line of credit for 3.95% interest only for one year or till March 31, 2019 for \$190,000.00. Tina noted that Karen Pokorny and Bob Berry made a presentation at the annual meeting of the Town of Adams requesting a \$3000 contribution towards the repairs of the dam. A vote was held at that meeting and approved by their property owners. Their 2018 budget is already in place so the money will be distributed after January 1, 2019 their next fiscal year. Karen Pokorny made a motion to approve the treasurers report and seconded by Ron Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

4. **Friendship Lake Dam Update:** Bob shared that after the last meeting he can report that the DNR has accepted the remodeled dam failure analysis by Ayres Engineering and will classify the dam as a significant hazard. Bob shared that is great news for the district. The operating permit transfer has been received by the DNR in Madison from the Village of Friendship. It is currently under review and editing by the DNR, and will take some time before we receive a written permit to operate. Bob shared that he has been in regular contact with Joe Behlen at the DNR in Adams County. Bob said that with the unusual large snow storm in April and the spring melt he discussed concerns with Joe about the operation of the dam. Joe verbally gave Bob Berry the okay to operate the dam and followed with an email noting in writing that the Friendship Lake District now owns the dam, and Bob Berry is now in charge of the day to day operations of the dam and permitted to operate. Bob shared that he has put together a team of volunteer lake district property owners who are assisting him in the operations and they are Steve Pokorny, Greg Wiess, Tom Steiskal, and John Ackerman. One of the requirements by the DNR in the operations is that at least two operators are available within 10 minutes of the dam and that the dam operator is on call 24 hours a day to respond to an emergency. Bob said that he has been adjusting the lake level to a bit low for the next week to accommodate property owners to perform some shoreline work. He will then raise the lake level especially with opening weekend of fishing the first weekend in May. Bob said that this will take some time and did send an email message to the property owners to help in watching their shoreline and report back to him any problems or concerns.

A question was asked if we are safe to raise the lake level now with the repairs that need to be completed. Bob said that as we know the municipal grant application has been submitted to the DNR for repair of the dam.

It was explained to us by Peter Haug at Ayres Engineering that we cannot begin any bid process for work covered within the grant until we have been approved for the grant. If we begin obtaining bids prior to the grant approval we will lose the grant. Peter is predicting that we will know around July 1st if we get the grant and then the DNR has 90 days to work with us in the bid process, posting the bid, selecting contractors and scheduling the repairs. That basically takes the calendar to do the work to fall of this year. Bob said that both Peter and the DNR have told us there is no reason not to enjoy the lake this summer. Bob did say that the work that it not covered within the municipal dam grant such as roofing, electrical upgrade, tuck pointing, and fencing can be bided out at any time. Our bylaws state that any work over \$2500 must be posted and multiple bids for the work obtained.

A question was asked as to why the DNR in Madison cannot just simply turn the permit to operate over to the lake district. Bob shared that to the best of his knowledge some of the problem is still with the Village of Friendship and the fact that they still believe they did not hold the permit to operate the dam. Apparently, there has been a complete change of staff at the DNR in Madison, including Bill Sturtevant and the attorney for the DNR who are no longer employed. Bob said that he was told that there is now a newly hired attorney for the DNR who is reviewing the permit to operate the dam on Friendship Lake and making sure that it is written correctly.

A question was asked about the status of insuring the dam. Karen answered that we still have not heard back from our representative, Carol at G-2 Insurance who has contacted numerous insurance company's and underwriting to review the request. The majority of the carrier's however have told us they do not want the risk even though we have completed all the work they requested, the inspection, dam failure analysis, emergency action plan, and operations and inspection plan. We have been told that after we have completed the demanded repairs they will then again revisit our application. Karen shared that are only real option is to self- insure which means we need to place half the value of the dam into an account as liability coverage.

Karen shared that she met with Jane Gervais the Adams County Emergency Management Director yesterday to go over the emergency action plan for the dam. Karen clarified that the remodeled dam failure analysis came back as a significant hazard. However as reported at the last meeting by Peter Haug the flood plain downstream from the dam has not been updated by Adams County or the Village of Friendship since 1990. Karen shared that because of that the DNR has temporarily classified the Friendship Dam as a high hazard dam and has issued a directive to the Village of Friendship and Adams County that they have till June 1, 2018 to update their flood plain and hydraulic mapping. Karen said that she shared this with Jane as she was unaware of this directive and shared it with her director.

Once the DNR has received this updated information from Adams County and the Village of Friendship we have been advised that we will need to request the DNR to then permanently classify the dam at a significant hazard.

Bob said that the financial advisory committee is scheduled to meet immediately after this meeting. There are repairs that will need to be completed that are not part of the municipal grant, such as roof, concrete, tuck pointing, and fencing, so this group will begin that process. Bob has spoken with local contractors, some want nothing to do with work at the dam. There is an electrician that is looking at the upgrades needed to circuit panel, outlets, and wiring and bring things up to code. Bob said that it looks like some of the exterior lights are original to the building that may be historical.

Bob has been in contract with the Village of Friendship and they have the boat launch and piers on their work list to be completed in the next week or so.

A question was asked as to the service road that enters next to the dam and exits on HWY J. Chuck Spargo responded that the corner is owned by the State of Wisconsin, however Alliant Energy owns and maintains that service road access their power station. Many cars have been seen parked on that road and people seen fishing near the dam. Bob said that has been happening for many years. We do know that some of that area needs to be weeded and cleaned up. Possibility of placing no parking signs and that the dam is owned by the lake district especially with concerns of the liability and self-insurance. Fencing is on the top of our to do list.

Bob shared that he will be contacting Scott Provost and discuss when we will be given the okay to begin our weed harvesting program. We do have the lake management plan in place, but we need to find out who locally will be willing to take the weeds and comply with DNR regulations on how they will be used. Bill Graf shared that he has spoken with Adam and that he will need about 3 – 4 hours to get the harvesters ready for use. Bill took the battery from the tractor which was purchased in 2008 and could not get it to charge. Bob Berry will get a new battery.

A question was asked about cleaning up their shoreline, specifically the cat tails, to get water closer to the shore. Bob said that the rule is that you can keep 30% of your shoreline completely cleared. Cat tails are protected so be careful about removing them. The DNR does allow you to pull weeds by hand near your shoreline. You can also manually clean muck near your shore. Lilly pads are also protected so you cannot pull them.

5. **Friendship Lake Party Update:** Tina shared that the plans for the dam party are progressing. ATV raffle ticket sales \$3900 and 230 sold so far, with 607 tickets signed out and need to be collected along with the money that goes with them. We have the ATV thanks to Steve Van Etten who picked it up for us. Thank you also to Property Works for allowing us to have it on display at their retail store in the parking lot. When Steve went to pick up the AVT there was a little glitch as they sold the 2017 promised to us. Jay's Power however changed that up to a brand new 2018 for the same price and gave us a \$500 gift card towards the purchase of accessories.

Bob said that Steve Van Etten has agreed to pull the ATV with our advertising for the dam party in the 4th of July parade. We need some volunteers to walk along in the parade selling raffle tickets, handing out flyers, and candy. No word yet on what day the fireworks will be this year, but how exciting to have our lake back for the annual display.

Ideas were shared on where we can set up over Memorial Day to display the ATV and exposure to sell tickets from the Flea Market to County Market. The big fund raiser will be the July 3rd Brat Fry where we can place the AVT in front of ACE, bake sale, and then selling brats and hamburgers. Karen will be selling at the Art in the Park scheduled for May 19, 2018 and the Chamber okayed us to display the ATV for ticket sales.

Bob shared that he has spoken with Rich at ACE who had connection to getting us t-shirts for 65 cents apiece and it is a pallet with about 1600 shirts. We are estimating with the cost of the screening and prep even if it costs around \$5 per shirt we can sell the shirts in the \$10 - \$14 range and still make good fundraising money. Bob, Karen, and Tina have worked up a few designs and are working with Linda Wormet from Sportz n More, keeping it with a local business in town to help with getting some of these printed for sale. Tentatively there are two designs, a picture of the dam with "It's a Dam Thing", and then a picture of Friendship Lake at sunrise with "Friendship Lake It's a Keeper".

6. **Report from the Friends of Friendship Lake:** Linda Graf shared that the Spring Fling planning is being chaired by Linda Moonan and things are coming along nicely. We have about 45 people who have responded and still room for more. There will be a 2-meat buffet, basket raffle, 50/50 raffle and a great celebration of the 20th year of this event. Linda said that the next big fundraiser is the brat fry at County Market scheduled for July 3, 2018. We are still in need of volunteers as we will have the ATV available for raffle ticket sales, a bake sale in front of ACE, and the brat fry. Maybe we will even have some t-shirts available by then for sale.

Thank you to many who have already volunteered to work and donate baked goods. Linda shared that she is very excited about this event. Linda shared that both Carole's and Sportz n More have raffle tickets available, as does Property Works.

7. **Any Unfinished Business:** Tina shared that the newsletters were mailed and that she has received some returned with labels missing. Please contact Tina if you did not receive one and she also noted that it has been posted on the website.

8. **Any New Business:** Karen has received phone calls from interest buyers of property in our lake district. She has followed with an email to all property owners. It is Karen's plan to contact the local realtors and share our contact information. The one same comment from everyone she has talked to was that the realtors have no knowledge of what is going on with our lake and dam situation. Karen asked that if you or your neighbor may have property in our district listed with a realtor to please keep them updated with lake district information and direct them to the website. Tina commented that you would think it would be in the realtor's best interest to have the current knowledge of our lake, special charges are in place and that we own the dam. Bob said he has also taken numerous phone calls from prospective property owners. We are all more than happy to talk to interested buyers about our lake district and have all directed them to other websites such as the County, Chamber, and our Lake District.

9. **Set the next Meeting Date: Tuesday June 5, 2018, 5:30pm, Adams County Community Center**

10. **Adjournment: Tina made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ron Johnson, the motion carried unanimously.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

Karen Pokorny

Commissioner Secretary

Friendship Lake District

May 25, 2018