

FRIENDSHIP LAKE DISTRICT
ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING
SATURDAY AUGUST 31, 2019
ADAMS COMMUNITY CENTER
569 N. CEDAR STREET, ADAMS, WI
9:00AM

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Chairman Bob Berry called the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing of the Friendship Lake District to order at 9:10am. Present were Commissioners Karen Pokorny, Secretary and Tina Meinen, Treasurer. Also present were Ron Johnson from the Town of Adams, and Lee Parlow from the Village of Friendship. Rick Pease from Adams County was unavailable and Scott Parr from the Town of Preston arrived late due to another comittment. Approximately 38 district members were in attendance compared to 25 in 2018, and 64 in 2017.

Bob Berry began the meeting with notice of an amended annual meeting agenda. The amended agenda includes Resolution#8312019. Tina Meinen made a motion to approve the amended agenda and was seconded by Bill Graf. The motion carried unanimously.
2. **Review and approval of the minutes from the previous Annual Meeting, September 1, 2018:** The minutes from the Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing on September 1, 2018, were reviewed. Tina Meinen made a motion to approve the minutes and was seconded by Lee Parlow. The motion carried unanimously.
3. **Review and approval of the Treasurers report fiscal year 2018-2019:** Tina reported that as of today's date the bank accounts are as follows: The Now Checking has a balance of \$1,156.21, Money Market balance is \$55,671.82, and the Fundraising balance is \$14,441.90 with \$2,100.00 the Friends of Friendship Lake balance. Total amount in all accounts is \$72,859.75. The current mortgage balance is \$100,731.24. The Line of Credit balance is \$33,063.19 with payments made to Ayres Engineering for \$6000.00, and Dave Miller Company \$27,125.00. We have paid \$61.81 in interest to date for the Line of Credit. In the month of August, we received \$9.54 in interest income for our accounts. \$8,586.68 was deposited into the Fundraising account from the August 3, 2019 Dam Mulligan's Golf Outing Fundraiser. August had the normal expenses of \$811.02 mortgage payment, interest on the Line of Credit, Utilities, IT Services, and Office Supplies giving total expenses of \$951.11. A motion was made by Karen Pokorny to approve the Treasurers report and was seconded by Greg Weiss. The motion carried unanimously.
4. **Budget Hearing Friendship Lake District fiscal year 2019-2020:** Tina stated that everyone should have received the proposed budget in the mail. We did not print additional copies and hopefully everyone brought their copy along for review.

Tina opened the floor to any questions. Bob asked if there were any questions or comments from the membership about the presented proposed budget for 2019 – 2020. Ed Aksamit made a motion to accept the proposed 2019 – 2020 fiscal budget and was seconded by Bill Graf. The motion carried unanimously.

- 5. Friendship Lake District Dam Repair Project 2019 Update:** Bob Berry shared that the dam repair project is almost complete. Staab Construction is finishing work on the main gate and have the new plug built and ready to install within the week. The plan is to then begin refilling Friendship Lake. The main dam gate has been stripped, sandblasted, and primed with new paint and is basically ready to go. The new trash rack has been placed. Concrete work is not quite finished with additional work needed on the downstream side of the dam. Yet to be completed is the electrical, roofing, fencing, and additional concrete work. Bob provided a photo presentation on a large screen with descriptions for all members present. Bob went through each picture and described the repairs. Bob explained the work through his pictures from the beginning of the project on to present. He spent about an hour going through the photo journal, answering questions, and describing the repairs completed, including the unknown issues that had to be addressed and fixed during the project. Hintz excavation was subcontracted by Staab and Bob showed pictures the rebuilt embankment. Bob had pictures of the powerhouse showing the brick work repair being completed by Dave Miller. Bob added that the most difficult issue for Staab has been the removal of the original plug placed in 1928. On inspection we were told that this plug had a hole in it. Staab attempted to remove this plug numerous times. Part of the problem was the continued rain weather patterns not allowing us to get the water level low enough for them to remove this plug. Finally, Staab brought in a 6000-pound hoist with winches and chains, as well as jack hammers trying to get the plug removed. Bob shared a picture of the first piece broken off from 1928. This piece will be preserved and mounted within the powerhouse.

Bob said it is important that property owners on the lake take this time to clean up and maintain their shorelines. If you see something that will float as debris Bob asked that we please remove that debris before it reaches the dam and the trash rack.

Bob reached out to the members for their opinion on where they would like him to set the water level for winter. Questions were shared from the members with many different opinions on the winter level. Bob is suggesting that he would set the winter level the same as he did last year. It was the decision of the members present that for this year that we set the lake level on or around October 1st. Bill Graf suggested we revisit it next fall and if it is healthy for the lake to have the fall drawdown, we can make a permanent decision at that time. We know that the water is to be refilled by May 1, 2020, again for the aquatic life. Adam Resch stated that he would like to see we have high levels next year for harvesting. Bill Graf made a motion that the lake level for the winter draw down for this 2019 be set on October 1st. It was seconded by Janine Weiss. Bob clarified that this is for only this year. The motion carried unanimously.

Lee Parlow the Village of Friendship Board representative shared that the new boat ramp at the beach has been completed. The washrooms and showers at the beach have been completely updated, including new flooring, paint, stalls, toilets, sinks, etc. The next step in the project is to replace the signs at the beach. One of the main changes on the sign is noting a no wake on Friendship Lake from 7:00pm to 10:00am. Rich Wieloch also had a question about the rules for water craft and skiers and tubers coming close to the shoreline. Bob said that DNR regulations state no closer than 100 feet and knows that he has seen water craft on the lake not following those rules. Lee said that this will be noted on the sign. Bob also talked about working with the Village and the DNR about placing a buoy on the lake for safety purposes.

Karen shared that she has been working on getting insurance coverage on the dam with our carrier EMC insurance. Karen stated that they have indicated that as soon as the repairs have been completed, they will begin the process to underwrite coverage. Karen also stated that we are waiting for final confirmation from the DNR changing the hazard rating of the dam to permanently significant

- 6. Resolution #8312019 Increase Line of Credit with Adams Community Bank from \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00.** Bob read Resolution #8312019 to authorize the Friendship Lake District Board of Directors to increase the line of credit with Adams Community Bank from \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00. This increase of \$100,000.00 will be used to cover the cost of the additional repairs needed to the Friendship Lake Dam and Powerhouse discovered during the construction phase of the project.

Karen shared the spreadsheet prepared by Ayres detailing the dam repair costs to date, including change order costs for additional repairs. \$462,425.00 is the total cost for this project with the Lake District share at \$306,100.00, and the DNR Grant at \$156,325.00.

Karen said that the reason we need to increase the line of credit is to cover the cost of all the additional repairs. The Lake District is required to pay for the repairs and then submit reimbursement requests to the DNR. They DNR time line for repayment is anywhere between 60 and 90 days after they receive the request. A motion was made by Scott Prochaska to approve Resolution #8312019 and seconded by Tom Bell. The motion carried unanimously.

- 7. Friendship Lake District Harvester Ramp Construction Project Update:** Bob shared pictures of the completed ramp by Todd Dolata. The project did go over budget by about \$5000.00 due to additional stone needed. Tina said that we did have the money in reserve in the Money Market. The cost for the construction will be around \$46,000.00. Tina clarified that this money does not come from the line of credit. This money was held in reserve in the money market to complete this project. Greg Weiss had a question about the condition of our harvesters. Bob said that we know eventually they will need to be replaced. Bob is projecting that we will need to address those needs within the next five years. Bob shared a thank you to Bill Graf and Adam Resch for their direction in overseeing the completion of the harvester ramp. Adam and Bill did share that the little harvester is operational but has an oil leak and will go in for service this fall with Fenner Garage.

They believe that this will give us some more time delaying the thought of replacement. Of concern from Adam is that this harvester sits on the trailer that has the conveyor for removal of the weeds and really doesn't want loose that piece of equipment.

8. **Report from the Friends of Friendship Lake:** Linda Graf gave a detailed summary of the activities and fundraisers sponsored by the Friends this year. Please remember that any money donated by the Friends does not come from your tax dollars or special charges. This year the Friends have donated \$30.00 to the Partners of Gunderson Hospital for the annual Christmas Tree Display. The Spring Fling was held on May 18th at the Cedar Shack. Linda Moonan was the chairman and we had 76 attendees, a record, and a profit of \$1027.00 was made. A donation was made to Nadine Ashworth for the annual fireworks in the amount of \$250.00. We provided food at the fishing tournament held on June 29th, helping to raise matching funds for the fish restocking grant. The annual brat fry was held on July 3rd and we had a profit that day of \$550.23. In July we donated to the AF Education Foundation \$50.00. This group has been very kind to us supporting providing tickets for their events for basket raffles. The Friends assisted with the first Dam Mulligans Golf Outing both before and volunteering on the day of the event. Linda said that we have recently been approached to oversee two upcoming fundraisers. Both are brat fry's, with one working with the Chamber of Commerce at Pineland Campground. The second is the AF Flea Market in late September. Flea Market has a new owner who said that each Saturday in season their site will be available for non-profits to host brat fry's. Linda said that the goal for fundraising this year is to increase the checkbook balance so that we can purchase a pier at the new harvester ramp. If anyone knows of a used roll-a-way pier for sale either from a business or an individual, please contact her. The current balance is \$2,140.05. The Friends meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 11:30am at Moundview Golf Course. We are always looking for more to join us. We are looking for ideas for fundraising in 2020 and it has been suggested we hold a lake district rummage sale. This used to be an annual event and was quite successful. Please keep that in mind before you get rid of any items you may have to donate. Rich Wieloch said that he can offer help with looking into purchasing a pier. We know it should be on wheels. Adam is thinking a length from 20 to 30 feet. Janine Weiss said that there is a company in the Rapids that does sell new and used. Adam and Bill also said that there is still an old wood pier at the property and are asking for help with removing that before the water refills.
9. **Report from Ed Aksamit regarding fish restocking program:** Ed reported that on July 24th, he and RJ from Castle Rock Bassmasters met with Jennifer Bergman the fish biologist from the DNR. They met for over an hour discussing the fish restocking of the lake. It was Ed's and RJ's opinion that they would love to see a lot of large mouth bass, as they are bass fishermen. Jennifer's opinion based on other lake restocking program's is that the first fish that need to be placed are bluegill. She shared mistakes that other lake districts made with fish restocking and the ongoing problems with Asian carp. Jennifer recommended to insure the quality of our lake is to place the bluegill. Bluegill feed on the carp roe in the spring. Carp are a very resilient fish and with a draw down survive and can live in the mud and muck with very little water available.

After the bluegill the DNR will then place the predator's such as northern and bass. The plan is to stock the lake this fall as soon as the lake levels have been restored. An application was completed for the process. Additionally, Ed has been in contact with Tim at the Dodgeville private hatchery who has given us direction on restocking the lake with the bluegill. The plan is to place 5,300 bluegills measuring 4 to 5 inches with the matching grant from Adams County. We have the permit to restock the fish through October 31, 2019. Jennifer shared that the DNR can give bass and northern fingerlings into November. Questions were asked about a catch and release for a few years. Bob believes that a lot of these questions will be resolved working with the DNR after the fish count. Nancy Chika confirmed that we did raise money and that is going for bluegill this year. She wonders about perch and crappie population. Ed said he knows that it is at least a two-year stocking program. Another question was if they place bait fish like minnows during the restocking? Ed said he is not sure about what they would stock next year. Ed shared in his research the best times to restock in in October and November and again in early Spring. Ed said he will be in touch with the DNR as to the lake level and then the final signature on the permit to restock. Bob shared a big thank you to Ed and RJ for their commitment to restocking our lake. Bill Graf asked Bob to share what was caught by the carp fishermen in early spring. Bob said on one of the nights they pulled out 40 to 45-pound carp. He said that there were a lot more females than males. A surprise with that is that the females will lay eggs without any fertilization by males. They also found an abundant amount of bass, turtles, and frogs.

10. **Election of Commissioner (term ends) Secretary:** Bob shared that the secretary position on the Friendship Lake Board is up for election. Bob requested a motion to open the floor for nominations. Tina Meinen made a motion to open the floor for nominations and was seconded by Linda Graf. Bob Berry asked for any nominations from the floor for the commissioner secretary position. Carol Berry made a motion to nominate Karen Pokorny as commissioner secretary. Bob asked two more times if there were any more nominations from the floor for secretary. No additional nominations were shared, and Tom Bell seconded the nomination and the motion carried unanimously. Karen Pokorny was elected to the position of Commissioner Secretary for 3 more years.

11. **Any Old Business:** Greg Weiss asked if we are going to have some type of plaque designed for either inside or outside of the powerhouse designating the repairs. Karen would like to see a committee formed to research with the AC Historical Society the history of the dam area through today. She was contacted by Wintersprings Studio in the Rapids who suggested we think about creating a video or historical research project on the history of this dam. Karen shared she was approached by a woman, whose father was a dam operator who had his office located in the power house. She said she has numerous pictures she would like to share with the district.

Karen shared that the first golf outing was very successful raising over \$5000.00 all to be used towards the repairs of the dam. It was a big event with a tremendous amount of community donations and support. In that planning Karen shared that she worked with Wintersprings Studio in the Rapids who enlarged pictures of the grist mill dam for auction.

12. **Any New Business: Lake Management Committee Chairman Linda Moonan resigned. New Committee Chairman needed for 2020:** Bob stated that this committee will need a chairman for this important advisory group. Bob said that the plan is in place and our harvesting plan has been approved by the DNR for the next few years. Please contact one of the board members if you are interested in this position.

Bob said that we do have a billboard on the embankment. We are looking at that opportunity to lease that out to a community group to advertise.

13. **Tentative Future Commissioner Board Meeting Dates:** 11/5/2019; 1/7/2020; 3/3/2020; 4/7/2020; 5/5/2020; 6/2/2020; 7/7/2020; 11/3/2020.

14. **Set Date for next Annual Meeting: Saturday September 5, 2020, 9:00am Adams County Community Center (Saturday of Labor Day Weekend)** Ron Johnson made a motion to accept this date and was seconded by Greg Weiss.

15. **Adjournment:** Tom Bell made a motion to adjourn the annual meeting and was seconded by Bill Graf. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully,
Karen Pokorny
Commissioner Secretary
Friendship Lake District
September 22, 2019