

**Big Roche-A-Cri Lake District**  
**October 20, 2007, Adams Community Center**

**Commissioners Present:** Susan Lydon, Jim Speichinger, Ray Heins, Gary Chapman, Joyce Kirslenlohr, John Pavelec. Absent: Jim Miller. Others Present: Candy Chapman, Mike Lydon, Dave Miller, Nathan Niles, Levi Olson, Linda Mohns.

**Minutes of Previous Meeting:** Motion to approve the minutes of 9/15/07 made by Jim Speichinger and seconded by Gary Chapman. Yes Votes: 5; No Votes: 0. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report:**

Income in September and October:	\$16,461.24	Total income for 2007:	\$108,163.57
Expenses in September and October:	\$10,266.39	Balance from last month:	<u>\$ 4,063.32</u>
			\$112,226.89
		Less Expenses	<u>\$ 99,658.59</u>
		Balance in checking account	<u>\$ 12,568.30</u>

Ray reported that most of the expenses were for wages. The restricted fund CD (which is no longer restricted) now stands at \$18,554.06. It was renewed at 4.25% for six months and will come due in February of 2008. The other CD has a balance of \$10,384.47, drawing interest at 5% and will come due at the end of January. The balance on the two harvesters is \$116,454.00 with a payment due in May in the amount of \$22,900.00.

It was mentioned that it looked like we were in good shape for the winter. Ray stated that we have several pumps that have gone bad. Ray and Marlin spent a couple of hours going over a few things. The harvesting crew has worked the passed two weeks on machines. In the next two weeks Marlin and another employee are going to start sanding the harvesters down. It's been too damp to paint. There is a little bit of welding that needs to be done yet. As far as motors - there have been two motors that have gone bad, one of which we will end up getting at no cost. Aqua Marine has some type of new motor and Phil Mogalski, the representative, informed Marlin Thursday that he is going to get us a motor for the old harvester at no charge. This is the first time they have used this kind of motor and the Lake District will be the guinea pig and see how it works. The other motor we are having problems with is the motor for the seven foot harvester. It is the motor that Marlin rebuilt. It has been our theory to have a back up motor so if a unit to goes down, the harvester does not sit there waiting for a motor to come in before it can get out on the Lake. A replacement motor at a cost of \$450.00 has been ordered so we have it on hand.

Ray reported that the Lake District will have a workers compensation payment of approximately \$2,200.00 coming in January, and then the Lake District pays in six month increments. In addition, the package insurance will be coming due, for equipment, building, harvesters, trucks and that will be approximately \$2,362.00, so the Lake District will have \$5,000-\$6,000 to pay out in January of 2008. Ray stated we will probably end up about where we did last year, somewhere around \$4,000.00 left in the checkbook.

After being asked whether the Lake District had insurance, Ray stated that if the Lake District or the Commissioners were to get sued, there was adequate coverage.

The \$1,300.00 bill for the pump for the 10-foot harvester has not yet been paid and the Lake District has not

been re-billed for it. We have another pump that went out on the 10-foot harvester. When Marlin spoke to the guy from Aquarius and he said that the problem was on the equipment pump so Marlin got the impression that the guy knew something was bad. That cost was approximately \$600.00 and Ray has not paid that statement. Ray was going to have Jim call Aquarius and see if Aquarius could give us a deal. If not, Ray will pay the \$600.00.

Ray stated the new pump is not under warranty but it is our position that if a warranty is for one year, we are not using the pump consecutively for one year because we only use it four-five months a year and we have had it two years. A one-year warranty for us should be 2 years.

Motion to approve the treasurer's report was made and seconded. Yes Votes: 5; No Votes: 0. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Adams County:** Adams County is revising the storm water runoff ordinance. They have had different public hearings and have revised the ordinance several times. There will be a meeting on November 12, 2007; the hearing notices are posted in the newspaper. The storm water runoff ordinance basically says that if you build a house and have a big roof attached close to the Lake you will need to have a buffer zone for the runoff to soak in before it goes to the Lake. Or, if you do a lot of black topping or cementing, you will need to develop a plan to take care of the water runoff before it gets to the Lake. It will aide in controlling run off and keeping the lake clean. To receive a copy of the ordinance, contact Adams County Land and Water and ask for "Storm Water Runoff Ordinance".

Jack Allen is the new county representative from the Town of Preston. Town of Preston has three representatives. The previous county supervisor resigned and Jack is filling that spot.

The county is currently working on a budget and a lot of cuts are being made, however it has not yet been finalized. The State of Wisconsin has reached a tentative budget so that will help the county in finalizing its budget.

Joyce was asked about the status of the highway department taking over the dam as previously discussed. Joyce stated that highway department will not be taking over the dam so it will remain under the supervision of Land and Water Conservation. Joyce also mentioned that as far as the county could tell, Chuck Pfeiffer was not producing any power and the county is not sure of what the hold up is on that. Chuck Pfeiffer still has the lease, he still mows the grass and he still checks the waterflow so the county does not have to hire anyone to do that.

Although dam repairs are not completed, the major repairs are completed.

With regard to the boat ramp on the west end of the lake, the Parks Department applied for a grant. The grant not approved and Joyce is not sure if the Parks Department is going to reapply for a grant this year or not.

Joyce has not seen the report regarding fees brought in from the west end boat ramp. Ray observed that more and more people are putting their boats in on the east end of the lake, partly because it is a better launch and the parking is better on the east end, and no fees are collected on the east end boat ramp. Joyce said the report should be in by the end of the year.

**Town of Preston:** John reported that the fire hydrant, which is the Fire District's responsibility, is not completely fixed. John thought if the Lake District let the water down the Fire District may replace it but is not sure. Maybe when we have the drawdown.

John received a report on the status of the pipeline which states the pipeline is 90% complete. John explained that the delays involved turtles, lizards, butterflies and the fact the pipeline could only go around creeks a certain time of year.

John also received a report from Reesa about draw downs and zebra mussels.

John recently attended a meeting at the hospital with the EMTs regarding updating ambulance service and response time. They have a Blazer now and one person is going to operate the Blazer and when a call comes in, the Blazer is going to respond first instead of waiting for a volunteer crew to get to the ambulance. They are trying to get their response time down and if they don't have to transport they don't have to call the ambulance.

The Town of Preston is getting ready for winter. One truck is in for repair and hopefully it will be ready when the snow comes.

**Harvesting:** Sue reported that she and Jim had correspondence via email regarding scheduling for the harvesting crew this fall. Jim forwarded Sue a copy of what was done so far and Sue included a copy to the Commissioners.

**Advisory Group Report: Management Plan.** The Management Plan for 2007 has been completed with the changes suggested by the Commissioners and is ready for approval. Candy stated that in the Spring of 2008 it will be further updated and revised for that year.

A question was raised at the last meeting as to the meaning of the action item regarding the USDA and financial assistance available. Candy reported that when the Conservation Department identifies conservation practices needed in the watershed they then go to the Ag landowners in the watershed and provide them with incentives to be involved in the program.

After discussion on the management plan, a motion was made to approve the management plan, and seconded. Yes Votes: 5; No Votes: 0. Motion passed unanimously.

Jim Speichinger asked, on page 17 of the Plan, where it states, "develop an ordinance that requires landowners to maintain dock and steps and to replace them once they fall." Whether that is something we will be doing in 2008 and how are we going to accomplish that. Because that is an item in 2008, the Advisory Group was not prepared to answer this question.

**Drawdown.** Candy reported that with regard to the \$500 permit fee, the Advisory Group probably would not need that until next year when the Commissioners begin meeting again. The motion for the \$500.00 permit fee will be tabled until the March meeting. The resolution to apply for the drawdown is not available to be voted on due to printing problem, so Candy requested that item be tabled until the next meeting when it would be available to the Commissioners.

Candy reported that she received an email from Deb Konkel wherein Deb Konkel requested Jim Miller's

report early this year (it is due on November 1<sup>st</sup>) because she is trying to get her files in order. Candy reported that Deb Konkell will be going half time beginning in January. Scott Provost is going to be working with Deb and will be responsible for this area. Terry Kafka was our contact at the DNR in the Rapids, but Scott Provost will be taking over his area.

One feeling that Candy got after talking with the DNR is that as far as them being receptive to the Lake District having a drawdown, they have some reservations that they need to work out. They told Candy they have to verify that we have 40% to 50% of a weed problem on the east end of the lake. Several people at the east end of the lake have said that we do have that amount of weeds on the east end. Candy mentioned she would like to look at Jim's report to the DNR because if any statement is made that suggests that we have not had much of a weed problem, it could quash the drawdown. The DNR would like to do a plant study in August of 2008 but because of our need to plan, they have moved that date to May. It was brought to Candy's attention that the DNR may not see the weed growth in May that they would in August. Candy stated the DNR told her the Lake District could move forward with its plans for a drawdown, they just had to do some scientific studies on their part but we should definitely move forward with our plans. Scott Provost mentioned that he felt the drawdown should go until mid June but it was pointed out to the DNR that Scot Ironside would never allow it to go that long. Although Candy said she would like to read Jim's report before it was submitted to the DNR, the report is due on November 1 so it is not feasible to do so.

It was discussed whether the report was due November 1 or if that is the date the DNR wanted it. Candy said she did not know when the deadline was. Ray asked Candy if she could contact Deb Konkell for an extension to the deadline. She said she would.

It was agreed that we all want a drawdown. Jim Speichinger stated that the report he read stated zebra mussels are not eliminated by a drawdown, but a drawdown would reduce the population. He further went on to say that the report says BRC Lake is at high risk for infestation.

**Grant.** Candy gave Ray a check from the DNR for final payment on the Education Grant for Invasive Species in the amount of \$1,921.46.

#### **Old Business:**

**Gypsy Moth Report:** Linda Mohns reported that she went to a meeting on October 6, 2007, in which the DNR went through the entire process in what needs to be done in order for them to fund the cost of spraying. The DNR will do part of Roche-A-Cri State Park this year because it is infested around the campground and visitor center.

Rome and the Tri-lakes did have the DNR spray last year. They are going to use a private sprayer this year. There was an article in the newspaper this morning. The DNR doesn't want to tell you that the problem is going to occur every 5 or 6 years, but in 2008 it is scheduled to hit the rest of the State. Rome sprayed last year and sometimes you have to spray the following year, so Rome will spray again this year. Spraying is done in 20 acre blocks, either rectangles or square. No odd shape or they won't be able to spray. You have to count the egg masses in that area and fill out quite a bit of paperwork. Through the DNR program, the DNR is recommending collecting \$40.00 per acre. After the meeting, Chris Murphy formed a committee to address land-related invasive species, including gypsy moths. The Town of Preston had over 10 volunteers at the meeting. So they decided to take Town of Preston and try to set it up through the DNR spray program.

There was an article in the Adams paper Wednesday and we will all receive a letter stating they will try to put it in the tax bill. We are in a position with the Lake that if they put it into the tax bill then we don't have to

spend the Lake money. But if they don't put it in the tax bill because of too much opposition then they will try to go in section blocks. The question is, do we want to go through the DNR program and go through the paperwork or do we want to go with a private sprayer like Tri-Lakes. Town of Preston is going to address this at its November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. The Town will decide whether it will be placed on the tax bill or whether it is going to have to be done by sections of the Town of Preston.

Linda was asked about people being opposed to the spraying and she reported that although the cost is \$15.00 they don't want to have anything placed on their tax bill, they are not opposed to spraying.

It was asked if one landowner had gypsy moths and his neighbor did not, was the neighbor going to get them. Linda explained that likely you would get them but the DNR is saying that if they spray and you don't have them, it is not going to do you any good. They spraying really only kills the caterpillar. They have to pick a certain amount of time when caterpillars are at a certain stage, all the weather conditions have to be right so there is no over-spray. The DNR is opposed to anyone going through a private sprayer because in order to do so, you can't have anyone objecting. Linda pointed out that as a Lake District, we made a decision at the annual meeting that it was going to be sprayed so we really don't have to worry about objectors. The other thing that we would have to do is put up warning signs. The article in the paper said the private sprayers use the same concentrates that the DNR uses and they are licensed, bonded pesticide applicators. The objectors did not want to pay, they did not object to spraying, so Tri-Lakes took that into account when they calculated the amount and had the objectors sign a waiver and the objectors did not pay.

By going private you need to pay by May and the DNR wants payment by December 5, 2007. The more acreage we add the more the cost goes down. The estimated cost is \$20 an acre. We would have no paperwork to fill out, no egg count and no DNR to deal with. If the Lake District would like to join in on Rome's program then they would be sprayed the same day as Rome.

It was determined there is approximately 275.1 acres of land surrounding the Lake.

Jim Speichinger called Pat at the paper after the article came out. Jim said Rome is getting three bids from companies that are licensed, bonded, insured and we don't have to go through the DNR.

There was some discussion as to whether the blue butterfly was indigenous to Rome. Jim S. investigated and verified this was not indigenous through the DNR. Tri-Lakes is having a meeting of each of its presidents in January to decide which sprayer to go with. Tri-Lakes can guarantee it would be no more than \$25 per acre and the more land they have they think they can get it down to about \$20 an acre. They already are up to almost 2,000 acres.

The question was asked whether we would go through Rome or through the Town of Preston. It was brought up that we have to wait for the November meeting but if we decide to go on our own then they would not have to tax our Lake District. John Pavelec stated that if this goes through it will go through everyone's tax bill. Once they get it on the tax docket they may leave it on the tax docket so if we need it in the future for other invasive species, it will be there. So it might not be a one-time \$15.00.

Linda recommended that the Lake District wait until after the November meeting. At that time we will know what the Town is going to do and we can wait for the Tri-Lakes January meeting and see what comes from that. We have time to make the final decision. They would spray in mid-May or mid-June. The DNR wants its paperwork and money in by December 5, 2007. They only sprayed 1,200 acres and part of that was Rome. Linda will attend the November meeting. Linda will report to the Commissioner's at the November meeting.

Jim Speichinger made a motion that with respect to spraying for gypsy moths we will go with the Town of Preston if the township does the entire lake district (all 275.1 acres). If the Town of Preston is not going to spray the entire Lake District, than the Lake District will piggyback with a private sprayer and make certain that the remainder of the Lake District is sprayed, using the fund set aside at the annual meeting. The Motion was seconded by Gary Chapman. Yes Votes: 5; No Votes: 0. Motion passed unanimously.

**New Business: Meeting Dates Schedule.** The Commissioners meeting schedule for 2008, with minor changes, was made and approved, and is as follows:

March 8, 2008	July 19 , 2008
April 19, 2008	August 16, 2008
May 17, 2008	September 20, 2008
June 7, 2008	October 18, 2008.

Jim can now determine the Saturday pickup schedule for weeds.

Ray wondered whether the Advisory Group was going to meet on the same dates as the Commissioners. Candy said the Advisory Group would be meeting throughout the winter but could do so at her house. Ray will now be able to reserve the meeting dates with Adams County Community Center for their meetings.

**Commissioner's/Advisory Group Meetings.** Sue mentioned something that should be considered at the November meeting is whether the Advisory Group should meet right before the Commissioners meeting and perhaps begin meeting one-half hour earlier, with the Commissioner meeting immediately following. By changing, the Advisory Group would be able to report to the Commissioners on its activities instead of waiting a month to report.

**Record Keeping Practices.** Sue previously provided the Commissioners with a form, EIF Reference Guide Accounting, which was taken off of the DNR website, to be used as a guideline for the Lake District's accounting practices. Sue asked the Commissioners to review the sections on supporting documentation and internal control. These sections state:

**Supporting Documentation.** All entries in the accounting system should be supported by appropriate source documentation....

**Internal control.** Internal control is the means by which the accounting, procurement, and management systems are regulated. It serves to assure management that proper procedures are being followed with respect to all project operations, as well as the receipt and disbursement of public funds....

Some important elements of internal control are:

- No one person has complete control over all phases of a transaction involving expenditures of funds.
- Written procedures concerning how things are done and who has the responsibility for completing and approving all transactions....

Sue suggested there were ways for us as a Lake District to keep better record keeping. Sue felt we should

keep more technical records of people working on the harvesters, describing what jobs they are performing, what section they are going to be in, which harvester they are running, hours they are expected to put in, etc. Sue stated that because of Wisconsin's open records law, we have to start keeping better records.

Although Sue would like to see more clarification of the work being done, Ray felt that the Lake District could not ask the guys to sit down after they weld or fix something, to fill out the paperwork on it. Sue felt the workers should know what is scheduled and expected of them, barring certain circumstances, when they arrive for work. Ray asked that any vote be tabled until Jim could be at the meeting.

They are currently using a form that shows the times worked, where they cut or repairs done. It was pointed out that what the State wants is for everyone to be accountable and so anyone can examine the books and records at anytime. Sue stated she would like to see what paperwork is being used now. She feels that changes can be made and existing forms improved on as it relates to the harvesting. She would like more clarity in the records. She wants us to keep proper records and would like to see them located in one place, organized and, preferably in a fire proof filing cabinet. Sue will review the current records in place and make a determination as to whether the Lake District is complying with the open records laws and we can go from there.

**Newsletter.** Mary Ellen was not present to talk about the newsletter. Ray stated he felt we should have a minimum of three newsletters a year. Ray informed the Commissioners that the Lake District runs ad space in the newsletter for \$2.00, made payable to the Lake District. It was suggested that people give her interesting items to put in the newsletter. Someone pointed out that they used to put death notices and moving notices in the newsletter.

The next issue will be coming out soon so get any information to Sue within the next week so she can pass it on to Mary Ellen. There will be an order form in the newsletter for the calendars and Sue passed around a rough draft. The orders will go to the post office box and the checks are to be made out to Big Roche A Cri Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. Ray will keep the money and turn the order forms over to Candy so she can keep track of those.

**Next Meeting:** Saturday, November 10, 2007 at the Adams Community Center

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Gary Chapman and seconded by John Pavelec. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Gary Chapman