

Minutes FOR LAKE COMMITTEE

A Lake Committee was held on **Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 5:00 PM** in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI.

1. Call to Order / Roll Call

The Lake Committee met in regular session on Thursday, September 21, 2023, the meeting was called to order by Chairman Kiefer at 5:00 PM. Roll call was taken with Commissioners, Lamont Kiefer, Kim Mello, JoAnne Klinker, Duane Chapman, Lee Lang, and Kevin Arkeketa present. Also present, Director Kirk Arity. Absent: John Rush

2. Approve Minutes

July and September meeting minutes to be approved in November.

3. Hal Burnham Tribute

Mello asked for a tribute for Hal Burnham as he has put many years into the Lake Committee. An idea would be a bench that has "In Memory of Hal Burnham" with the dates he served on Lake Committee. Kiefer stated that Hal's wife was interested in doing a tribute also. Mello and Kiefer to get with Hal's wife and work out what she would like as a tribute.

4. Adaptive Management

Director Arity and Kiefer took a trip to Mauston to speak with the manager for the weed harvester that Lake Decorah uses.

5. Climate Change Task Force Update

DNR Board was at area farms in Cashton to monitor the Coon Creek watershed. One area farm planted 1200 trees.

6. Warden Update

No update

7. UniverCity MuniPartners Update

Kiefer was in contact with UniverCity and the 3-year timing did not fit within the City's timeline. The City will not move forward with the partnership at this time. Estimated cost would be \$30,000 at \$10,000/year.

8. Weed Management

Mauston's weed harvester cost \$110,000. They are cutting roughly 50 of the 300 acres of Lake Decorah. Director Arity was comfortable with the size of the machine and how it will manage Lake Tomah. Mauston received a grant for 50% of the cost of the machine. The harvester pulls the weeds instead of cutting them. A partnership with Mauston is not feasible as Mauston has it in the water as much as possible.

9. Boat Dock Approvals

None

10. Lake Informational Sign Boards

Kiefer wants riprap signs to inform the public of the need for riprap around Lake Tomah. Park and Rec will put up signs close to the lake and there will be an informational sign in the sign boards.

11. Tree Removals

The City is just waiting for a break in current projects to remove a tree adjacent to the lake.

12. Kayak Launch – Winnebago

Warrens Yak Club requested a public kayak launch in Winnebago park. Tomah Area School District also has kayaks that would utilize the launch and the committee will contact them for input.

Motion by Lang second by Arkeketa to spend no more than \$10,000 on a kayak launch for Winnebago park. All ayes. Motion carried.

13. Fish Stocking

No response from DNR

14. Stormwater Inlet Monitoring

No response from DNR

15. 2024 Budget Discussion

Kayak for Winnebago park has max budget of \$10,000.

Dredging/Weed Harvester is \$110,000. Lake Committee is not set on these methods/machines. Will need to contact DNR if this route is taken for 2024.

Tomah FD would like a partnership with a new boat. They found a boat that will meet their needs for water rescues and would like to know if it also meets the needs for buoy placement/removal and water testing.

Motion made by Arkeketa second by Klinker to provide \$15,000 towards a new boat. Tomah FD will fundraise for the remaining balance. All Ayes. Motion carried.

16. Long Range Plan for Lake Tomah

Discussion on long range planning for Lake Tomah was discussed throughout the meeting.

17. Agriculture Updates

Program that DNR uses to track area farmers practices is called Snap Plus. Monroe County is in a D3 drought this year. It is classified as an extreme drought with major crop/pasture losses. Farmers are starting to chop corn crops.

18. Chairman Updates

Riprap replacement and weeds around Lake Tomah will be handled by Park & Recs Department.

19. Future Meeting Date - November 16, 2023

20. Adjourn

Motion by Chapman second by Lang to adjourn at 6:55PM. All ayes.