

Minutes FOR LAKE COMMITTEE

A Lake Committee was held on **Monday, March 25, 2024 at 2:00 PM** in the 2nd Floor at City Hall, 819 Superior Avenue, Tomah, WI.

The meeting was called to order by Lamont Kiefer at 2:00 PM

Call to Order / Roll Call

Roll call was taken with Commissioners, Lamont Kiefer, Kim Mello, JoAnne Klinker, Duane Chapman, Lee Lang, John Rusch, JoAnne Klinker, and Kevin Arkeketa present. Also present, Director Kirk Arity, Bob Micheel, Jodi Lepsch, Warden Modjeski, Kurt Rasmussen and Tommy Hill.

Approve Minutes

Motion by Lang, second by Arkeketa to approve January 2024 Minutes. All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion with DNR Representatives on Management Options for Lake Tomah

Questions were organized by the Committee and Jodi Lepsch from Wisconsin DNR went through the questions with the Committee and residence in attendance. There was input from Kurt Rasmussen who is a water quality biologist with the DNR and Tommy Hill who is a fish biologist with the DNR.

Adaptive Management

Bob Micheel gave an update on adaptive management. He stated the DNR recently hired Brad Robertson and he will handle any Ag related.

Climate Change Task Force Update

Bob Micheel gave an update on climate change task force. 6-8 farms in the county have planted cover crops. 27 weather stations in areas known for flooding. 70 well water samples were taken. Residents will receive their data in the mail and there will be an informational meeting at the end of April to go over results.

Warden Update

Warden Modjeski stated there have been no complaints in the last month. Ducks and geese are seen south of the buoy line in Lake Tomah.

Boat Dock Approvals

-None

Discussion on Ordinance Regarding Boat Dock Removals

Sec 30-84: Discussion on the possibility of rewriting the ordinance.

Tree Removals

Tree at the condos was removed. A resident approached the street dept about an oak tree on their property. The City will not remove the oak tree as it is still alive but the resident can trim the tree.

Chairman Updates/Upcoming Annual Committee Reorganization

JoAnn Klinker and John Rusch seats will be open 4/1/2024. John Rusch says he will retire from his position and has a recommendation for his seat once the mayoral election is complete. JoAnn Klinker expressed she would like to stay with the committee.

Future Meeting Date: April 18, 2024

No April meeting is needed. Next Lake Committee meeting will be May 16, 2024.

Adjourn Motion by Lang, second by Mello to adjourn at 4:08PM.

Written and submitted by Casey Kinnear

QUESTIONS:

1. How does aquatic vegetation spread? Seeds and/or root systems
Depends on the vegetation.
2. Is dredging the muck layer with the weeds and roots an effective weed control method?
Dredging will provide a couple years of relief. It is expensive and doesn't provide much relief.
Chemical treatment is not an option.
 - a. If so, how long can we expect it to last? 5, 10, 15, 20 yrs?
Less than 5 years.
3. Pros and cons of putting several small 20 ft deep pockets in the lake bottom during a dredging process?
It would create a habitat for fish but wouldn't solve weed problem.
4. Thoughts on a plan to dredge in phases for 3 to 5 yrs to accomplish weed control goals. Then hopefully no need for say, 10 yrs. Repeat the process, when necessary, as a long-term management plan???
Vegetation will come back and dredging would need to be done every year or every couple of years.
5. Is a weed harvester that pulls weeds more effective than ones that cuts them? Wouldn't you be dealing with less maintenance with no cutting bar?
There are 3 types of harvesters. Cutting, roller ball, and pulling. If a pulling harvester is used a dredging permit is also needed from the DNR. Jodi suggested a harvester would be best for Lake Tomah. Jodi suggested prior to any method used, a plant study should be done on the Lake.
6. When weed harvesting is necessary, isn't it necessary to continue it from that time forward until a major project is initiated and completed, such as dredging?
There is no one and done solution for weeds. Any process will need to be repeated year after year.
7. Do we need or should we consider collecting any more information or data from the lake or the watershed?
Kurt Rasmussen believes no additional sampling is needed as there is plenty of data on Lake Tomah.