

Crescent Lake District

Regular Commissioners Meeting – 07/06/23

A Regular Meeting for the Crescent Lake District (CLD) Commissioners was called to order at 6:00 p.m. The meeting notices were posted as required. In person attendance included Commissioners Tim Kilgore, Jim Ketterson, Dave Schwanz, Robb Jensen, and members of the public, Terry Goldbach (CLD AIS Response Team Coordinator), Amy and Mark Peterson, Steve LaPorte, and Sandy McKittrick. Commissioner Maria Rudesill and members of the public, Wendy Goldbach and one anonymous person attended via Zoom.

A motion was made by Robb to approve the agenda, seconded by Dave. Motion PASSED.

Tim welcomed the Board and public and thanked the Crescent Lake Association for the Boat Parade and Fireworks. He also welcomed Robb Jensen to the Board as a replacement for County-appointed member, Bob Thome. Tim expressed his interest in moving forward and Robb Jensen expressed his intention to contribute as a member of the County Board, not as a property owner.

A motion was made by Dave to approve the minutes from the April 11 and April 25th, seconded by Jim. Motion PASSED.

During Public Comments, Sandy McKittrick stated support for Maria Rudesill as the CLD Town-appointee, as Maria serves as a good “go-between” for the CLA and CLD Boards. Tim shared that an email was sent by Todd Timm in regards to walleye stocking. This agenda item will be added to the next regular meeting.

Tim thanked the volunteers, as the work of the District is only done because of the dedication of the volunteers. He reminded the Board and public of the struggle to set a plan and budget before we get the Fall plant survey. Despite that challenge, the electors have supported our best guess with almost unanimous votes.

Jim gave the Treasurer’s Report. We have \$114,207.00 budgeted, but with the DNR withdrawing the permit approval, we will be expending much less money this summer. Expenses are \$4,083.28, with \$83,296.70 remaining in the CLD account. We did purchase three days of DASH boat services. This spring, we had a party interested in purchasing the DASH boat, but they ended up backing out. It is currently stored, but we are still looking to sell it, due to lack of available divers and volunteers. There is a final payment from the state due to arrive in August. Robb moved to approve the report, Dave seconded. Motion PASSED.

Robb gave a quick County report focusing on the main areas of concern, which include the Pelican River Forest proposal, Bug Tussel high speed internet installation, and reconsidering the Human Service Center and the internal structure within the County.

Terry spoke on the Response Team’s situation with the DNR and the withdrawn approval. It was very disappointing as the Meander survey suggested that we needed to treat, but the DNR decided not to allow it. Their reason is to see how not treating that area will impact the walleye. Terry shared that there are no studies that indicate that treatment negatively impacts walleye, and our Fathead minnow results were the same as the EPA in similar tests. It seems that the Tribal and DNR Fisheries were involved in the decision to remove approval. They have an upcoming meeting with the DNR on July 20th. On the

recommendation of a connected source, the CLD has been encouraged to make an Open Records Request so that we can see the conversation that led to the withdrawal. Applicators are also indicating that the DNR is watching other lakes very closely at this time. Terry showed how the DNR maps show that the walleye hasn't done well in our lake or Squash Lake in years, and that is with one lake that treats with chemical and another that doesn't. Poor walleye numbers can also be the result of natural dynamics that have nothing to do with the EWM treatment. This needs to be explained to electors at the Annual Meeting. It is possible that the Fisheries will request more than one year to study the walleye – leading to the question of how that impacts the work we have already done on the EWM. In fact, the plants we did collect were already showing root shoots in the third week of June, which is very early. The contracted divers gathered 18-19 bags of EWM, with the most coming out from the area near the resort / condos and east to the first raft from the boat launch. Jim mentioned that he is already seeing it wash into Wausau Bay. Roughly \$2,500 was budgeted per day for 2-3 divers. The biggest concern was that by not allowing the CLD to continue treating the EWM, it puts the previous work in jeopardy of being lost, which is a waste of tax payers money. If they don't allow us to continue to treat, it may result in a larger treatment needed when we can finally resume. Pulling alone doesn't cover enough area to substitute for treatment. The heat from early spring right after the ice out also increased the speed with which the EWM grew back. The Fall plant survey will give us a better understanding of how things changed this year.

Discussion turned to the need to postpone the remainder of the agenda points, as the information received during the July 20 DNR meeting will give us a better idea of how to proceed. This could include doing an earlier plant survey in the future and changing the survey to a meander instead of point-intercept.

This postponement changes the Annual Meeting date to September 2nd (Saturday of Labor Day) so that we can get the best information to make the best proposal to the electors.

The next meeting is in-person on August 15, 2023, location to be announced.

Meeting was adjourned by the Chairperson at 7:29 p.m.

Submitted by Maria Rudesill, CLD Secretary (07.10.23)

Approved By CLD Board (08.15.23)