Crescent Lake District

Annual Electors/Owners Meeting – 09/02/23

The Crescent Lake District (CLD) Annual Meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. at the Crescent Town Hall. CLD Commissioners Tim Kilgore, Dave Schwanz, Robb Jensen, and Maria Rudesill were present. Jim Ketterson was absent. Also present were 60 attendees, 52 of which were electors/owners. This meeting was properly posted according to Chapter 33 and Open Meeting laws.

A motion was made by Dennis Southworth to approve the 2022 Annual Meeting minutes. Jim Binder seconded. The motion PASSED.

Tim welcomed the electors, thanked them for their participation, and restated the purpose of the Crescent Lake District. The Commissioners were introduced. Tim will be in his final year of a three-year term, Dave is starting his second year, and Jim Ketterson has finished his term and is up for re-election. Maria is appointed by the Town Board, while Robb is the County appointee. Terry Goldbach continues to serve as the Coordinator of the AIS Response Team, with Jim Gehrke serving as the Coordinator for the Clean Boats / Clean Waters program. Ryan Peterson takes care of the website and has volunteered to take on future grant writing as well. Tim then reviewed the agenda and explained the structure of the meeting.

Terry introduced the members of the AIS Response Team, who are: Dennis Southworth, Darrel Mack, Harvey Wolff, Steven LaPorte and Jim Gehrke. He expressed disappointment for the withdrawal of treatment approval for 2023. Terry explained to the electors that the DNR seems to believe that the chemical treatment is impacting the walleye hatching, but there are several issues with that belief, including studies that indicate the chemicals don't impact the walleye. As of this meeting, we still don't have any reasons for the DNR's withdrawal.

Because of the inability to treat in 2023, the AIS Response Team is recommending that we reapply for the 2023 permits in 2024. So, the proposed plan is to repeat the request for the Boat Landing area. This is due to the historical data that we have indicating that the EWM began in the Boat Landing area and spread to rest of the lake. We would like to avoid a larger, more expensive treatment in the future. The plan also includes continued monitoring and surveys to track the spread of the EWM.

Tim reminded the electors of the money that has already been invested into the lake from 2019 – 2022, which is just under $150,000.00. We almost eliminated the EWM by the end of 2022, so if we continue to receive a negative response from the DNR, we may end up in the same place as we started. If denied in 2024, we could end up with much larger treatments needed in 2025 and 2026. The proposed budget begins to build a reserve for this reason. Tim reviewed the budget numbers and is hopeful that we will not see an increase in taxes due to the increase in property values. The proposed budget accounts for the 2023 surplus (due to permit denial) and provides for treatment in 2024. If the treatment is denied again, we will have a solid reserve for a larger treatment in 2025. Questions were asked in regards to impact on tax bill, the need for a line item dedicated to legal fees, a discomfort in raising a "rainy day" fund, a desire to not create an adversarial relationship with the DNR, and a statement that if we don't approve this budget, we won't have enough to even cover DASH boat services appropriately.

DRAFT

A motion was made to approve the budget as presented with a tax levy of $105,000.00 by Dan Engstrand. Jon Engstrand seconded the motion. The motion PASSED, with 47 votes in favor and 5 votes opposed.

Tim presented the ballots for the open Commissioner's seat. Jim Ketterson indicated via prior email that he would like to run for re-election. There were no nominations from the floor. Jim Ketterson received all 52 votes to begin a new three-year term as a Commissioner.

Jim Gehrke gave a short CB/CW report and encouraged lake owners to volunteer.

Several members of the electorate shared public comments:

- Amy Johnson asked if the CLD would consider stocking walleye.
- Keven Mahner, Fire Chief, shared that local owners can contact him for a tour or bringing an engine to an event, which helps with site planning in case of an emergency.
- Jim Binder asked if the CLD should consider looking into the impact of wake boats as we've had erosion, trees down, and logs floating to the surface.
- Joan Jensen asked if the CLD should look into the mosquito treatments as those chemicals run into the lake water. She agreed to gather more information to present to the CLD at a future meeting.
- Darrell Mack supplied information on the walleye stocking that currently takes place – 30,000 fingerlings are added to the lake by the DNR, with 154 muskie added every other year (with this year as the odd year).
- Toby Ackerman stated his agreement that while we should not be confrontational, it is important to hold the DNR accountable. Robb added that contacting elected officials is one way to present opinions.
- Sandy McKitrick suggested that budget cuts to the DNR may be why they are not responding, so consider that when voting.
- John Knudson reminded the electors that the lake is a complicated biological entity with complicated questions. He stated there is no need to be adversarial as the studies are complicated. He has been on the lake since 1955 and a lot has changed.

The Annual Meeting for 2024 will be held in late August / early September next year, dates will be posted on the website once the meeting details are confirmed. Regular Commissioner meetings will be quarterly, posted in two locations (Town Hall and County Courthouse) and will be posted on the website.

Tim adjourned the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Submitted by Maria Rudesill, Secretary (09/08/2023)

DRAFT