

Crescent Lake District

Annual Electors/Owners Meeting – 08/21/2021

The Crescent Lake District (CLD) Annual Meeting was called to order at 10:26 a.m. at the Crescent Town Hall. The CLD interim Board of Commissioners: Connie Anderson, Tim Kilgore, Maria Rudesill, Jim Gehrke and Bob Thome, were present. Also present were 74 elector/owners. Connie introduced to current Commissioners, explained that the meeting was governed by Chapter 33, and was properly posted according to the Open Meeting Laws.

Connie gave a short history of the Crescent Lake District, including its mission statement. She explained the formal process of setting up the District and then read a summary of the actions taken over the year to establish the District.

Connie explained how the Public Comment session would work, with comments limited to 3 minutes per person and that no comment/response is allowed from the Board of Commissioners. Items can be added to the agendas for future meetings. She explained the voting procedure. Name tags are given to those who are allowed to vote and that the 2021 Tax Roll is the list of eligible voters. Those who were interested in speaking were asked to stand and state their name before speaking.

Connie reviewed the duties of the officers as defined by Chapter 33.

The election of Commissioners began with the current Commissioners introducing themselves and giving a short description of their background and interest in the Lake District. Nominations from the floor were taken, with Jim Ketterson and David Schwanz added as write-ins for the ballot. Seventy-four ballots were counted: 69 votes for Tim Kilgore, 43 votes for Jim Gehrke, 42 votes for Jim Ketterson, 32 votes for Connie Anderson, and 28 votes for David Schwanz. Maria and Bob counted votes and agreed on the first count. The elected Commissioners for 2021 are Tim Kilgore, Jim Gehrke, and Jim Ketterson, with Maria Rudesill and Bob Thome as appointed members by their respective boards.

Terry Golbach presented the current status of EWM in the lake. He fielded several questions about the past processes and the work done by the aquatic specialists.

The 2021-2022 budget was presented by Tim Kilgore. Jim Gehrke shared with the group that the DASH Boat operators are not paid, only the divers. The sole focus of the Lake District at this time is on removal and management of the EWM. The 2022 budget numbers are based on the recommendation from the AIS Response Team. This is the bulk of the expenses and results in a mil rate that is still less than the maximum mil rate dictated by the State of WI. Tim reminded the electors/owners that the District has no authority to spend money outside of the permissions given to them by the electors/owners. Any new programs have to be submitted for the 2022 agenda/budget. Tim answered several questions on the budget, including how DNR grants could impact the future budget/mil rate in 2022. He also explained that the insurance expense is for a 12-month policy that starts mid-year, which is why it is the same on the 2021 and 2022 budget. Terry Goldbach was invited to answer a question about the comparison for EWM expenses from last year to the proposed budget. He stated that they were very close, but that the differences are due to increase in cost and treatment acreage. Jim Gehrke made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Wendy Goldbach seconded the motion. The proposed 2021-2022 budget was approved, with 72 electors/owners for, 1 against, and 1 abstained.

Several members of the electorate shared public comments:

- Dennis Southworth asked for a clarification on the District mission statement and how lakeshore preservation is or isn't included vs the focus on EWM.
- Lois Sickler stated that she signed onto the District because it was focusing on EWM.
- Sue Weith asked the lake community to have their kids / grandkids to avoid yelling "Help!" when it isn't an emergency.
- John Geisel asked for future clarification on the land value assessment and how the Bible Camp figures into the funding. (This was clarified by Bob Thome and Tim Kilgore during the meeting that the Bible Camp is tax-exempt and therefore not figured into the funding.)
- Greg Edwards stated that there was a discrepancy between what was discussed regarding the potential tax amount / mil rate at the start of the Lake District's formation and at this Annual Meeting. He wanted to know why it was so much higher than Squash Lake's mil rate.
- Mike Krohn stated a concern for the spot treatment efforts and wants the District to push for a larger treatment effort.
- Maria Rudesill explained the stance of the Bible Camp and how it is making efforts to contribute to the lake community in other ways, including membership in the lake association, financial donations for the AIS efforts, providing facilities for meetings, dock space and divers for the DASH boat, etc.
- Connie Anderson reiterated that the Bible Camp is active in providing support for the District's efforts.
- Peggy Janssen asked if there was a membership fee due to the District as there is one for the Association. The electors/owners answered her question that no, there is no additional membership fee.
- Alan Janssen expressed support for the Bible Camp and the work they are doing to support the fight against EWM.
- Jim Binder shared with the group that wake boats are having a negative impact on local lakes and may be something to look into for future discussions.
- Jim Gehrke shared a magazine with information about supporting loons and their habitats.
- Jim Gehrke also expressed appreciation for the work that Connie Anderson had done to help get the Lake District started.

The Annual Meeting for 2022 will be held the same weekend next year, dates will be posted on the website once the meeting space is confirmed. Regular Commissioner meetings will be quarterly, posted in three locations (Town Hall, Courthouse, Town Shop (old Town Hall) and will be posted on the website in the future.

Michele Riopel motioned to adjourn the meeting, Alan Janssen seconded. All were in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

Submitted by Maria Rudesill, Secretary (08/21/2021)