

Crescent Lake District

Annual Meeting of Electors / Owners – 08/31/24

The Crescent Lake District (CLD) Annual Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. at the Crescent Town Hall. CLD Commissioners Tim Kilgore, Dave Schwanz, Jim Solinsky, Linnaea Newman, and Maria Rudesill were present. Also present were 64 attendees, 47 of which were electors/owners. This meeting was properly posted according to Chapter 33 and Open Meeting laws.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Dennis Southworth, Wendy Goldbach seconded, motion PASSED.

Motion to approve the minutes from the 2023 Annual Meeting was made by Robb Jensen, Mike Krohn seconded, motion PASSED.

Chairman Tim opened by sharing that without the support of the District and the volunteers, we would be in a much worse position regarding the EWM than we are right now. It is a significant issue across the state of Wisconsin and the District remains focused on the AIS/EWM situation. This is the same commitment the District made when it was formed. Tim reminded those present of the difference between the Crescent Lake Association and the Crescent Lake District, as the District is a legal entity that has the power to tax. He feels that we have built a positive relationship between the Board of Commissioners and the owners, as there have been 26 public meetings and a commitment to transparency by posting as much information as possible on the website. All are welcome to the meetings and the Board appreciates owner input. He introduced the Commissioners and Response Team volunteers, as well as Ryan Peterson who is handling the grants and website. Finally, Tim reviewed the rules for voting.

Treasurer Jim Solinsky went through the 2023 budget as mailed to the owners. He did point out that in between mailing and the meeting, we did receive the final tax payment, completing the expected \$105,000.00 income. He pointed out that there are 241 deeded shoreline property owners according to the tax role.

Response Team Coordinator Terry Goldbach presented the findings of 2024 and the AIS/EWM plan for 2025. He shared several maps that showed increased growth just between May 2024 and August 2024 in the area around the Boat Landing. He explained that the DNR denied the 2024 treatment permit because the density was not sufficient for treatment and because of the potential impact the ProcellaCore could have on the walleye. He shared that a 2022 study showed a preliminary finding that no significant impact of ProcellaCore on minnows was detected, making the walleye reason unsubstantiated. The District was able to DASH some of the smaller EWM areas in 2024, but the mechanical methods are not as effective as chemical treatment.

He made the recommendation that we apply for a very similar treatment permit in 2025 to cover the areas that have increased in EWM growth around the Boat Launch. This could end up being as much as 35 acres.

Jim Solinsky went through the proposed 2025 budget, which would allow for the recommended treatment and still maintain funds for a future treatment that may need to cover a larger area. The proposed budget reduces the tax funds by 50%, and allows for roughly \$100,000.00 to remain in reserve.

Amy Peterson made a motion to approve the proposed 2025 budget as presented. It was amended to state “with a tax levy of \$52,500.00”. Kathleen Stifter seconded. The amended motion passed with a vote of 44 in favor and 3 opposed.

A motion was made by Donna Stone to increase the elected members of the Board of Commissioners from three to five. Mark Mergenthaler seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Votes were cast for the one existing open Board seat as well as the two newly expanded seats. Tim Kilgore, Dennis Southworth, and Suzanne Mooney were awarded those seats.

Public comment followed:

John Reid – Requested that we put contact information for our legislators on the CLD website.

Mark Mergenthaler – “Plug” to CLD members to attend the next CLA meeting which will have a representative from the Mole Lake Bank give a presentation on the fishery aspects of Crescent Lake.

Marybeth Mack – Requested that CLD address the impact of wake boats and place it on a future meeting agenda to formally discuss the issues.

Jim Gehrke – Mentioned that the plant harvester used on Rice Lake where he once resided, cut the top 3-4 feet of the aquatic vegetation off and then was loaded on a barge by a conveyor.

Darrel Mack – Encouraged everyone to avoid the area between the island and the north shoreline along highway 8 when boating the next few weeks to minimize the spread of milfoil from that area.

Amy Johnson – Is currently in the planning stage of a remodel project at her residence on Crescent Lake, and was looking for contractor references from lake residents.

Gary Spleha – Expressed his concerns regarding light pollution on and near Crescent Lake.

Kathy Stifter – Inquired who the local DNR person was affecting the approval/denial of CLD permit applications. Terry Goldbach referred her to the DNR website or local directory.

Mike Krohn - Expressed his concern regarding comments made by the Oneida County water quality (lakes) at the recent CLA meeting. Additional comment made regarding his experience in agriculture where “it takes years of repetitive herbicide application in the same area for plants to build a resistance to that herbicide”. Doubted it was much difference for Eurasian Milfoil.

Fred Rechner – Expressed a “thank you” to all the commissioners for their work representing the Crescent Lake District members.

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Submitted by Maria Rudesill, CLD Secretary (09/16/24)

Approved by CLD Members (08/30/25)