

Black Otter Lake District (BOLD) Annual Meeting

8.19.2024 5:00 PM Village of Hortonville Community Center

Sean Kuske board president took roll call attendance: Judy Williams treasurer, Meg O'Brien secretary, Dan Nejedlo County board representative, Bob Jewell VOH Village Council Representative, Jared Dorn, and Aaron Steber (HDPW) Commissioners all present. Approximately 30 Lake District residents were in attendance.

1. The meeting was called to order by Sean Kuske at 5:15
2. The minutes of last year's meeting were distributed by Meg O'Brien. A motion was made by Jeanne Bellile to approve the minutes, Bruce Turner 2nd the motion and all approved.
3. Judy presented the financial report through August 19 and all the bank balances as of 8.19.2024. She also distributed the audit report with the signatures of three lake district residents, stating that no discrepancies were found. A motion was made by Mark Voight to approve the financial report, Mike Bellile 2nd, and the motion was approved.
5. Old Business

Sean Kuske reported on this year's harvesting results. So far 150 volunteer hours have been spent running the weed harvester, and 450 yards were harvested. Everyone thanked the volunteers. Sean also reported that during the spring lake cleanup with the Fox Wolf Watershed Alliance and the Boy Scouts, 257 pounds of garbage were removed from the lake. Three donated wood duck houses and a purple martin house were installed. Lake and Pond Solutions continues with the weed study of aquatic plant management and Emmons and Oliver Resources (EOR), environmental consultants, was hired to study the Black Otter watershed.

6. A. Pat Conrad from EOR has 25 years of experience with lake management. He made a presentation including a power point about Black Otter Lake. He talked about the current state of the lake and how EOR will proceed to determine the best approaches to managing the lake. He said that the water clarity is good and that the large number of weeds helps keep algae at bay. Pat showed a map of the watershed area that will be investigated to see where the nutrient containing run off that is encouraging overgrowth of weeds is coming from, and what if anything could be done to control it. It was stated that Black Otter Lake has been an impoundment, meaning a man-made lake created by damming a river, for about two hundred years. It is possible that elimination of marshland within the watershed contributed to increased runoff and nutrients into Black Otter Lake.

In response to resident questions Pat stated that harvesting weeds earlier could help hold phosphorus in the lake down, and that the curly pond weed that grows in the lake in May should be controlled. He stated that it will be helpful to find out if the sediment basins contain high levels of phosphorus. There was discussion of trying to get DNR and Fisheries staff to visit the lake. Resident pictures of lake issues are helpful to a study like EOR's. Pat mentioned that some communities place signs at appropriate places throughout a watershed, identifying properties that are used by the public as part of their watershed.

After Pat's presentation, in response to a resident question it was confirmed by Sean Kuske that the cost of the EOR study is \$77,400, which will be invoiced and paid as the work is completed.

Additional resident comments:

A resident commented that at one time it was thought that drawing down the lake in winter would help with sediment build up on the north shore, but it has not. The north shore area continues to become shallower. There was a resident question about the Healthy Lakes and Rivers grant as she was hoping she could use it to help with the cattails on her lakefront, but there was not enough interest in the grant from lake property owners to pursue it. She also questioned whether there should be a boat available for lake rescues but was assured that the Hortonville Fire Department is trained on this now. A resident commented that the boat landing parking lot needs black top sealing, and the shoreline needs additional rocks to prevent erosion.

7. Bud Luison made a motion to move \$34,660 from the lapsing fund for sediment basin clean out to the fund for culvert repair/replacement. The permits for the sediment basin clean out are problematic, despite an agreement with the DNR made years ago that they would be cleaned out. The EOR study should show if cleaning them out is useful. Marck Schleiss 2nd the motion and all approved.
8. There are properties within the watershed that are not being assessed tax for the Black Otter Lake District. Including all properties would provide additional funds for projects to improve the lake. BOLD would provide data to the County from the EOR study showing which properties run off goes into the lake, property owners would be notified by BOLD, there would be a hearing, and then the County board would decide on attachment for property tax purposes. Bruce Turner made a motion to allow the BOLD board to pursue this possible attachment of additional properties found to be within the Black Otter Lake Watershed. Mike Vanevenhoven seconded and all approved.
9. The 2024/25 lake district budget was presented. Joanne Mueller made a motion to approve. There were no questions. Jeanne Bellile seconded and all approved.
10. Sean Kuske requested approval of the 2024/25 BOLD mil rate. It has not increased from last year. Joanne Mueller made a motion to approve the mil rate. There was no discussion. Pat Lund-Moe seconded and all approved.
11. There is an open position for a Lake District commissioner because Meg O'Brien's term is expired, and she does not wish to do a fourth term. Nominations were requested three times. There were none. Joanne Mueller made a motion to close nominations. Bud Luison 2nd. All approved.

Al Habeck made a motion that the lake district president be allowed to appoint a new member since there were no nominees. Mike Vanevenhoven seconded the motion and all approved.

Joanne Mueller made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30. Mike Vanevenhoven seconded. All approved.