

Presque Isle Conservation District
658 S. Bradley Hwy
Rogers City, MI 49779
Phone 989-734-4000

District Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 20 August 2019

The annual meeting of the Directors of Presque Isle Conservation District (PICD) was held at the Presque Isle Conservation District office in Rogers City and called to order at 7:34 p.m. on Tuesday 20 August 2019 by Chairperson Gary Shepherd.

Directors Present: Gary Shepherd, Leann Hopp, Katherine Wilbur
Others Present: Valerie Meharg (manager), Boyd Bylick (NRCS)
Not Present: Ralph Viegelahn, Brittany VanderWall

Approval of Minutes: Katherine W. made motion to approve meeting minutes from 16 July 2019. 2nd by Leann H. All 'ayes'.

Consent Calendar: Payments due for August were presented with no change. Motion by Leann H. to approve the July payments, 2nd by Katherine W. All 'ayes'. Bills to be paid for August included the following:

- Payroll & Taxes
- Frontier
- PI Cnty Treasurer (rent)
- Thunder Bay Accounting
- Forestry Suppliers (flags)
- Pine Lumber (posts)
- Evergreen Nursery (fall deposit)
- Valerie Meharg (postage reimbursement)

Employee Hours and Expenses: Timesheets approved by Katherine W.

Financial Report: Financial reports for July were presented to the Board. Motion by Katherine W. to receive and file July financial report, 2nd by Leann H. All 'ayes'.

New Business:

- Scrap Tire Grant 2020- Application to be submitted.
- GAAS Audit Engagement Letter- Signed by Chairperson Gary Shepherd and will be returned to Schultz, Oswald, Miller, and Edwards, CPAs.
- Fisheries habitat/invasive species grants and dam repairs- The former Dam Management Program grant has been combined with the aquatic habitat program and the habitat improvement account to create a new program called the Fisheries Habitat Grant. This \$1.825 million program is for fishery habitat work, dam removal, and improving water quality among other related things. A pre-proposal and discussion with DNR fisheries biologist are required. Manager Valerie M. spoke with DNR Northern Lake Huron Management Unit fisheries biologist Tim Cwalinski on 8/12/19. Mr. Cwalinski was the biologist who wrote the order for fish stocking above the dam, and he is also the one who discontinued this order two years ago. No fish have been stocked the past two summers, and he states no fishermen have called his office to inquire why, which means not many people noticed. He stopped stocking the pond because the dam causes the water temperature to increase so much that it simply kills the fish in the summer. He also believes that fish will travel up Trout River for spawning in absence of the dam. He states he is aware of the sea lamprey in the area, yet feels the positives of removing the dam would far outweigh the negatives presented by the sea lamprey. Mr.

Cwalinski and his supervisor, Dave Borgeson, both feel that the value of this stream is much higher than the value of the impoundment. The DNR will not support funding repairs to Trout River Dam but fully supports removal. I would like to note that this would apply no matter who owns the dam. Tim Cwalinski contacted Randy Claramunt, who is the MI DNR Lake Huron Basin Coordinator about our dam. Mr. Claramunt explained that there is another option in addition to repair vs remove. He asked what our goals were in this endeavor, and manager Valerie Meharg stated we want to improve the habitat above and below the dam while still blocking sea lamprey movement. (If there are other goals, he would like to hear those as well.) He ensured me there are impoundment modifications that can do both things. This may be a way to benefit our users and the natural resource at the same time. He has already discussed this with the Great Lakes Fish Commission Sea Lamprey Control and they all believe there are resources for funding beyond what we have already discovered. Even though the DNR has stated they do not support anything besides removal, we may not have to go that route, as they are willing to work with the Fish Commission and review our case individually. This matter was tabled for manager Valerie Meharg to gather more details about what all the options are. Goals stated for this project were accurate.

- Eagle Scout Project at HVCA- Luke Jakey would like to work on part of the boardwalk in the trail system for his project. Manager Valerie Meharg to obtain Luke's proposal when it is finished and find out a dollar amount for materials needed.
- New District Conservationist Boyd Byelich attended. He plans to attend all meetings and bring conservation contracts for a board director signature. Manager Valerie M. will go to the NRCS office to learn what they do and how PICD can partner with NRCS more.

Old Business:

- FY20 Budget- discussed and tabled
- Vacation/sick time policy- Forester Brittany V.'s next work agreement to include 15 vacation days and 10 sick days. Manager Valerie M. to ensure grant language does not have limitations.

Staff Reports:

- Director's Reports: None
- Manager's report: See attached
- Forester's report: See attached

Discussion: None

Adjourned: Leann H. made the motion to adjourn. 2nd by Katherine W. All 'ayes'. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

 10/9/2019

Gary Shepherd, Chairman

These minutes stand to be approved.
Submitted by Valerie Meharg
Next Meeting: 17 September 2019