

# Trego Lake District Meeting Minutes

Quarterly Meeting

**Saturday, October 9, 2021**

Trego Town Hall, Trego, Wisconsin

(Member attendance in person and Zoom)

(Board members present: Charlie Petersen, Bob Somermeyer, Gary Kaiser, Tim Reedy, Nick Tseffos, Tom Frost)

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair Charlie Peterson.
2. There was a motion, second and vote to approve the minutes of August 14, 2021, Board Meeting.
3. Board chair's Report
  - Chair Petersen appointed Paul Weyandt, Carolyn Kaiser, and Beverly Stencil to the Audit Committee for the January Meeting.
  - The By-Laws will be reviewed for updating at the Annual Meeting.
  - The Washburn County Lakes and Rivers Association (TLD is a member) submitted a ballot to Trego Lake District for updating of By-Laws. There was a motion, second and vote to authorize Board Chair Petersen to complete the ballot and submit it on behalf of the Trego Lake District.
4. Treasurer's Report
  - There was a motion, second and vote to approve the Quarterly Financial Report as posted on the website.
5. Committee Reports
  - Lake Management Plan
    - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Management Plan.

Bob Somermeyer reported and led discussion. Through a DNR Rapid Response grant, Trego Lake District hired consultant Dave Blumer (L.E.A.P.S.) to gather data and assist in developing a plan to deal with AIS. Board members Charlie Petersen, Tim Reedy, Tom Frost and Bob Somermeyer met with Dave on Tuesday October 5 along with Washburn County, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Native American Tribal representatives to discuss issues related to combating the invasive plants now present in Trego Lake. Surveys have been conducted to identify locations where invasive plants are growing and maps of the locations were distributed. Eurasian milfoil and curly leaf pond weed are the targets. Mechanical harvesting is the best option. Due to different growth cycles, multiple harvests may need to be considered. Expanding current harvesting options

include hiring a contractor or purchasing a harvester. Cost is high (up to \$92,000 to purchase), but grant funding may be available to assist. Expanding harvest areas with current contracted weed harvester is most likely response at this time. Board will move forward to develop a plan for presentation at the Annual Meeting. Initial cost estimates to hire a contractor for one harvest per summer (including current reimbursement from Xcel Energy) would average about \$30 per property parcel. Questions remain on issues such as Xcel Energy's continued participation, possible breaks in cost if TLD hired current contractor, and cost and maintenance issues related to a purchase. There will be further discussion at the January and April Board meetings. Authorization to adopt and pay for the plan will be on the Agenda of the June 2022 Annual Meeting. Additional questions related to animal invasive species, *e.g.* snails, were raised.

- Trego Lake Management Plan

Charlie Petersen reported and led discussion. DNR grants may be available to provide funding for development of comprehensive lake management plan. This would include issues of concern to lake property owners, all users, and agencies involved in protecting Trego Lake. The plan would provide guidance moving forward. There are numerous issues facing Trego Lake at this point and it may be advantageous to break the parts out and not try to deal with all of them simultaneously. Grant timeline may necessitate action by next summer. Gathering data, listen to concerns and creating opportunity for input were raised as issues for initial consideration as planning develops. This is still fluid and further discussion is forthcoming.

- Trego Dam relicensing

Charlie Petersen reported on and led discussion of the Xcel Dam re-licensing process. The timeline calls for re-issuance of the license to operate the dam by Federal agency (FERC) is scheduled for 2025. The process has begun. Trego Lake District, the National Park Service and others are weighing in. Trego Lake District submitted letters suggesting topics needing to be addressed before the license is re-issued. National Park Service and Trego Lake District together support broader concerns than Xcel proposes. Again, this is a fluid topic. Rulings by FERC are forthcoming and TLD will remain a part of this process. In the end there may be negotiations with Xcel and other partners to protect and rehabilitate Trego Lake.

- Weed Harvesting – Tom Frost reported that Trego Lake District received reimbursement from Xcel Energy for \$4,800 this summer's weed harvest expense. The Board agreed to ask TSB (weed harvesters) to have weed harvesting done on Trego Lake as soon after June 15 next summer as possible.
- Clean Boats/Clean Waters – Tim Reedy reported that TLD had 106.5 hours of boat inspection and AIS information distribution this summer at the Trego Lake landing. Tim volunteered 40 hours. TLD paid \$1712.50 to the employees and L.E.A.P.S. The DNR will reimburse TLD for these expenses. Tim reported that it is good to have L.E.A.P.S. involved

as it manages payroll taxes and other details. The 2022 grant application has been submitted and potential employees lined up. Tim plans to increase the total number of hours in the summer 2022 to maximize efforts and grant funding. The goal of this project is to keep AIS out of lake by informing boaters and inspecting boats.

- Water Quality – No report.
- Buoys, Public Landing Pier – Tim Reedy reported buoys will be taken out Monday October 11, by AAA. The pier at the landing will be taken out by the end of October.
- Fish Stocking/Management – No report, Tim Reedy recommends leaving this as an agenda item to keep it at the forefront of future planning.
- Sedimentation – Charlie Petersen reported that the dredge did not appear to have sustained any wear and tear issues from use this summer. It has been taken out of the water and is being prepared for storage this winter along with the pontoon (used for equipment). The channels dredged this summer have remained, for the most part, deep enough for boats to move through. Next year dredging additional channels will be explored.

#### 6. Citizen comments

People have seen an algae like substance flowing down the river and in some places settling on the bottom. The substance is called “filament algae.” Its presence this summer and fall is due to an early and warm summer and clear water. If attempting to remove it from the lake bottom, people should take it out of the water as far as possible so it does not return.

Questions addressed issues of speed and violations of “No Wake” restrictions. Violations appear to be increasing. There is a need for law enforcement presence. “No Wake” rules are on the Trego Lake District website.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

**Next meeting: January 8, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. - Trego Town Hall and Zoom**