

# Trego Lake District Annual Meeting - Minutes

Saturday, June 11, 2022

Trego Town Hall, Trego, Wisconsin

1. Board Chair Charlie Petersen called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Members were in attendance both in person and via Zoom. Chair Petersen led the membership in the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members introduced themselves.
2. Washburn County Sheriff Dennis Stuart discussed the role and responsibilities of the Sheriff's office and answered questions about law enforcement issues on and adjacent to Trego Lake. He indicated that he was looking into the issue of creating a water patrol, perhaps partnering with other law enforcement agencies. Funding is an issue, but he is attempting to create a law enforcement presence on Trego Lake and other lakes and rivers in Washburn County. Reports of violations should be made to the Sheriff's Office through 9-1-1.

Brian Gierczic and Jason Grube of the National Park Service gave presentations on their responsibilities. Funding is an issue with NPS as well. Violations may be reported to NPS by calling 800-Park-Tip. NPS will attempt to respond with a Ranger as quickly as possible.

Charlie Petersen recognized Wes Huffer, Trego Town Board Chair. Board Chair Huffer discussed the role Trego Town is playing in attempting to purchase land from the state to create a landing for tubers and kayak users across from the NPS service center. The previous parking lot was eliminated as part of the highway construction project.

3. Board Elections:
  - Bryce Huemoller was elected to a two-year term.
  - Brian Pahos and Charlie Petersen were elected to three-year terms.
4. Secretary/Treasurer Tom Frost introduced the proposed amendments to the District's by-laws. (These have been posted on the District website since January.) There was a motion, second and unanimous vote to adopt the proposed amendments to the Trego Lake District by-laws.
5. Committee Reports
  - Clean Boats, Clean Water (CBCW) program – Tim Reedy reported that Trego Lake District is sponsoring this program again this year. The goal is to prevent spread of AIS through education and inspections. Through the program, funded by a DNR grant, TLD hires individuals to inspect boats at the landing for aquatic invasive species, provide education to boaters about AIS, survey boaters, and report results to DNR. There young people are signed up for this summer and have already begun the work. Employment is through L.E.A.P.S to allow TLD to avoid employment related costs and taxes. Costs are reimbursed by DNR. Up to 200 hours are provided for in the grant.

- Buoy and Pier – Tim Reedy reported that the public landing pier and the buoys both were placed in late April. Last summer’s damage to the pier was repaired. Location of buoys was approximate based on history as the GPS was not working. Buoy location will be re-checked.
- Fish stocking – Tim Reedy reported that TLD and the DNR have a good working relationship on the issue of stocking. The lake was shocked to verify fish population two years ago. Current reports on fishing are positive.
- Water Quality – Dan DuRose reported that water tests were conducted in early April. Test results show phosphorus and nitrogen levels are going down in Trego Lake. Test results going back to 2006 will be put on the Trego Lake District website.
- Aquatic Plant Management – Charlie Petersen reported. In 2019 Eurasian water milfoil was discovered in Trego Lake. TLD applied for and received a DNR Rapid Response grant. Through the grant, TLD hired a consultant and another individual to survey Trego Lake for AIS. The survey confirmed presence of aquatic invasive species (AIS) - Eurasian water milfoil and curly leaf pond weed. Through the consultant, TLD proposed and submitted an Aquatic Plant Management Plan to the DNR. The plan is pending approval. The proposed plan is posted on the TLD website. Included among the responses is a plan to extend mechanical weed harvesting beyond current clearing of channels east of the narrows to areas throughout the lake with AIS starting in 2023. There was a motion, second and vote to adopt the Aquatic Plant Management Plan.
- Weed Harvesting – Tom Frost reported that this year’s weed harvest of navigation channels east of the narrows is scheduled for June 15. The company doing the weed harvesting this year is TSB. This company has done it on Trego Lake the past two years.
- Sedimentation – Charlie Petersen reported that the dredging last summer with the new Piranha dredge was successful in creating channels deep enough for pontoon boats to travel through. However, with time they have filled in and will require additional dredging this summer. Volunteers will be needed.
- Trego Dam Relicensing – Charlie Petersen reported that Xcel is in the process of applying for a Federal license to continue to operate the dam. The process will continue through 2025. TLD is closely monitoring, has submitted written recommendations, and is attending meetings. TLD is partnering with the National Park Service whose goals are consistent with ours. TLD will continue being at the table as decisions are made. There was discussion about whether TLD should hire a consultant to represent us in negotiations. The Board will consider this issue.
- Comprehensive Lake Management Plan – Charlie Petersen reported that DNR grant funding is available for the development of a comprehensive plan for the future of Trego Lake. This would include broad input and tying together all issues facing the lake. The process of developing an application will begin this year.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

- 2022 Audit Report: Secretary/Treasurer Tom Frost reported that the Audit Committee conducted an audit of the Trego Lake District financial records immediately prior to the January Board meeting. As reflected in the minutes of the January Board meeting, the Audit Committee report showed all records were in order and expenses documented.

- Secretary/Treasurer Tom Frost presented the Board's proposed and recommended budget for Fiscal year 2022-23. (The proposed budget was posted on the District's website.) There was lengthy discussion including adding funds to hire a consultant for the dam re-licensing. There was a motion, second and vote to adopt the budget as proposed.
- There was a motion, second and vote to authorize the Board to borrow up to \$5,000 in an interest free loan to cover any short term cash flow shortage.

7. Citizen comments

There were several comments including a suggestion for the Board to see how other lakes/flowages are dealing with issues related to dam relicensing. There was request that when mechanical harvesting for AIS is implemented, that it be done in an equitable manner through out the lake.

8. The 2023 Annual Meeting will be determined by the Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.