

Approved
Post Lakes Protection & Rehabilitation District
Commissioners Quarterly Meeting May 20, 2023
Minutes

1. **The PLP&RD commissioners' quarterly meeting** was held at the PLIA Building on May 20, 2023. Chairperson John Steber called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. Commissioners present for the meeting: John Steber (Chairperson), Tim Prunty, John Raisleger, Andy Joswiak and Phil McGrath. There were 7 attendees, that included Ralph Eberle, the Dam Tender.
2. **Approval of previous meetings Minutes:** March 18, 2023 Commissioner's meeting – The Minutes were distributed to the commissioners in advance. Edits had been submitted prior to this meeting. A motion to approve the Quarterly Minutes was passed with no additional changes.
3. **Review of Recent Correspondence.** Correspondence submitted:
 - A. Correspondence was received regarding an upcoming meeting addressing the Wolf River Preservation/Pelican River Forest project. This is proposal that includes mining and recreational development on land north of Langlade County and near the Wolf River. John Steber commented a resolution was previously passed by PLP&RD that we were not in favor of mining in this region.
4. **The Treasurer's report** was presented by Tim Prunty, Treasurer.
 - A. From the Statement of Financial Position the year to date balances as of March 31, 2023: \$188,763.37 for Total Assets; \$100,045.90 for Total Liabilities; \$88,717.47 for Total Equity. From the Profit & Loss Budget: \$90,923.83 for Total Income; \$28,206.36 for Total Expenses; \$68,717.47 for Net Income.
 - B. Other sections of the report were presented without comment.
 - C. A motion to accept the Treasurer reports was approved.
5. **Old Business**
 - A. None discussed
6. **Committee Reports**
 1. **Boat Landing Committee** – John Steber led the discussion providing an update on the UP South Shore Boat Landing Project. The project is ready to move forward with Musson Bros. Construction will begin the mid-July; it is expected to take approximately 45 days to complete. It was suggested to place informative signage at the main boat landing and on the website. The UP West Shore landing will eventually require repairs to the concrete ramp/slab. The boat landing committee will add this to the agenda for their next meeting.
 - A. It was pointed out that the damage to the UP South Shore Boat Landing may be severe enough that the Weed Harvester cannot be launched. John Raisleger will evaluate.

2. **Lake Management Committee** – John Steber reported there is a large tree in Upper Post, near the tubes on the north end. Dvorak Docks has been contacted and they are planning to remove it in the next couple of days.
3. **Weed Harvesting** – John Raisleger reported Tim Schoessow attended the seminar put on by Aquarius for the weed harvester, which included information from DNR and some hand out materials. Paul and Keith did maintenance on the engine. It is questionable if the weed harvester can be put in this year, due to the boat landing rebuild. John Raisleger will monitor the situation.
4. **Lake Safety** – Andy Joswiak reported buoys were installed on May 12th, using GPS coordinates. The installation took 3 hours. Andy thanked Dave Curran for providing maintenance to the pontoon boat’s engine. Andy thanked all the volunteers on the Post Lakes webpage.
5. **Dam Management** – John Steber gave the report and led an extended discussion on the recent high water event, with two reports submitted
 - A. John Steber led discussion on (Addendum 1 to the Minutes), Post Lake High-Water Event Report, April 2023. John distributed the report to all in attendance. He commented on the Dam Tender job description and expectations. The dam committee held an emergency meeting on April 19 to assess the situation during the high-water event. A meeting with the dam tender was going to take place very soon to review procedures going forward for high-level water events.
 - B. Dave Curran, an attendee and Upper Post property owner, reviewed his findings, (Addendum 2 to the Minutes). Dave stated the report reflects his opinions only. There was an extended discussion on a 2-piece gate concept, the spillway, fish ladders, and cameras for monitoring. Dave’s course of action is outlined in his report.
 - C. John Steber concluded the discussion by informing all that a mandatory Dam Engineering Study is scheduled by the DNR for our dame in 2025. The recommendations from this meeting will be brought to the DNR’s attention at that time.
6. **Coordinator Position updates (we were not in quorum for these reports)**
 - A. **Citizen Lakes Monitoring Network** – Andy Joswiak reported there is no activity until June, July and August.
 - B. **Website Development** – Dedicated emails by board positions, will be launched at the annual meeting. We requested a ‘.gov’ email address but this is not available for Lake Districts from either the federal or state.
7. **New Business** – Phil reported on the PLP&RD’s Annual newsletter. June 23rd is the cut-off date for submitting articles for the newsletter. July 15th is the mailing date for the newsletter.
8. **Non-action items that can legally be discussed** – none

9. Next Meeting

- A. PLIA Building, starting at 9:00 a.m., August 5, 2023 (District's Annual Meeting)

10. Adjourn - This meeting was adjourned at 10:17 a.m.

Addendum 1 – PLP&RD Minutes, May 20, 2023

POST LAKE HIGH-WATER EVENT REPORT APRIL 2023

POST LAKE DAM MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

The Post Lake, Dam Management Committee met at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at the PLIA Community Building. The meeting was called to discuss the management of the high-water event that the lake was experiencing. Present were Jeff McKinny, John Steber and Ralph Eberle the districts Dam Tender. **Note:** Dam Committee member Andy Joswiak was to participate in this meeting via phone, but we had no phone service at the PLIA Bldg. Andy was in Florida during much of this event, but he was in regular communication with committee members & Ralph.

April 2023, High Water Event

In April of 2023, the Post Lake area had a rather significant snowpack and during the week of April 9th, the area experienced unseasonably warm weather with temperatures reaching as high as 80 degrees. The heavy snowpack coupled with the warm weather caused lake levels to quickly rise so members of the Dam Management Committee (Jeff McKinney, John Steber) & Dam Tender, Ralph Eberle, met at the PLIA Building to discuss rising lake levels and the operation of the dam. Topics discussed below:

IMPORTANT NOTE: Post Lake's state approved dam operating range is 95.0 feet to 96.0 feet. PLP&RD's Target operating level for Summer is 95.8 and Winter is 95.5.

REVIEW OF ACTIONS AND STATUS OF DAM OPERATION

In review, this high-water event was a good experience for the Dam Tender and committee members. This event was an excellent opportunity to review procedures/training and allow for the opportunity to appreciate the suddenness of a significant weather event, the need to anticipate the potential for rapidly rising water levels and the need to respond in a timely manner.

Overall, we believe the dam was managed in a proper manner and the release of water was appropriate for the capabilities of the dam. Beginning April 7, 2023, all three gates were in an open position, with no water being restricted. However, it should be noted that rapidly rising water levels, from April 13 to the 14th did catch us by surprise. On the April 13th, the gates were set at what is ordinarily a wide-open position for normal winter runoff, however, they were not set to their highest possible position. The water level rose as much as 6 inches overnight, which was much faster than anticipated. Andy, who was in Florida, was contacted by a lake resident with concerns about rising water levels. He was unable to immediately reach Ralph and out of concern about the rapidly rising water levels, he reached out to two lake resident friends to check out the dam situation and they were able to raise the gates for maximum flow. We don't believe this tardiness had much of a detrimental effect on the overall high-water situation as water levels rose approximately an additional 18 inches from April 14 to April 20th.

GATES: It was noted, that because of corrosion and overall wear and tear, the gates may need major repairs in the future. At present, the gates cannot be raised to their designed maximum height. During this high-water event, there was a problem only with Gate #1 (northern most gate). This gate collects more water than the other two gates and at its maximum attainable height, it was at times, restricting 12 to 14 inches of water. The other two gates opened high enough so that there was no water being restricted.

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DAM INSPECTIONS

There was discussion about the need for the Dam Tender to visit the dam daily during a high-water event and when there is the potential for a high-water event. It was stressed, that during extreme conditions, multiple visits per day may be necessary. John Steber stated, that even during the stable water level months of winter, the Dam Tender should visit the dam no less than twice per week. The Dam Tender Job Description has no specific dam visit/inspections required. It is expected that the Dam Tender will learn to understand the management of the dam and its flow and plan their visits based on weather conditions and need. **NOTE:** It is understood by all parties that in is not necessary for the Dam Tender to visit the dam daily, especially during stable weather conditions. This has been the normal operating procedure for as long as anyone can remember. However, it may be necessary to update the Dam Tenders Job Description, to better detail how often inspections are to be made.

WATER LEVEL REPORTS

There was discussion about the way the Water Level Reports were being filled out. It was noted that elevations were being recorded for every day of the month and it is understood that the Dam Tender does not visit the dam every day. Ralph was recording the water level on his visit days and then estimating the readings between visits. Committee members agreed that the Dam Tenders elevation records are our official record and elevations should only be recorded on days of actual observation by the Dam Tender.

There was also discussion about how we record the position of the gates. At present, the gates are only marked as Open or Closed. In review of this situation, Ralph had the gates marked as open but as the water level rose, the gates were no longer in an open position. We should develop a more accurate description of the gate positions.

EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

Jeff, John, and Ralph reviewed the districts EAP and discussed our Action Plan notification responsibilities. It was stressed that thorough inspection of equipment and embankments were especially important during these high-water events. It was noted that following this high-water event, it was important that Ralph complete a Flood/High-water Event Inspection Report.

WATER LEVEL REVIEW

According to the Dam Water Level Inspection Reports, the lake levels began to rise slowly beginning on approximately Thursday, March 23, 2023, with a reading of 95.6. By Thursday March 30, 2023, we had a reading of 96.0 which placed the water level at the top of our approved operating range and by Tuesday, April 13, 2023, we were at the top of our gauge at 97.0. Thereafter all readings are estimates and based on landmarks.

Thursday, March 23 rd .	95.6	
Thursday, March 30 th	96.0	Up 4 tens of inch
Wednesday, April 5	96.5	Up 5 tens of inch
Thursday, April 6	96.75	UP 2.5 tens of inch
Tuesday, April 13	97.0	Up 3.25 tens of inch

Continued, Addendum 1 – PLP&RD Minutes, May 20, 2023

Thursday April 14	Water was still rising and property owner express concern. It's believed that the water rose 6 inches overnight, from the 13 th to the 14th. Gates are opened to the maximum possible height.
Friday, April 15	Water is over top of gauge, estimates and landmarks from here, while going up.
Monday, April 17	Water even with top of the concrete supports
Tuesday, April 18	Water rising very slowly 1" over concrete supports.
Wednesday, April 19	Water Level holding steady.
Thursday, April 20	Water Level at its peak, up 1+ inch, to bottom of catwalk grate, and remained at this level until April 23 rd when it began to recede.
Sunday, April 23	Water levels begin to recede.
Monday, April 22	Andy reported that lake levels were down 7 to 8 inches, but still 1.5 feet over our target level of 95.8.
Tuesday, April 23	Andy reported that lake levels had dropped additional 3 to 4 tens of and inch. About 10 inches above the target level of 95.8.

Addendum 2 – PLP&RD Minutes, May 20, 2023
Submitted by attendee, Dave Curran

May 20th Rehab meeting!

It takes everyone, no matter how big or small, Thanks for pitching in!

High water has impacted numerous property owners!

The following is not to single out anyone, it is to promote being proactive. Trying to minimize mother nature and protect the lake and its property owners!

Timeline of events of the dam not open:

Thursday April 13th, we assumed the gates were open lake was up 10-inches plus.

Friday April 14th, Rick and I opened the gates. Andy Text Rick and I, Andy got me key.

Sat 15th, up another 4

Sun 16th, up another 4, I opened gates further as they were, all 3 slushing back. Gate 1 can't open anymore. (stuck)

Monday 17th, up another 2 to 3, Called Rick, he met me down at the dam, I took a maul we tried to get gate 1 open further. Maybe an inch, and further raised the other 2.

Water level raised a little the rest of the week.

Wed, 19th Andy and I discussed, Andy drafted plans for a 2-piece gate for fall and winter months. Also discussed another gate.

Thursday 29th water was going down, snow and rain brought it back up to record highs.

Friday 30, unchanged

Sat, 22 knocked a dock section thru the far gate, slowing water flow.

Tuesday, returned key to Andy.

My observations of the dam:

The dam structure, gates, ect. is unchanged since it was built. By me operating it, it is the same as it was when I was 12. And played on the gates. 50 plus years ago!

The gates are in need of grease, all grease fittings are gone.

Gate operation is cumbersome, as the chain and padlocks hold the gates in place. A slotted slide bar could be installed to slide in place, to bump a spoke on the wheel. Padlocks should have D-rings and chains, so they are attached. Padlocks oiled in the fall to minimize freeze ups.

Gate 1 should be removed and it sticking problem corrected.

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All Gate chains below water level should be inspected, noted a third of diameter was corroded or gone.

All Gates should be exercised, at least 2 to 3 times a year. To ensure smooth and complete operation.

If the fall water level had been in place and the gates opened timely. I truly believe the lake would never have gotten to record levels.

Course of action:

Dam operators job description? Was this ever explained? Being proactive?

Fall drain down 4 inches? Dam modifications? 2-piece gate. To maintain fall level, as dam gates freeze up. Spring when the ice pulls from shore, Gates opened and during this time of year, dam checked daily, until water level stabilizes to summer levels. 2-dam tenders/board member, conferring on a daily bases?

High water promotes more sediment in the lake, greater for weed development. Water clarity. Shore line erosion. Large debris, bogs, logs, Ice damage to property.

Add a 4th gate, this would allow more control of high water situations. This would be costly, but defiantly pay dividends in long the run!

We have numerous homes on the lake now that are well over \$500,000. We pay enormous taxes to the Elcho School District. Town, I'm sure people of the lake would be willing to pay a little more to protect, help minimize damage to their property. These dollars would at least be for tax payers of this lake.

Thanks,

Respectfully,

Dave Curran