

Meeting Title: The 51st Annual Meeting Minutes of Staples Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Date: June 7, 2025

Time: 10:00AM

Location: Mixed Up Staples Lake Bar, 1977 Polk Barron Street, Comstock

Attendees:

- Jim Gores-Appointed Commissioner Barron County-**Present**
- Craig Nelson-Appointed Commissioner Crystal Lake Township-**Absent**
- Chris Ryan- Commissioner-Chairman-**Present**
- Dan Fisher-Commissioner-Secretary-**Present**
- Howard Ketel-Commissioner-Treasurer-**Present**
- Theresa Smiley-Non-voting Board Member-**Present**
- Tina Ketel-Non-voting Board Member-**Present**

Agenda Items:

1. Call to Order 10:01 AM

- A. Moment of Silence for members lost in the last year. No members passed!
- B. Introduction of New Members-Multiple new owners introduced themselves including one on the south side, 2 on the east side, 2 on the north side, and 3 on the west side. All new members were welcomed!
- C. Approval of last year's minutes; Motion for approval by Karl Trusinsky, motion was seconded by Karen Lindholm and everyone was in favor. Motion passed.
- D. Lake map recognition-Thank you to Dale and Judy Woods who created the new lake map. Copies are available at the front table and if you need more reach out to Chris Ryan.

2. Treasurer Report

- A. Howard Ketel gave the treasure report-discussed income, crop grants and savings interest, and rebates.
- B. Expenses reviewed for the last year. The highest expense is the weed harvester.
- C. The motion to pass the treasures report was made by Karen Lindholm, seconded by Justin Herman and everyone was in favor. Motion Passed.
- D. The budget for 2025-2026 was presented by Howard Ketel. The motion to approve the budget was made by Erin Ryan and seconded by Joan Hochman and everyone was in favor. Motion passed.
- E. Full Report and next years budget is attached for review.

3. Weed Harvester

- A. Multiple repairs were made on the harvester during the prior year and everything is working as it should this year!

- B. Donnie Johnson was recognized for all his volunteer hours for weed cutting on both the North and the South side.
 - C. Permit Map-The District is aware of multiple requests for weed harvesting on newer properties on the lake. We must follow our licensed DNR map and are not allowed to cut weeds anywhere other than what the permit allows. The DNR has informed us that the clearing of weeds 30 feet from a dock can be done by individual landowners and not by the harvester unless it is allowable by our permit.
 - D. Volunteers-Donnie Johnson, Bill Harding, Karen Lindholm, and Chris Ryan have volunteered to cut weeds. If others are interested in helping, please reach out to Chris Ryan, as you will need to sign a waiver.
4. **Lake Clean-Up**
- A. DNR grant updates
 - 1. 12 new shoreline projects in place this year
 - 2. 3 farmers engaged in cover crops or other watershed activities
 - B. Lake District Boundary Expansion
 - 1. Work is being done to expand the current district boundaries to include the West side to the lake district. This would result in a \$150/parcel/year for each parcel owner. The money from the special fees helps with the budget expenses and many of the ideas that the district has to improve the lake. The Staples Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held a public board meeting, and the motion was passed via the board. That motion was sent to the Barron County District Court and will be heard at the Barron County Board meeting on June 16th, then there will be a public hearing on June 18th at the Barron County Government Center at 6:00pm.
 - C. Thersea, Krystal and Cole continue to perform the necessary monitoring of the stream and the lake. They were recognized for their volunteer hours.
 - D. Next Steps-
 - 1. There is a **new project** that the Lake District would like to work with a farmer on. This is a **closure of an old manure pit**. The manure pit currently holds 700,000 gallons of manure and is located next to the staples lake stream. The District Board met with the farmer and Barron County to discuss possible actions to assist the farmer in this endeavor. The National Resource Conservation Service (NCRS) will pay for the clean up of the pit. However, the farmer cannot afford to pay the money up front as is required. The District would like to pay the upfront fee and then would be reimbursed directly by direct deposit from NCRS. Any cost that is not covered by NCRS will be paid for by the watershed grant. A motion to approve the upfront payment by the Staples Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District for the closer of the manure pit and to utilize

the watershed grant for any other cost was made by Karen Lindholm, seconded by Karl Trusinski and all were in favor. Motion passed.

2. Vote needed to prioritize the next work to be done for the lake (3 options)

Fish (Chippewa Strain Walleye) stocking-The DNR contact recommends large fingerling stocking of 10 fish/acre every other year, for the best results. The fish are \$4.00 per fish with an estimated cost of \$12,800. Landowners raised some questions and concerns.

Karl Trusinski presented a motion to do fish stocking with an increase of the annual special fee of \$50/parcel, motion was seconded by Derald Mitchell and all others were opposed. Motion failed.

Alum Treatment-Discussed the possibility of moving forward with Alum Treatment to reduce the phosphorus level in the lake by sealing off the lake bottom to stop the release of phosphorus coming from the lake bottom. The estimated cost is \$100,000 for one treatment. Landowners raised some concerns and questions.

Do nothing more

Please see Tina Ketel to cast your vote today before you leave. One vote per district member regardless of how many parcels owned. For those not attending today or who would like to think about it, there will be board members at The Mixed Up on Saturday June 14th from 11:00am-1:00pm so that you can place your vote then.

5. Fireworks/Boat Parade

- A. Donations-a hat was passed for fireworks donations.
- B. Boat Parade-The boat parade will happen on Friday July 4th at noon. Please line up in the southeast bay. Don't forget to decorate your boats! Any changes or updates will be posted on Facebook.

6. Election of Lake District Treasurer

- A. The position of Lake District Treasurer is up for election this year. Any nominations? Karl Trusinski motioned to renominate Howard Ketel and that motion was seconded by Derald Mitchell, everyone was in favor. Motion passed.

7. New Business

- A. Please be respectful of shoreline wake! It was mentioned that many boats and jet skis are coming too close to the shoreline, causing erosion.
- B. Lake level-what can we do to improve the water level? We would need a plan from the DNR to do anything with the current dam. This was investigated many years ago and the cost to replace the dam at that time was over 1,000,000 as a study would need to be completed in addition to any work.
- C. Volunteers were thanked for the hours spent helping to improve the lake.
- D. Fish and Game wardens are monitoring the lake for possible fish limit violations. This was reported to them as a concern.
- E. It has been reported that one landowner is killing muskrats along the water's edge and letting the body sink to the bottom. **Do not poach** muskrats and let die in our lake. This is a felony. If seen again it will be reported to the DNR for prosecution.

8. Meeting adjourned

- A. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:43am by Karen Lindholm seconded by Cindy Mitchell and all were in favor. Motion passed.

Food to follow-Burger and French fry baskets!

Attachment Number 1:

2025 Staples Lake Treasurer Report

Income

Lake Property Special Fee	15,150.00
Cover Crop Grant #80423	1,190.00
Savings Interest	169.16
Misc Deposit and Electrical rebate	86.78

Total Income

16,969.33

Expenses

Weed Harvester & Tractor Repairs, Gas, Ins	4,681.66
Shoreline Restoration Reimbursement (2)	2,250.00
Annual Meeting & Picnic	1,100.00
Website Renewal (3 Years)	824.55

	(AED for Mixed Up Staples Lake)	
Donation		2,059.00
Polk Burnett Electric		604.48
Cover Crop for Grant		1,190.00
Lake Property Special Fee		300.00
Volunteer Lunchs (2)		422.88
Meetings		338.24
Mailings		198.52

Total Expenses **13,969.33**

Balances

Checking	2,637.96
Savings	57,518.23

Total Balances **60,156.19**

Attachment
#2:

2025-2026 Annual Budget

Category Expense	Estimated Cost	Actual Cost	Difference
Harvester Repairs	200		
Harvester Gas	200		
Harvester Insurance	446		
Polk Burnett Electric	1200		
Mailings	400		
DNR Permits Fees	100		
Township Fees	300		
Annual Meeting	1000		
Misc Expense	500		
	4346		