

## Common Questions and Answers for the Long & Title Lake District

### Why does Long Lake need a Lake District?

- 1) With a district, with budgeted dollars available, we will be able to harvest the weeds from the lake as often as necessary during the season.
- 2) Non-Osceola property owners (part time residence) will now have voting rights within the District.
- 3) We would be more likely eligible for lake planning and protection grants as the DNR considers a District a permanent body.
- 4) This would provide long term existence and planning for the lake into the future. The LLPA can dissolve easily if there is no desire to keep going or a lack of funds and or volunteers.
  - a. At the LLPA annual meeting it was suggested that the LLPA do more fundraising to raise funds. Currently funds are raised by the Board of Directors with minimal help from the general membership. When we email members to help few step up. Your current board cannot do more on their own.
  - b. LLPA has spent \$264,561 on permits, surveys and treatments over the years. As a result, the lake is more usable and has better fish habitat.
  - c. With no further support this can quickly regress, and the lake quality can deteriorate.
- 5) We would have more control over shoreland protection for fish habitat programs in cooperation with the fishing club's goals and projects.
  - a. Promote shoreline restoration and coarse woody habitat programs
- 6) How do I benefit from a district when I do not own a boat or use the lake?
  - a. As the district harvests and cleans up the lake, you will have increased property value.

### Formation process and Lake District details

- 7) Who is entitled to sign the petition?
  - a. Each property has a tax statement, each person on that tax statement gets a single vote for the formation of the Lake District.
  - b. A person owning more than one property on the lake (multiple tax statements) will only be able to sign the petition once.
  - c. Property in the name of a corporation, LLC Trust etc. will get only one signature.
- 8) How was the boundary of the district determined?
  - a. For the most part properties included were along the south and north channels, on both sides of Hwy 67, all of China Town, DNR land and Boy Scout land.
    - i. 397 properties that will contribute financially (excluding State Land)
    - ii. Mr. Ed's and Benson's campgrounds are included
- 9) Will this be turned into a sanitary district in the future?
  - a. There are absolutely no plans to turn this into a sanitary district, that does not meet any of our objective nor the criteria to become a sanitary district.
- 10) What will the elected governing board of the district look like?
  - a. The district will consist of a Chairman, secretary, treasurer and supervisors. The actual number to be determined at the first annual meeting by the members in the district.

- 11) Will my property taxes go down as a result of the district?
  - a. No, we do not expect taxes to go down as the town provides many services to property owners. Property taxes are not dependent on the presence of a lake district.
- 12) When will the lake district go into effect if passed?
  - a. Anticipated date 2023 after transition is complete

### Lake Weed Harvesting

- 13) Why own our own harvester?
  - a. We would like to own the harvester so that harvesting can take place all summer at multiple times.
  - b. We can purchase a harvester and related equipment and get the job done ourselves cheaper.
  - c. Harvesting cleans up the algae floating masses which improves the beauty of the lake as well as water clarity.
  - d. Harvesting reduces the amount of weeds available to die off resulting in less sediment on the lake bottom.
- 14) How will the harvester be funded and who gets harvested?
  - a. The harvester will be funded from the district's annual funding budget
  - b. Harvesting will occur in all areas except those prohibited by the DNR
  - c. Harvesting will no longer be property specific.
  - d. Donations will no longer be required to harvest.
  - e. Certain properties with low water conditions or high muck levels may not be able to be harvested.
  - f. Harvesting locations will be conducted per an approved DNR plan
- 15) Rather than a district for harvest funding, why not obtain a grant?
  - a. The DNR has never offered grants for harvesting.
  - b. DNR does offer reimbursement for purchasing a new harvester & equipment.
- 16) The need for harvesting has increased over the years. See below for dollars spent annually.
- 17) Historical harvesting spend is as follows:
  - a. 2012 - \$3,000
  - b. 2013 - \$4,500
  - c. 2014 - \$7,281
  - d. 2015 - \$7,125
  - e. 2016 - \$9,031
  - f. 2017 - \$8,369
  - g. 2018 - \$5,260
  - h. 2019 - \$6,816
  - i. 2020 - \$9,073

### Boat Patrol

- 18) Who will own the patrol boat and schedule the officers?
  - a. We have no plans to purchase or take over the patrol boat. The patrol boat will remain the responsibility of the Town of Osceola for patrolling Long and Kettle Moraine lakes.

## LLPA

- 19) Will the LLPA exist after the district is formed?
  - a. The LLPA will be the interim managing body of the newly created district until the district has their first annual meeting and selection of officers by the property owners in the district.
  - b. The LLPA will be the funding for the district until the district receives funding from the lake fee added to the tax bill.
  - c. A decision to keep the LLPA or dissolve it will be determined after the transition.
- 20) What will happen to the money in the LLPA once a district is formed?
  - a. The LLPA funds will be transferred over to the District to be use for initial funding of the District and a down payment on a harvester.
- 21) What happens if the district does not pass?
  - a. If the petition to create the Lake District does not pass, we will have to determine if volunteer support can be found to continue the LLPA. If it cannot, the association will be dissolved, and lake weed harvesting will not continue.