



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes April 17, 2021 8:30 AM

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Rod Preble, Gary Schneider, Dave Mariani (teleconference), Andy Wilhoit, Bill Mork, Dale Ulbrich (teleconference)

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus, Recorder (teleconference)

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

5) APPROVE AGENDA:

- Rod motioned to approve the agenda, Bill seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

6) APPROVE MINUTES:

- March minutes - Andy motioned to approve the March Meeting Minutes, Gary seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider - Gary presented the March Treasurer's report. Rod motioned to approve the March Financial Reports, Bill seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam EBWQ / Wilhoit
 - Alum treatment
 - John Holtz, who did the treatment, will present at the annual meeting, and will present results and talk about the process. Our two 3rd party consultants are not available to present

- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly
 - We still have funds available for this year

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - The crew is ready to go this year. We have more filing for unemployment. COVID guidelines say 6' distance suggested, wear masks, but no other restrictions.
 - There is already activity at the landings. We may want to start as soon as April 30th if we can get people, and cover some of the landing initially. Bill will reach out to Terry.
- Purple Loosestrife eradication / Mork
 - The recommendation is a chemical herbicide. The challenge is getting in there and the timing. July/August is the desired timeframe to apply the chemicals. The DNR is taking a hands-off approach. Matt Berg may be a resource (or who may know of one) to apply the spray as he has the vehicle that can get into the area where the worst of it is.
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Preble
 - We expect a bumper crop with the early spring. Rod is working on getting everything ready, including working with Georgetown to get some modification on the East Balsam Landing to accommodate the shore conveyor.
 - Rod presented a document that lays out the plan and year over year rake fullness ratings
 - Matt Berg said the lake temperature is still too cold to begin pre-treatment and he believes it will be at least another 10 days before pretreatment can begin (around April 27th)
- APM Plan / Preble
 - There is a new proposal from the DNR:
 - **Harvesting lanes must be followed using a GPS device to ensure accuracy to pre-determined lanes agreed to between the department and the permittee. Records of the GPS tracks should be submitted with annual reporting requirements to confirm compliance.**
 - There are some updated planning requirements as well
 - Rod explained that Matt does Pre & Post treatment to monitor results. Treatment is only done in East Balsam
 - Rod confirmed the permit allows him to harvest CLP anywhere in the lake that CLP is found
 - Rod made a proposal to allow us to contract with Midwest/Clarke to do herbicide treatments again. Bill recommended we lock in a rate for 5 years via a new contract with them. After discussion, everyone agreed we should pursue this.
 - Matt Berg asked for a contract, after discussion, we should also pursue a 5-year contract with him. We should be very specific as to what we want him to do. Tom

requested that turion counts be included in the contract. Matt recommends adding bed 20 by Town Bay (west side) to the contract.

- The ice-out date was March 30 this year, and this ties heavily into turion count, so we are expecting a bumper crop this year.
- The first APM meeting has taken place. It was a good meeting and some good suggestions were made.
- Discussion around whether we require private landowners to hire contractors to harvest and/or spray. Tom noted he hesitates to take something away from private landowners. If it is bad, we should be harvesting already if we can get to it.
- Bill noted there are 5 plates in the lake right now to monitor zebra mussels, put in by the US fish and wildlife. Tom noted that people do go out and take samples. Rod thinks the county is doing it. Bill thinks they should be put by the landings rather than where they currently are, and he will follow up with Caitlyn.
- Dale asked what we would do if we found any. We would need to be very expedient. Tom has not seen a published plan to deal with them, but noted we have a budget of up to \$20,000 for early detection and rapid response to invasive species. Bill will route the plan document he has to deal with milfoil, but noted that this doesn't really apply to zebra mussels because of the way they multiply.
- Tom noted that Matt Berg is monitoring all landings, including private launch sites such as Sunnyside Marina.

10) OLD BUSINESS:

- 2021 Budget / Schneider
 - Gary noted the proposed budget has been sent to the commissioners and asked them to look at their numbers. Bill noted the \$20,000.00 for Rapid Response, and said Cheryl at Harmony Environmental thinks that number is light. Rod noted that he heard that \$50,000.00 is more realistic. Tom asked if we can get some examples to justify this. Bill will check with Cheryl and the budget would then be modified accordingly.
 - Rod noted the monitoring has been reduced. Tom noted this was due to a mis-categorization and it has been resolved.
 - Rod asked if we should bring an amended 2021 budget because we have made changes for transparency purposes) to correct how loans were reflected. We have now instructed the accountants to include the loans in the financials. Tom noted the terms of the loan has not changed, just how we are showing it in the budget. Tom also noted we were advised by the attorney, to include the 9600 cost and the revenue in the 2021 budget. Rod questioned whether we need to bring a vote to amend the 2021 budget to the meeting. The attorney said if it does not change levies, we are not required to do this. The board can vote to do this. Tom will take on the task of getting more information for the attorney.
 - Tom asked that if there are any further comments, please get them to Gary as soon as possible
- No Wake Zone Marina / Schneider

- Discussion around the proposed no wake zone. Tom noted we will need to have a public meeting on this topic to allow for public comments
- This will be kept separate from the water patrol topic
- Homeowners contract with Sunnyside to place buoy's. Our role is in enforcement
- Water patrol / Preble/Kelly
 - The Village of Balsam Lake and Milltown approved the resolution we gave them. We now have over 60% of the shoreline. We need one more township to approve. Rod will attend the meetings
 - The DNR did return our ordinance with a couple recommendations regarding reporting of buoy's.
 - Next step, once we have at least one more approval, we will need to have a public informational meeting (it needs to be after Memorial Day). Tom noted the most convenient would be to have it right after our next meeting (May 15th) in the conference room. This will be a published meeting similar to the annual meeting.
 - Tommy Thompson will remain working for Luck, and they will cover any required training. Rod noted we'd like to have him on the payroll before May 18th. Tom noted we just need to finalize the contract, and get the employment agreement drawn up. He will be an hourly employee so we need to do the paperwork on that side too.
 - We are waiting for the final approval from the DNR. It has been submitted a month ago, and they have 60 days to reply.
 - Tommy will need a phone and laptop or i-pad since tickets need to be entered electronically and he does not want to use his own.
 - A resident asked if he will be armed. The response is that 'he may be armed' as we do not control that
- Polk County watershed project / Ulbrich
 - Tom asked Dale if he is interested in working with Cheryl on the long-range plan. Tom provided information on what this means and said we will need an estimate on what we will need in terms of cost, so it can be put into the budget
 - Dale has already begun research and would be happy to work with Cheryl on it
 - Dale noted we are as far as we can go on the watershed project. This item will be changed to 'Long Range Planning' moving forward
 - Tom noted that including a plan to address hot spots, where there is significant run-off, would be a good idea

11) NEW BUSINESS

- Summer DockSide
 - We need to begin work on the first Dockside for this year and Tom asked people to begin working on their articles for this and try to get articles in by the May 15th meeting
 - The two primary messages we want to get out are the Alum Treatment and the Boat Patrol in the first issue

12) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - They applied for a community development block grant for water filters. They are putting together a water treatment community group
 - The new brewery broke ground yesterday
 - They approved \$5000 to be given to the homeowner's association. It will be moved further in the lake
 - Rod asked if they applied for a permit for the goose roundup yet
 - Bill asked if the egg oiling is going on yet
 - Tom noted we have \$2800 (cap) in the budget for the dam.
- County / Mariani
 - Public hearing on fences, bunk houses and boat houses will take place in May. Public announcement has not been announced, Dave will notify the Commissioners when timing is announced.

13) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

14) ADJOURN:

- Rod motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:08 AM