



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting December 17th, 2016, 11:00 AM

Polk Business Center Meeting Room

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 11:01 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Rod Preble, Ray Sloss, Bill Mork, Ed McGlynn, Steve Rediske, Dave Mariani (telecom)

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus (recorder)

4) APPROVE AGENDA:

- No comments or changes

5) APPROVE MINUTES:

- Bill motioned to approve the November meeting minutes. Rod Seconded, all approved, motion carried

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Dave Wagner, former board member noted (via email) that prior months meeting minutes were not on the website – they have now been added

7) TREASURER REPORT AND PAY CLAIMS:

- We have a 9/30/2016 quarterly financial compilation from CAP firm Avion of financial reports. These should normally go to Ray for distribution
- Ray reviewed balance sheet, no significant change from last month
- Ray reviewed income and expense report
 - i) Expenses were \$3924.24 total
 - ii) Bill asked if we should only be spending operations money at this point. It was noted that the GPS was the additional money spent last month
- Ray reviewed the 2016 budget variances –
 - i) Excess budget is mostly due to the loan payment being held back (\$45,000)
 - ii) Operating budget becomes a clean slate at the beginning of the year, and excess money is moved to other areas as appropriate
 - iii) Bill noted the Rapid Response budget is probably light at \$10,000, Tom noted we should plan for approval at the next annual meeting for the \$50,575 for Rice Creek Sedimentation project (actual work is years down the line, but it would be prudent to begin building up the reserve for this project) and the Rapid Response Plan (amount TBD). Bill noted if the public approves it, that money is restricted to that purpose and cannot be re-allocated
 - iv) Ray will get an estimate for Rapid Response for the January meeting. Tom suggested basing the estimate on hiring the spraying as opposed to using volunteers
- Ray reviewed payment of claims

8) LONG TERM PLAN:

9) Water runoff program

- Water Quality
 - East Balsam Study / Ed McGlynn
 - Probe results – there was quite a bit of stratification in the summer, near zero oxygen causes phosphorous to increase and cause bloom. Mid September the probe got buried so that month's results are not reliable. There will be a detailed report by year-end. Probe testing will be repeated in 2017 (at no cost). Current test indicated there is not enough mixing to keep oxygenation, which is causing the algae bloom. Bill noted overall condition worsens year to year with algae bloom earlier every year. Initial results indicate that alum treatment would be effective, pending one more year and also watching Cedar Lake for effectiveness of their alum treatment. App \$1,000,000 cost, treatment can be spread out over 3 years for minimum risk and maximum effectiveness. Rod mentioned possibility of also monitoring ground water probe study to determine if runoff issues are being caused from ground water or overland runoff. In 1975, 80-85% was due to overland runoff. East Balsam needs to be looked at differently than the rest of the lake because of the high level of overland runoff. It is unlikely this has changed recently. Rain Gardens on East Balsam would help a lot with the

runoff issues. We have enough data to begin applying for grants which could cover about 1/3 of the cost.

- The challenge of Alum treatment is the perception of success. Dredging is not a good option for East Balsam. Ed noted we will not be ready to present to the public in 2017 as we need to see Cedar Lake success and have one more year of probe results. This year we begin working with Cheryl, ask her for an estimate to begin grant process (the most current grant research cost about \$1000). There is currently a budget of \$10,000, so there is money in the budget to begin the grant research process.
- Ed will meet with the DNR (Buzz) and Cheryl in January to find out grant opportunities – anyone who wants to join is welcome. He will report at the next meeting.
- Sedimentation - Dredging / Preble
 - Adam Jarchow had a follow-up meeting with the DNR to formalize a new statute (is already on the books but this would formalize the process). A statute is moving forward with permission for homeowners to remove up to 25 Cubic Yards of sediment each year themselves. Rod has concerns about this because this is not controlled, but it will probably also enhance likelihood of dredging permits being approved. Dave noted that in a specific bay, if every homeowner does this, doesn't this take care of the bay issue? Ed questioned whether this requires homeowners to get a permit, and whether it would be done mechanically or if it would need to be done manually.
- Dredging project – Preble
 - Rod will have a meeting with Dale Ulbrich in January regarding application for permits for the 3 bays. Dale needs Rod's expertise on the terminology. Ray noted we need to make certain that dredging is actually beneficial to the lake. Rod noted if we do the dredging instead of homeowners, it can be done once and can be properly managed. Rod noted we are not changing our plan and will pursue permits. Tom asked if we do an alum treatment, how does that impact the lake? Ed noted alum is a mineral already existing, but that will help the water quality. Ray noted that with both alum treatment and dredging, we need to consider/verify that they will positively impact the health of the lake. Rod noted we may need to re-introduce native planting after alum treatment and dredging. Rod noted we will get the requirements as part of this process. Tom noted navigational issues are also part of the dredging considerations. Dave noted the lake is always changing and in some places, docks that were usable 10 years ago, are no longer useable. Rod noted that if we get permits and execute the project based on the DNR recommendations, it will improve the lake. Bill also noted that dredging in neighboring lakes will help clarify impact.
- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly

- Amended resolution from Cheryl. Tom got clarification that the Healthy Lakes grant is a reimbursement grant. The board has to fund the money (app \$25,000 max – \$1,333 per person, landowners can do sweat equity for their portion based on number of hours spent), lakeshore owner funds their own 25% via a down payment to either a contractor or the District. The grant money will then be reimbursed. We won't fund anything until the grant is approved. Money will likely be spent April through the end of the summer and it will be reimbursed at the end of the summer. About 30 landowners have signed up. Only 2 are in East Balsam. A positive item is that there are 6 clusters of landowners, and this is most effective. There was no push-back from the board on spending the money in advance. Cheryl will identify which landowners are knowledgeable enough to comply with the program requirements. Tom also noted a future item could be offering lakeshore owners consultation assistance to those who are interested. Discussion around how to influence shoreline owners who do not manage their shoreline well. Tom noted consultations would probably be taken advantage of by those who are most likely to be concerned with lake quality. Ray noted the best quality is measured by 35' of buffer zone. Ray motioned to accept the amended resolution, Bill seconded, all approved, motion carried.
- Aquatic Plant Management
 - CLP treatment / Sloss-Preble
 - Final report from lake biologist, item is closed. Rod noted the 2014 treatment worked well and native planting came back nicely. 3 years left on contract.
 - CBCW / Sloss
 - No discussion
 - Harvester / Preble
 - No discussion
- Conservancies
 - Stumps Bay 3 acre acquisition – Ray spoke with Craig Solum, proceeding to evaluate Stumps Bay (cost \$2750) – This is over the \$2500 limit for going out for bid. Discussion around whether the \$2500 max is required – Rod noted it's not required because it is not a public works item. Bill noted we need to get another bid if it is required. Ray will get another bid to be conservative. Ray confirmed the landowner is interested in selling the land into conservancy. Discussion around value, a grant would pay a portion of the cost. The landowner is interested in the land being put into conservancy based on her late husband's wishes. The land is app ¼ mile away from (not adjoining) Ray's land, which alleviates concern about conflict of interest for Ray – a study showed that as much of Stumps Bay should be placed into conservancy as possible for the health of the lake. \$5000 was budgeted. This cannot move forward without bringing it to the annual meeting. Discussion around whether

the land is unbuildable, consensus is that it is not buildable. Dave noted that if it is unbuildable anyway, why consider putting it into conservancy? Ray feels it would possibly be buildable if the power line were moved. There is highland that could then be buildable. Reason to put into conservancy is that it is contiguous to existing conservancy land, acts as a wildlife corridor and is a grass to woodland conversion so keeping it in a wild state is beneficial. Ray will continue to pursue moving forward with it.

10) OTHER REPORTS:

- None

11) OLD BUSINESS:

- Discussion around the contract with Lakeland easement on 46 / Kelly/Mork
 - Diagram and request has been distributed to the board. The land was donated but is not in a conservancy, so no regulations apply. So it is the decision of the board as to whether to allow it. Cables would be run under the creek for fiber optic lines. No financial consideration, Lakeland wants 20' of easement on each side, 10-20 feet off the road. Discussion, the concern is the impact on the land. The Lakeland contract states that they will restore to same or better condition. Ray noted the primary concern is impact to creek which is currently providing clean water. Tom asked if it serves the community, the consensus is yes it would. Ray noted we could restrict to only allow drilling a new cable if the line fails but not allow any digging and no structures being built. Tom will have the easement amended.
- Harvester Building / Preble
 - No discussion
- Bylaws additions and wording Change / Mork
 - New wording - Any special meeting of the district shall be held between Memorial Day and Labor Day. Bill will have amended for the annual meeting.
 - Clarification that the DNR meeting (cancelled due to weather) is not a special meeting, it is a business meeting. DNR meeting – rescheduled for Friday Jan 20 at 1PM. Rod will post at Post Office, Jonzies, and the public library. Dave will place the update on the website.
- Audits / Bill Mork
 - The word 'audit' should be removed from chapter 33, to be discussed at the spring conference. Non compliance can be expensive but full audits are not a common practice.
- Obtain a gas pressure washer to wash weeds off harvester while it is still in the water / Preble – purchase for next spring.
 - No additional discussion.
- Expense reports for 2016
 - Done

12) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Rediske

- Discussion was held at the village meeting about improvements to allow bigger campers and upping price to cover shower expenses
- Caucus is scheduled
- Village is talking with the county about land acquisition for new county highway building
- County / Mariani
 - Dave pursued possible funding through Land and Water – money is not available for funding
 - Could be some overlap in lake improvement, county is available to come to a meeting – Dave will invite Land and Water to attend a meeting whenever it is convenient for them
 - County does not have excess funds

13) NEW BUSINESS:

- Board recognition dinner –
 - Tonight at 6:30
- Recognition for Howard
 - A small gift will be presented in appreciation
- Extension for time to file on exempt organization filed by Rochelle / Mork
 - Will be filed by May 15th

14) REVIEW AND CLOSE OLD ACTION ITEMS:

- DNR meeting to discuss aquatic plant management with Board / Preble
 - scheduled for Dec 16th, rescheduled for Friday, Jan 20th at 1:00 PM - close
- Discussion with Dan Harrington as to whether we can pump onto land / Preble
 - still in discussion
- Settling pond sign needed repairs / Sloss
 - Ray will speak to sign company about getting it replaced. Steve suggested talking to the high school about seeing if the woodshop may do it
- Work with Balsam Lake Village to move to one spreadsheet / Rediske – Close
- Explore email options with county / Mariani –
 - Work in process by the county
- Auditing options / Mork/Sloss –
 - No action

15) REVIEW NEW ACTION ITEMS:

- Chapter 33 legislature - Close

16) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Third party dredging expert to come to the annual meeting to explain how dredging would help the lake

17) ADJOURN:

- Rod motioned to adjourn, Ray seconded, all approved. Motion carried