



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes December 18, 2021 8:30 AM

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81261088587>

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Gary Schneider (Zoom), Bill Mork (Zoom), Dave Mariani (Zoom), Dale Ulbrich (Zoom)

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus (recorder, teleconference)
- Matt Berg
- Tim Saari

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

5) APPROVE AGENDA:

- Commissioner Mork motioned to approve the agenda, Commissioner Schneider seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

6) Matt Berg ERS 2021 overview of AIS surveys/reports

Link to reports: https://1drv.ms/u/s!AqXDv1gQYyongtZC1tlb_RgSufXhyg?e=34aICu

- Matt provided an overview of new purple loosestrife sites around the lake, by 46 landing and East Balsam. He suggested we see if a high school group or Scouts group can do a beetle release next spring as a public service project. He recommends getting hold of Land and Water to see if they can help.
- He also found yellow iris near Wards Resort and along the shoreline towards Wards. These will need to be looked at closer next year as they are very aggressive
- Half Moon Lake now has Eurasian Milfoil. Matt was asked to do a survey for them. There were none the only other time he was on that lake in 2018 and he assumes they have been there 2-3 years. They have several acres. They will need to treat with an Herbicide treatment next year. The close proximity increases the likelihood that

they will eventually be transmitted to Balsam Lake. Commissioner Kelly asked Matt if the plants would or could flow down a creek that connects the two lakes. Matt said it is possible. They will have a better idea of how the herbicide works after next year. Matt noted that the harvester spreads milfoil rather than controlling it, so this should not be considered a viable treatment should it arrive in Balsam Lake

- Deer lake is still the only lake in Polk County that has zebra mussels
- East Balsam – bed 13 in the north bay now has curly leaf pondweed growing in deep water. Long Lake did an alum treatment and have now cut down their herbicide treatments almost to nothing. If we are going to do an alum treatment this year, we may want to do less harvesting and consider doing a chemical treatment before the alum treatment to minimize impact to the native species. Commissioner Kelly noted we may want to schedule a chemical treatment in early May. Matt said it will depend on the results of the pre-survey in May. Cheryl Clemmons (Harmony Environmental) can also speak to this once the pre-survey has been done. He noted that Cheryl is managing the plan in Long Lake, which has been incredibly successful
- Commissioner Mork asked if Matt has any direction as to chemical treatment rather than beetles for the purple loosestrife. Matt said he does not know of anyone who treats chemically because it tends to grow in such hard-to-reach places. Matt noted that the beetles are doing a great job on the loosestrife across from the Minute-Mart. The new beetles would be released in East Balsam and by the 46 landing
- Commissioner Kelly will take the lead on this in the short term. Matt did copy Cheryl on all the reports, as she is working on the long-range planning. He is also copying the county on all reports, which Commissioner Kelly said he appreciated
- Commissioner Kelly introduced Tim Saari, who is from Big Round and joined the call in order to learn about our Alum Treatment plan. Commissioner Kelly provided some information on our plan and the results we have seen so far, and the future plans for the rest of the treatment

7) APPROVE MINUTES:

- Review November Minutes. Commissioner Mariani motioned to approve the November Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Mork seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

8) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider - Commissioner Schneider presented the November Treasurer's report. Commissioner Ulbrich motioned to approve the November Financial Reports, Commissioner Mariani seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

9) Water Quality

- East Balsam EBWQ / Wilhoit
 - 2022 Alum treatment
 - Already touched on above

10) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - We have a great program per Matt. Commissioner Mork reported that we will be looking for more CBCW workers for this year. We spent about \$54,900 this year on the program. Commissioner Kelly noted we ran a few weeks longer than usual this year
- Purple Loosestrife eradication / Mork
 - Already touched on by Matt above
 - Already touched on by Matt above. Commissioner Mork noted that it is difficult to get the beetles and that possibly, we could raise some
 - Commissioner Kelly noted that Land and Water may be able to help secure some beetles
- Yellow Iris

- Already touched on by Matt above
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Kelly
 - The same team will work the harvester this year (excluding Rod) and we have one new person who will be starting this year
 - The harvester has been put away for the year

11) OLD BUSINESS:

- Water patrol / Kelly
 - Tommy Thompson is working on putting together the grant application for expense reimbursements and it is due by the end of this month. We won't know until February or March if the grant will be approved. Once we know what excess expenses there are, we will bill the Homeowner's Association for up to 25% of the expenses (the DNR grant if approved, would cover the other 75%)
- No Wake Zone Marina / Schneider
 - We have been advised by our attorney to develop an ordinance amendment including the new no wake zone. The public meeting for this can be done at any time of the year – it does not have to be done in the summer. Then the Board approves. Commissioner Schneider asked when we would have a public meeting. Commissioner Kelly said probably April or May, the later the better, but we need to coordinate getting the markers for the no wake zone. Possibly Jeff from Sunnyside can assist in getting the markers
 - Commissioner Schneider asked if the Village needs to be involved. Commissioner Kelly noted that he is pretty sure they don't, but that Bill O'Conner can confirm that
- Polk County Decontamination Ordinance / All
 - Commissioner Kelly will circle back to get Matt's thoughts on the decontamination stations. He put a request into CD3 Systems to ask them to come to the January meeting to do a presentation. Their system is a self-managed system (boaters will use them, CBCW may need to monitor the usage). There is a software system that tracks how many times it is being used, and when it needs to be serviced. It is expected that 10-15% of the boaters will use it the first year and that usage grows over time. The self-serve system is a vacuum and a blower. Polk county is putting out Hudson sprayers on the 20 landings that they manage next year. Commissioner Kelly did ask the CD3 person about the possibility of closing some landings that are not used very heavily. There would likely be pushback if we want to reduce landings because lake access is very important to the DNR.

12) NEW BUSINESS

- Public use of conservancy land
 - Commissioner Kelly shared a communication from the attorney about conservancy land use. A bill was passed when Scott Walker was Governor, that DNR funded land must be open to sporting activities, including hunting. For donated lands, it depends on the wishes of the donor. For purchased lands, it needs to allow public access, and in the past, we have allowed hiking access but not hunting. We need to find out the history of how the Rice Creek land was acquired as well as other conservancy properties, to figure out what we should be doing with each conservancy. The attorney is going to summarize how each property was acquired, and is meeting with the DNR to get more direction
 - Commissioner Mariani asked about liability if someone gets hurt on conservancy land. Commissioner Kelly will make sure we get the answer to this question

13) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - The village will be scheduling some ATV and Snowmobile safety classes, as well as hunting safety classes. They have installed some new map signs on the trails

- Village caucus Jan 10 at 6:00
- Building Permit Logs – we may be able to get a copy of the logs
- Discussion on how the zoning board of appeals works. The Zoning Inspector makes a decision as to whether to approve or deny a permit. If he denies, they bring to the Board of Appeals. The Board of Appeals has authority to make a final decision. Any appeal after this goes to the courts
- The county has authority to issue permits where the municipality does not have a process to approve them. Commissioner Kelly noted it would be advantageous if the municipality follows the county statutes so it is done consistently around the lake and across the county
- County / Mariani
 - No update – Commissioner Mariani was not able to connect with Chris Nelson. He did note that some municipalities are taking over the responsibility to grant permits and will be handling it on their own. This is in a developing stage right now

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Commissioner Ulbrich mentioned we should put something about the survey on the next meeting. The survey is in the Dockside and is on the website now. The Homeowner's Association will also forward an email blast to their members

15) ADJOURN:

- Commissioner Ulbrich motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Mork seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM

