



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes December 19, 2020 8:30 AM

Polk Business Center Meeting Room

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus, Recorder (teleconference)

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Letter from Mary Jo Nissen, thanking the Commissioners for the great work as reported in the Dockside
- Also letter from Jan Kaminski with similar comments

5) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

6) APPROVE MINUTES:

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

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- i) Financials / Schneider - Gary presented the November Treasurer's report. Andy motioned to approve the November Financial Report, Rod seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam EBWQ / Wilhoit
 - Bill James and Cheryl are not able to attend the next annual meeting, they will provide a presentation for said and the Dockside on Alum treatment
 - Cheryl will work on the next Alum Treatment Grant, it is not due until next November 1st.
- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly
 - 2 people are interested in doing projects this next year. They will be confirmed after the first of the year. We will also try to get another extension. We had a request last week to help some people close on a property on Little Balsam Lake. Tom met with the owners (sellers) to get a letter regarding the expiration of the conservation buffer agreement. Will issue if requested upon expiration

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - The grant application has been submitted for this year. We did get another unemployment claim, but they had not worked enough weeks to qualify
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Preble
 - There is a white paper recommending legislation for no spraying over 10 acres, which is not enough for us. The proposed change is currently in a comment period.
 - We have only sprayed once in the last 3 years, and that was 15 acres. There are not very many lakes that have a 2-prong approach (harvesting and spraying) so we are unique
 - Cheryl will write a letter explaining our plans. Our plan is to harvest first, and spray when necessary. She has already written letters for a couple other lake districts
- Purple Loosestrife eradication / Mork
 - This will go back to Alex Smith in the spring to use chemicals to eradicate it. Kaitlin said the county is more involved in the beetle program. Tom asked Bill to find out if we can use the county's airboat to get in to spray the purple loosestrife plants. Tom thinks this should happen early in the year, Bill will confirm. The DNR has acknowledged that there is purple loosestrife in other parts of the lake
 - Matt Berg has completed his surveys, and Cheryl will update our aquatic plant management plan for us. The DNR said we do not need to update our long-term plan

10) OLD BUSINESS:

- Bylaw review / Mariani
 - The main thing that makes it difficult to use Chapter 33 is the fact that our bylaws differ in the area of special meetings. At this point, we cannot replace our bylaws with the state Chapter 33 statutes. Tom noted that the bylaws does state that we reference chapter 33. Dave recommends that we keep our current bylaws as they read today. Everyone agreed so it will stand as it currently is
- No Wake Zone Mariani / Schneider

- Gary attended a meeting with the marina, he did a very good job presenting as requested. There is a concern about the water ski show, and they found out they can get a special permit for events. The village will now open up for public comments (in the spring). The proposed no wake zone would border Sunnyside Marina. Discussion about where to put the border on the other side – whether to go all the way to the point or not
- Little Balsam has already passed a no wake zone ordinance for the entire Little Balsam basin (as presented by a homeowner on Little Balsam) THIS HAS NOT BEEN ENFORCED IN THE PAST
- Discussion about finding a happy medium between irresponsible boaters who go as fast as they can versus people who may go faster than no wake but not completely no wake. Enforcement will go a long way to help mitigate this. Tom suggested we see how this year's patrol impacts the area
- Water patrol / Kelly / Preble
 - Bill met with the controller of the Balsam Lake Homeowner's Association. They have about \$5000.00 allocated for the boat patrol
 - Rod has been working on a plan for boat patrol and provided a timeline for how we got to the point of potentially facilitating the boat patrol for Balsam Lake. The Village has backed out of boat patrol altogether as of this year (they only put in 36 hours last year). Tom has informed people that if we are going to take this on, we need to make sure we do it right. Balsam Lake Homeowner's Association does not have the authority to run a patrol project, but they will participate financially on an annual basis and want to partner with district
 - Primary coverage for the patrol would be Holiday's and weekends
 - Approximate cost would be \$8000.00 and most of the cost would be covered between grants and the money from the Homeowner's Association
 - Discussion about whether we need to create a law enforcement or work with others. We can get additional coverage from the Sheriff's office for special events. There is one officer covering all of Polk County for recreation. There are not a lot of people who have certification to do boat patrols anymore
 - In the future, we may be able to partner with the county sheriff's office, but that would be at a future date.
 - Tom noted we are researching many options for boat patrol and all lead to district contracting with Tommy Thompson running a boat patrol on our behalf
 - Gary spoke to the Insurance advisor and he said the ballpark will be \$2500-\$3000 for liability insurance and that it is hard to find. Tom noted we may be able to extend our blanket policy. They will continue to work on gathering this information
 - Discussion as to whether a patrol person would be an employee or a contractor
 - Discussion as to whether the patrol person would need to carry a gun. Rod suggested when we talk to insurance, we need to note that an officer 'may' be carrying a gun

- Tommy does have the experience in applying for the grant money, so that is a plus for us. If he operates a boat patrol under our authority, he would have the authority of a Sheriff, but we would have to create a law enforcement agency in order for him to be able to stop anyone. We would also have to have support from 3 of the 5 surrounding municipalities, and cover 60% of the lake frontage. Citations would be backed up by the county court (they would collect the fines)
- The Homeowner’s Association has a boat and a lift that has very few hours on it. Discussion as to needs for a boat or partnering with them
- Tommy is currently working on a document for notification of an intent to operate a boat patrol. If we apply for the grant, we have to have control of the boat?
- Tom noted that if we go over \$10,000, we will need to get approval at the annual meeting
- To wrap up, Tom noted that if possible, we’d like to get something in place for this coming season but there are a number of things that will need to come together for this to happen. But we already have the authority to manage this program. We would need to develop a resolution and then will need to vote on the resolution at a board meeting. Tom will work with the attorney to get the paperwork going
- Polk County watershed project / Ulbrich
 - No update this month

11) NEW BUSINESS

- Rod noted the village is looking to the BLPRD for assistance with the Paradise condominium application. We did send a letter to the village stating that if a condo project is undertaken, we’d like to see a water runoff plan. Dave noted that condo permits are applied for at the state level, not at the local level.

12) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - Drinking water is a big topic – infants and over 50 should not drink the city water. There is one water tower that tested with high levels of magnesium in the water.
- County / Mariani
 - No additional updates

13) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- None

14) ADJOURN:

- Rod motioned to adjourn, Bill seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:20 AM