



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes December 21, 2019, 8:30 AM

Polk Business Center Meeting Room

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

- Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM

**2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

- Steve Rediske, Liz Vickman (teleconference), Dave Mariani (teleconference), Bill Mork, Tom Kelly, Rod Preble

**3) OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Patty Kabus, recorder (teleconference)

**4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Petition received for a rental place on Little Balsam

**5) APPROVE AGENDA:**

- Add: Old Business – Launch fees and East Balsam Public Landing
- Rod Preble motioned to approve the agenda, Dave Mariani seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

**6) APPROVE MINUTES:**

- Review November minutes draft. Dave Mariani motioned to approve the November Meeting Minutes, Steve Rediske seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

**7) TREASURER REPORT:**

- Review November financials / Vickman.
- Vendors will be paid within 30 days of invoicing
- Discussed accounting financials by Sue Hartman's group. They will compile a year end review

- Rod Preble motioned to approve the November financial report, Bill Mork seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

#### **8) Water Quality**

- East Balsam EBWQ / Wilhoit / Kelly
  - DNR grant application has been forwarded to the DNR. Expect to hear back in late February or early March
  - We also submitted an exception request along with the Alum Treatment grant request
- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly
  - We have approximately 15 projects that we have capacity for in 2020. We did get an extension on the grant for 2020
  - Tom Kelly will approach the Homeowner's Association to see if they can help get the word out
  - We do have 5 or 6 in the queue for 2020

#### **9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species**

- CBCW / Mork
  - The CBCW grant for 2020 has been approved. A check will be forthcoming probably in January
  - Per Terry Morton, he is already working on finding people to fill in for those retiring this year
- Harvesting CLP / Preble
  - No updates. Rod Preble will try to get a quote for fuel in January
  - Reports will be coming out to address the new mapping for treatment areas
- The accounting firm has advised us that in order to qualify for seasonal workers, they cannot work over 20 weeks

#### **10) OLD BUSINESS:**

- Thomson Detachment Petition / Kelly
  - Bryce Thomson presented at the last meeting.
    - Bill Mork moved that we deny the petition. Steve Rediske seconded. 6 Ayes, 0 no's. Motion carried.
    - Discussion and reading of the findings followed.
    - Findings:
      - (a) The property is located within the watershed draining into the lake.
      - (b) The property is within a quarter mile of Balsam Lake to the North and West.
      - (c) The property is within 2000 feet from the Town Bay Boat Landing in the Village of Balsam Lake.
      - (d) Detachment of the property would leave a hole or island in the district wholly surrounded by parcels located in the district.
      - (e) The property is a residence within an area with a mix of year-round homes and recreational dwellings used seasonally by people attracted to Balsam Lake.

- (f) By an order dated November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1975, the Polk County Board of Supervisors found that the property and other lands described in the order “will be benefited by the establishment” of the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District.
  - (g) The petitioner’s request acknowledges that “Circumstances surrounding the property from the inclusion in the district since the District has formed have not changed.”
  - (h) The board agrees that the circumstances bearing on the property’s continued benefit by inclusion in the District have not changed since the Polk County Board established the District in 1975.
  - (i) Although some parcels which are closer to Balsam Lake are outside the District boundary and some are located further from the lake are not within the boundary, the Board agrees with the Polk County Board’s 1975 determination that the residential neighborhood located North of County Trunk Highway “I” benefits from inclusion in the District and that use of that boundary was reasonable.
    - Dave Mariani agrees, and notes that there is wording in People of the Lakes supporting denial of petitions such as this one
    - One positive result of this petition, is that we now have a process in place for any future requests
- Seasonal Employees / Mork / Preble / Kelly
  - If over 20 weeks, it is not seasonal employment. One employee did take advantage of that this year
  - Mid May to Mid September is 17 weeks. Dates will be defined this spring to manage hours to be less than 20 weeks
  - Dave Mariani noted that the People of the Lakes document has suggestions to avoid issues with unemployment claims. He will send a copy of the document to everyone
- Bylaw review / Mariani
  - Dave Mariani will send out the full People of the Lakes document out to everyone. It is about 110 pages long and has a directory. One of the areas specifically addresses the bylaws. If we were to convert our bylaw’s to follow theirs, we would automatically get any updates based on legal decisions, etc so we would no longer need to look at them individually. This would keep us more current with law changes and is put out by Wisconsin Lakes. This would also keep us compatible with the State of Wisconsin
    - Tom Kelly noted bylaw changes need to be sent out and then voted on by the constituents so we are looking at the annual meeting
- Launch fees and East Balsam Public Landing / Mork
  - The village will begin making boxes for Town Bay and 46 store landings. By law, all donations collected must be used by the village to maintain and improve the landings.

- Little Balsam and East Balsam landings do not currently have trash receptacles. The villages need to put a trash receptacle at the landings and maintain them.
- Dave Mariani suggested we ask the county to put pressure on them to comply
- Bill Mork will need to contact Georgetown and Milltown about adding donation boxes at their landings. Might be good to begin with businesses that benefit from the landing

#### **11) NEW BUSINESS:**

- None

#### **12) OTHER REPORTS:**

- Village / Rediske
  - Sewer, water will be ordering a new welder as the old one is very old.
  - Police department will be combined as of Jan 1, full time police chief plus 2 full time patrols. Plus 2 part time patrols (including the boat patrol). Village will be the conduit for the reporting, etc
  - Boat patrol will be part time
- County / Mariani
  - Proposed amended shoreline ordinance will make some significant changes. 300 foot zone around all lakes will be residential.
  - Dave Mariani will send out and everyone should review. Will not be acted on until spring
  - Tom Kelly noted there are only a few businesses on the lake and they will be grandfathered in. Not sure how this would impact the boarding house.
  - The violation exception request was defeated so they have one strike against them. One more strike will force them to comply with current requirements. Bill Mork noted there were many people who spoke up and that went into the denial.
    - Tom Kelly noted that Minnesota is proposing to re-classify rentals as business property, which would impact taxation of those businesses. This does not currently impact boarding houses in Wisconsin, but may in the future if the trend gains support.

#### **13) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- Dave Mariani will need to update the website with 2020 meeting dates
- Tom Kelly noted there are no new items for the January meeting and asked if we should consider cancelling the January 18th meeting. Everyone concurred. However, if something does come up, we may need to reset the meeting but it is not expected.

#### **14) ADJOURN:**

- Rod Preble motioned to adjourn, Bill Mork seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.