

DOCK SIDE

Long Range Plan Amendment Available for Review

The Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District membership voted to approve a series of alum treatments for the East Balsam Basin at our 2019 annual meeting. Alum treatments are expected to improve and maintain water quality in the Basin and result in removal of East Balsam from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Impaired Waters list.

The decision to complete an alum treatment followed consideration of various alternatives to address the internal phosphorus load which drives algae blooms in East Balsam. The results of in-lake and sediment studies and modeling of anticipated results led to a BLPRD Board of Commissioners recommendation to treat East Balsam with alum. These studies are summarized in the *Long Range Plan Amendment* and included as plan appendices.

The *Long Range Plan Amendment* establishes a new water quality goal and objectives for East Balsam Lake:

GOAL

Improve and maintain water clarity and quality in Balsam Lake.

IMPAIRED WATERS OBJECTIVE

Remove East Balsam Lake from the impaired waters listing by achieving TP<40 ug/L and Chla<27 ug/L in the June 15 – September 15 period.

TOTAL PHOSPHORUS OBJECTIVE

Mean summer Total Phosphorus is <30 ug/L. Predicted value = 24 ug/L.

CHLOROPHYL A OBJECTIVE

Mean summer Chlorophyll A is <20 ug/L. Predicted value = 14 ug/L.

The District will seek bids for a 2020 alum treatment based on this goal and objectives. Monitoring results may lead to adaptations in the treatment strategy as the project progresses.

The total cost of the alum treatments is estimated to be \$1,295,700. Interest (\$51,090) and monitoring (\$154,000) brings the total project cost to \$1,490,790. The proposed treatment area includes the area of East Balsam at depths of 10 feet and deeper.

BLPRD property owners will pay for the alum treatment through the regular tax levy. The average cost to property owners from 2021–2028 is projected to be \$24.27/year per \$100,000 assessed valuation and \$121.35/year per \$500,000 assessed valuation. These estimates assume that the BLPRD will receive a \$200,000 WDNR Lake Protection Grant for each treatment.

WDNR Lake Protection Grant deadlines are currently February 1 of each calendar year. The BLPRD intends to apply for a grant February 1, 2020 following WDNR approval of this plan amendment.

The BLPRD will apply for loans so the alum treatment can be completed prior to collection of assessments and to allow for payment prior to grant reimbursement. The BLPRD is currently seeking a three-year loan from the Trust for Public Lands which is offering an interest rate of four percent.

EAST BALSAM BASIN WATER QUALITY PLAN AMENDMENT PUBLIC REVIEW →

Following BLPRD commissioner review and approval at the October 19, 2019 BLPRD board meeting, the *Long Range Plan Amendment* will be available for public review and comment at the Balsam Lake Public Library, 404 Main Street, Balsam Lake and at our website, www.blprd.com.

Comments will be accepted through November 4, 2019. The BLPRD Board of Commissioners will review comments and the final plan for submittal to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources at their November 20, 2019 meeting. ●

In this issue...

PAGE 2
Chairman's letter

Page 3
CLP Harvesting

Page 4
Thank you!

Send written comments on the Long Range Plan Amendment via postal mail to:

**Harmony Environmental
516 Keller Ave. S.
Amery, WI 54001**

Or send written comments via email to:
harmonyenv@amerytel.net

Comments will be accepted through November 4, 2019.



*Tom and Mary Kelly
and family*

Thank you to our District members, Commissioners, registration/election judges and recorder for all their efforts in making the BLPRD Annual Meeting a productive meeting. Approximately two hundred District members attended and assisted the Board with establishing the District finances for 2020, continuing our programs to mitigate aquatic invasive species and improve water quality.

The District, at the direction of its members, will move from planning to the execution stage of the East Balsam Water Quality initiative, also referred to as the alum project.

Regarding the EBWQ initiative, a portion of this edition of the *Dock Side* provides the proposed amendment to the District's long range plan which will position us to apply for a Wi DNR grant to fund a significant portion of the cost for the first application of alum in the East Balsam basin.

EAST BALSAM WATER QUALITY The Board developed a plan with the assistance of scientists and environmental consultants to address the elevated level of phosphorous and algae blooms in the East Balsam basin. East Balsam represents approximately 25 percent of our lake in terms of total acreage and continues to be designated an impaired body of water by the DNR.

Fortunately, there have been developments in treatment methods of internal phosphorous loading that we are confident can be implemented in a cost-effective manner, and be an important investment in protecting and rehabilitating our lake.

HEALTHY LAKES 2019 Healthy Lakes native plantings, rain gardens and runoff diversion projects will continue to be partially funded through the District and DNR grant funding in 2019. We have unused grant funds and we are in the process of applying for an extension to use them.

Hopefully we will have 75 percent funding up to \$1,000 available in 2020 for approximately 14 projects on a first come first serve basis. Please contact me, Tom Kelly, at 612-508-0879 should you have interest in a Healthy Lakes project in 2020.

HARVESTING Harvesting continues to be an effective method of managing curly leaf pondweed and watercraft access. More information follows in this issue.

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS 2019 was a wet summer which had us inspecting for invasive species approximately 20 percent fewer water crafts than in 2018. ●

—Tom Kelly

**Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation
District Commissioners**

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(Appointed by the Village of Balsam Lake)

www.blprd.com

Contact us

Please contact the commissioners with any questions, comments or concerns you have. Commissioners meet on the second Saturday of each month, excluding August (no meeting) starting at 8:30 a.m. at Polk County Business Center, lower level conference room. You are welcome to attend the meetings.

Meeting Schedule

2019		2020	
September 21	December 21	February 15	May 16
October 19		March 21	June 20
November 16		April 18	

CLP/Harvesting Update Year-End

Where did Summer Go?

Another summer has come and gone. It seems like we just put the harvester in the water and now we're pulling it out and putting it away for the winter. Are summers getting shorter? Not according to harvesting records. We began harvesting this year on June 2nd and ended on Sept 10th, our longest season to date.

Comparing this year to the two previous years, 2019 was less than 2017, but more than 2018 in all categories except the number of days worked. In 2017 the crews worked many 12+ hour days and in 2019 there were only a few 10-hour days and no 12-hour days. This year we also started earlier and ended later. Payroll is still under budget.

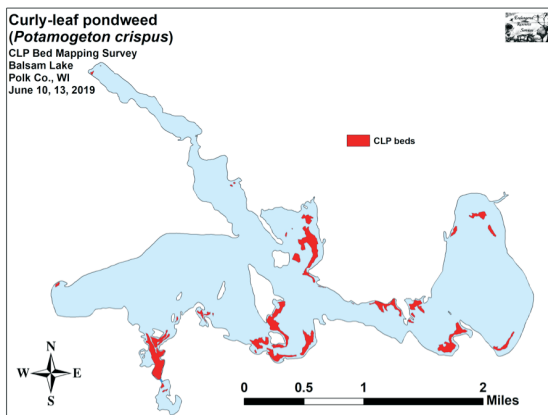
Harvesting Daily Record (full year)	2017	2018	2019
Harvester loads	89	49	61
Truck loads	43	24	32
Total volume (cu. ft.)	40,050	21,825	30,375
Total weight (pounds)	653,705	356,233	495,781
Days worked	22	21	27

Much of the CLP harvesting this year was mixed with native plants, more so than in past years. In most beds the CLP was wide spaced and spotty. I guess to sum it up: it was a good growing year for native plants and a bad year for CLP. This is very good news.

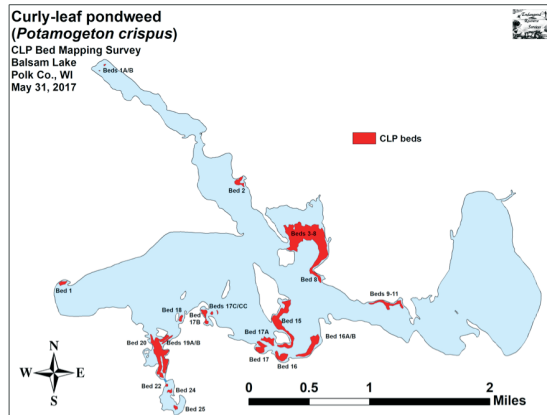
We await Matt Berg's fall turion count to determine if we are gaining ground on CLP again this year.

Have a good winter and see you in the spring! ●

— Rod Preble



CLP Beds May, 2017



CLP Beds June, 2019

The CLP Beds mapped in 2019 are similar in area to the 2017 map, however, much sparser in density.



The BLPRD harvester's work is done for this year.

Photo: Rod Preble

Dock Side

Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District
P.O. Box 202
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

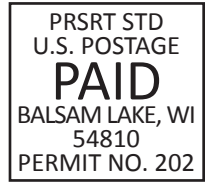


Photo: County Ledger Press



The BLPRD board looks on as Chairman Tom Kelly takes a question at the District annual meeting held on August 24 at Unity School in Balsam Lake.

The BLPRD Board members would like to thank all the individuals who participated in the committee that met and discussed the options for addressing water quality issues in East Balsam. It is our belief that this committee and the Q & A meeting helped educate District members and answer the many questions they had regarding the options that had been thoroughly studied by the Board.

Thank you also to all of the District members who attended the annual meeting on August 24th. We are pleased that approximately 80 percent of those who voted on the 24th of August were in favor of moving ahead with the East Balsam alum project. We will now proceed with all of the necessary approvals with the State of Wisconsin and WDNR over the next few months, secure the grant monies, and will plan on the first alum treatment some time in June, 2020. Cheryl Clemens from Harmony Environmental will assist with this process and Bill James from University of Wisconsin/Stout will oversee the monitoring of the treatments. ●

—Andy Wilhoit