



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes February 19, 2022 8:30 AM

JOIN ZOOM MEETING:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84326639253?pwd=S1YrdDA1em1KQ3YzY09nODZBZ243dz09>

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:38 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus (recorder, Zoom)
- Jay Bruber (Zoom)
- Mark Apfelbacher, CD3 Systems (Zoom)

4) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

5) APPROVE MINUTES: December 2021

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

6) AIS Transportation Amendment - BOAT CLEANING STATIONS / Mark Apfelbacher CD3 Systems

- Mark Apfelbacher from CD3 Systems presented information about the CD3 boat cleaning system
- This is a self-service system that is straight forward to use and does not require personnel to operate
- \$1 in prevention = \$100 in treatment

- The system allows boaters to use it by themselves. It is accepted because everyone likes to have a clean boat
- It is placed close to the curb. It is solar powered equipment with an air blower tool with 40' of hose. There is a light button that goes off in 10 minutes.
- There are 3 tools and a wet/dry vacuum system that will suck water out of anything.
- There are trailer units available as well as stationary.
- Recommend installing within 150-200' of the boat access
- They are designed to handle winters (not used during the winter)
- It is simple to maintain and there is a cover for winter
- All machines count the number of uses for each tool
- Reporting is available to constituents
- There is also a wifi app available to provide information on the lake to boaters
- Use of system results in 70% decrease in violations
- A novice with a CD3 system is as effective in removing particles as a trained inspector
- 78% rate the system as easy or very easy to use, 82% said they are likely or very likely to use again
- \$1500 maintenance per year
- Very low vandalism rates because they are very tough to break
- They are in 22 states as well as Canada
- DNR has water surface grants that covers about 40% of the cost of the system. CD3 has a good template for grant applications
- The village of Balsam Lake can also help invest since zebra mussels will cause damage of the dam
- Typically, these systems are purchased outright
- Lease options will cost \$2000 more for a 2-year lease, or \$5000 more for a 5-year lease, there is no break if you pay the lease off early
- The system is more effective with juvenile zebra mussels than with adult zebra mussels
- Day boaters are the primary way for zebra mussels to be transported, and primarily travel on vegetation. The system removes the vegetation, which most adults will be attached to. But the system will not kill adult zebra mussels
- The instructions tell boaters that if they find adult zebra mussels on their boat, they should go to a hot water system for decontamination
- 3-5 minutes is the average time spent on a CD3 system, longer if there is no one waiting
- The system is recommended for use both when entering and leaving the lake
- There are different strategies for targeting mainly inbound systems. The strategy to target both is preferable if possible and Mark helps lay out the best placement of the systems
- Commissioner Kelly mentioned that 2 launches comprise about 80% of boat launches, and the Village owns the land on both launches. Concerns are the amount of traffic (a couple thousand per launch). Mark mentioned that designing the right place to put it is a good option. If we charged for the launches, then charging a surcharge if they don't use the system helps increase inbound use of the system

- Systems can be precast concrete or just set in place
- Incoming use of the system will help remove debris. It may not remove all zebra mussels. The system is based on risk reduction, not total eradication of any possible infestation.

7) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Wake Boats - Dave Turbeson
 - Dave Turbeson reached out to Commissioner Kelly and suggested limiting wake boats to certain hours of the day, which is consistent with some other lakes. Up until this point, we have taken an educational approach. Commissioner Kelly asked how the board feels about what should be done.
 - Commissioner Mariani mentioned there are lots of boats riding around at 9 or 10 at night with radios blaring, so he feels it may not be a bad idea
 - Commissioner Wilhoit mentioned that water skiers are sometimes out a 7 in the morning as well as bass boats flying by early in the morning. Does this mean we should police them as well?
 - Commissioner Mork asked if Little Balsam has any concerns with traffic. Commissioner Ulbrich said the survey will be telling in this area. People seem to be more concerned with wave action rather than time of day issues. 200 feet eliminates many areas of the lake but people do it anyway
 - Commissioner Mork feels people should wake surf only in the middle part of the lake. Many boats have radios, not just wake boats.
 - Commissioner Kelly said water skiing is prohibited after sunset. Commissioner Mork clarified you can't do water sports after sunset. Commissioner Kelly mentioned maybe we need to have some policing in the early hours after sunset. Staffing and cost may be significant
 - Commissioner Ulbrich commented that we still have an option to do more education about what the regulations are
 - Commissioner Kelly said he will ask our attorney what can be done. Good feedback on the whole 'where does it (policing) stop' idea
- Float Planes – Mary Skaret
 - Commissioner Kelly got an email from Mary Skaret in the last week, the use of float planes on the lake. Jay Bruber owns the float plane and attended the board meeting. Mary gave Commissioner Kelly permission to share her email with Jay, which he did. Jay has suggested changing his taxi lane when he comes in to land. Commissioner Kelly had investigated with Tommy Thompson last summer and there are no ordinances relating to water float plane use on Balsam Lake.
 - Jay has been flying up to Balsam Lake for about 15 years. Mary is about 4 doors away. With his old plane, he didn't get near her property. With his new plane, he is closer. He apologized to Mary and will approach from a different direction so he does not go near her property.
 - Commissioner Kelly then received another email from another neighbor supporting use of the float plane. Commissioner Kelly has not received another email from Mary but will reach out to her.

- Board was in agreement that no further action is required at this time

8) TREASURER REPORT:

- December & January financials / Schneider
 - Financials / Schneider - Commissioner Schneider presented the December and January Treasurer's report. Commissioner Mariani motioned to approve the December and January Financial Reports, Commissioner Wilhoit seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

9) Water Quality

- East Balsam EBWQ / Wilhoit
 - 2022 Alum treatment
 - The permit is in process, we are ready to begin talking with the bank. Commissioner Kelly suggested we wait until we have the grant approval
 - Notification to shoreline homeowners will be needed. This is a new requirement

10) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - We have received 25% of the grant money for 2022
 - Discussion around staffing for this year
- Purple Loosestrife Yellow Iris eradication / Mork
 - Commissioner Mork confirmed that beetles are lined up to be released per Matt Berg's plan. Will probably be done in the August timeframe. This will address the purple loosestrife issue. Yellow Iris is a different issue, currently pulling the plants is the strategy and Matt pulled everything he found last year
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Kelly
 - Don Coddington will remain in the program for at least one more year. Another gentleman worked a little on it last year
 - Matt Berg will determine whether we should use herbicide this year or not
 - With Rod Preble's passing, we will need someone to manage this program going forward.
 - Commissioner Mork mentioned we should seek out additional resources around the lake that may be able to help out. One name was mentioned as a possibility. Commissioner Kelly asked Commissioner Mork to reach out to this individual.
 - Commissioner Kelly asked that if any of the Commissioners are interested in stepping up into the CLP program role, please reach out to them.

11) OLD BUSINESS:

- Water patrol / Kelly
 - Commissioner Kelly asked Commissioner Schneider to co-lead the program and he has been working on it. Commissioner Kelly asked the board to support this. The board is in support of this change
 - Tommy Thompson came in with a budget proposal for this year. Key points on his request included laptop, cell phone, radio, and uniform in the amount of about \$3700, which the Homeowner's Association has agreed on. He also requested an additional part time person, at a cost of about \$1800. This was also supported by the Homeowner's Association. A DNR grant request can also help with this cost.

- Commissioner Ulbrich noted that the survey noted support for this program as well as a need for increased hours.
- The board is in favor of another part time person.
- Tommy also requested a wage increase for himself from \$35 per hour to \$40 per hour. Again, the Homeowner's Association supports this and will pay for it. This will result in very little change in budget to the BLPRD.
- Tommy does have one possible candidate for the part time position but it is not final
- No Wake Zone Marina / Schneider
 - After a conference call with the District's legal counsel, the next step is to determine the boundaries for the no wake zone should be. Consensus is to go with the larger zone of the two that have been proposed. This would facilitate reducing the gas spillage into the lake
 - This would be a local ordinance so there is no restriction to hold a public meeting between Memorial Day and Labor Day. But the public meeting needs to be held as the next step in the process. Possibly this would be in late April or early May
- Polk County AIS decontamination ordinance / All
- Public use of conservancy land / Kelly
 - The DNR would like to see the land open for public use
 - Currently, stumps Bay is posted no hunting. And the Rice Creek area, near the retention pond, is also in question but is currently not posted.
 - If we wanted these areas to be no hunting, we would need to do research and possibly pass an ordinance.
 - Stumps Bay was purchased with DNR grant money so we may not be able to post this as no hunting
 - Commissioner Kelly will continue to work on this
- District member survey / Ulbrich
 - Commissioner Ulbrich shared the results of the survey. About 900 constituents were sent the survey, it was on our website, and the Homeowner's Association also sent out a blast. 136 respondents which was about 15%. This is a pretty good response.
 - The full survey results were shared and discussed
 - Next steps are to send the survey results to those who asked for it, and then for the board to discuss ideas for new projects as input to any plan revisions

12) NEW BUSINESS

- With Rod Preble's passing, there is a vacant board seat. Commissioner Kelly asked that if anyone has any suggestions for candidates, please let him know. The board will vote on an appointment to fill that position, which expires in 2023
- Shoreline title lien Wenger Property
 - We have a lien on this property due to a Shoreline Buffer Program prior to the Healthy Lakes Program development. The homeowner would like the lien removed if possible. But the homeowner decided to let the lien expire. It has now expired and he would like it removed. However, the DNR has stated that we cannot do that because the lien says 10 year and in perpetuity so it never expires. Discussion followed. No decision has yet been made.

Commissioner Kelly will share all the information with the board and then the board will determine next steps.

13) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - An ordinance will be made that street numbers must be posted and visible from the lake
- County / Mariani
 - CAFO Zoning
 - Commissioner Mariani reviewed the CAFO zoning maps from the last 2 years as compared to the previous map. The new map has a much smaller area of allowed land. There is still one area where this is allowed by East Balsam, that is an area of concern (in East Balsam).

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- None

15) ADJOURN:

Commissioner Ulbrich motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Schneider seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM