



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes June 20, 2020, 8:30 AM

Polk Business Center Meeting Room

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus (recorder)
- Dale Ulbrich (Board Candidate)

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- One comment/question about alum treatment, asking if they can swim and fish
- One comment/complaint that someone couldn't get their boat in the water on East Balsam – after checking, they had enough room to get the boat in

5) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

6) APPROVE MINUTES:

- Review May minutes draft. Dave motioned to approve the May Meeting Minutes, Andy seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Kelly / Schneider
 - May (Year to Date). Tom reviewed the May Year to Date Financials. Bill noted there is a small difference between total revenue (under \$500.00). Bill to

research. Bill motioned to approve the May year to date financials (with discrepancy noted), Rod seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

- Sue Hartman will oversee the financial accounting for the BLPRD moving forward. Bank accounts will be moved and then they will take over with paying bills and providing the monthly financial reports.
- 2021 budget draft
 - Tom reviewed the 2021 budget. Material increases includes ‘Harvesting Operations’, and ‘Other Contract Services’ for accounting services.
 - Tom noted there are 3 credit cards – Rod has one for harvester purchases, Tom has one and the Treasurer has one
 - Bill explained the process for grants and grant payments for the new Commissioner’s benefit

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam Water Quality (EBWQ) / Wilhoit / Kelly / Preble
 - Alum treatment progress – today is the last day for the Alum Treatment. Very pleased about how the project went, the excellent level of communication by HAB and how the process went. Positive feedback from the community overall. We will be getting a summary report from the Project Manager.
- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly
 - One person has expressed interest in taking advantage of this program, and Dave noted that several others in the same neighborhood may also be good candidates for this program
 - We also got an extension on the program dollars

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - Started June 1st this year, fully operational and fully staffed. N19 masks were donated by a generous donor.
 - We will be monitoring the number of hours for the seasonal employees. They need to manage schedules to keep it under 21 weeks if possible.
- Harvesting CLP / Preble
 - CLP – Matt Berg did not report anything yet on the 15 acres that have been treated with herbicide so assuming this was successful
 - Tom asked if the number of acres will go down each year due to success of harvesting – Rod believes that will be true because turions are being removed, preventing new plants from forming
 - There was a delay in getting the permit this year but it is underway now
 - The GPS company is not returning phone calls at this time. Rod has some questions about the system as they are having some challenges with it
 - Could still use more help
 - Need a succession plan, as the current operators are aging. They are okay for now.

- Purple Loosestrife eradication / Mork
 - Article is in the upcoming dockside asking people to check for Purple Loosestrife
 - Bill will be taking a ride around the lake to identify and plan to discuss with the owners for those plants on land
 - Have to cover the bulb before pulling the plants from the roots to prevent seeds from spreading.

10) OLD BUSINESS:

- Bylaw review / Mariani
 - Dave strongly recommends we move to using chapter 33 as our bylaws instead of the current set of by-laws, discussion followed.
 - Bill recommended we table this at this time because we have 2 new members, to allow everyone to fully understand the chapter. It will have to be brought to a member vote at an annual meeting. Tom noted that if we adopt the full chapter 33, we will have to manage our activities accordingly. He also noted this would take significant effort to operate our business accordingly, and that some items are required to be in the by-laws as they have been voted on by the constituents. Tom noted we are subject to follow all statute items in detail if we adopt them as our by-laws.
 - This topic is tabled until September and Tom asked everyone to study Chapter 33 in detail and note any contradictions.
- 2020 annual meeting update
 - Annual meeting is scheduled for July 20th at Unity. Anticipate attendance not to exceed 100 people or less due to COVID 19 restrictions, which should not be an issue because we typically average 70-80 people. We are paying an extra fee for cleaning. Public facilities are opening on June 30th. Under those guidelines, we are proceeding with the in-person meeting.
 - Rod and Bill are up for re-election.
 - Bill noted we need to put up the public postings, and meeting notice will be posted for 2 weeks in the ledger.
- 2020 Summer Dockside
 - Will be mailed by the last week in June. Approximately 850 residents will get a mailing

11) NEW BUSINESS

- Gary has volunteered to take on the Treasurer Position. He worked for Excel in management for 33 years and had some experience with budgeting. Recently, he was Treasurer of a Homeowner's Association. Rod motioned to approve Gary as Treasurer, Andy seconded, all approved, motion carried.
- Dale Ulbrich has been appointed as a new board member. He has worked with the BLPRD in the past in a voluntary position, helping the board with various projects. Dale has been appointed as a fill-in for Liz Vickman's vacated position. He bought property on

Balsam Lake 4 years ago and is now a full-time resident of Balsam Lake. Rod motioned to approve Dale as a new Board Member, Dave seconded, all approved, motion carried.

- Rice Creek Sedimentation Pond Inspection – Dale will look into the state of the Rice Creek Sediment Pond to see whether it needs to be dredged out
- East Balsam Lake Sign – Request Jerry Kabus to look at the sign and provide an estimate to fix (materials and labor)
- East Balsam CLP Harvesting: Discussion around the possibility of improving the East Balsam Landing so the Harvester Conveyor can be placed next to the landing. Andy and Rod to contact Georgetown about getting the area reconfigured. This would make it much easier to do the harvesting on East Balsam.
- Bill also mentioned we should have a no wake zone by Sunnyside. He feels this would have merit in reducing gas spillage because of waves. The Homeowner's Association has historically placed the no wake buoys. Tom stated that if we facilitate the no wake zone, BLPRD may be responsible for all of the no wake zones. Tom suggests Bill contact Tiffany Morten to ask her to put them in that area, and check with Jeff Reid at Sunnyside. See if the Homeowner's Association will take ownership of it. Also need to speak to the police department to let them know, as they do enforcement.
- Gary will contact the village (Kathy) to find out the future plan for goose round-up.
- Dam – we do not have anything in the budget for 2021. Tom noted we have sufficient funds to contribute to a dam project if one were approved by the village and the BLPRD were asked to contribute.

12) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - Goose Egg Oiling is now completed. Tom noted there are a number of goslings around the lake. Rod noted it is now too late to have the round-up this year because the Village Board made the decision not to do it last year. With Caroline off the board, we need to speak to Kathy Poirer to find out why it was not pursued and qualify the future plans regarding the Goose Round-up. Kelly Flaherty is now the village person in charge of parks. One possibility is for the BLPRD to take over the round-up responsibility moving forward. Gary will speak with her and bring it back to the board in September.
 - Dam – we do not have anything in the budget for 2021. Tom noted we have sufficient funds to contribute to a dam project this year but it is not budgeted. Rod noted the village is not spending the full amount they have set aside but will be doing some work to the dam.
- County / Mariani
 - Chris Nelson is now the chairman of the board.
 - The county is still working on the hog factory issue and are basically against it.
 - Tom noted the watershed drains into Balsam Lake and is primarily on the North and West sides of the lake. The concern with hog farms is that it drains into the lake eventually. The same company that owns a huge hog farm in Iowa had spills that

killed several lakes in that area. They are also looking to have a huge farm here in Polk County.

- Boarding houses are still on the agenda for the County to address.

13) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Be at the annual meeting by 7:30 or 7:45 AM

14) ADJOURN:

- Dave motioned to adjourn, Andy seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:55 AM.