



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes May 16, 2020, 8:30 AM

Via Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85963630783?pwd=bDdLUU5vOSs3YXJVNDVYaHd6ZWZEU09>

or

Polk Business Center Meeting Room

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:45 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus (Recorder)

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

5) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

6) VILLAGE OF BALSAM LAKE APPOINTMENT

- New Commissioner Gary Schneider has been on the lake for 33 years, just moved up here full time.

7) APPROVE MINUTES:

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

8) TREASURER REPORT:

- March & April financials / Vickman (Tom)
 - March and April financials are not yet available so not being reviewed this month.
 - Rod motioned to accept February financials, Dave seconded, all approved, motion carried.
- Change administrator on RCU accounts
 - RCU administrator will now be Tom Kelly. When a new treasurer is named, it will be turned over to them.
 - Tom talked to RCU about the Alum treatment loan. They are not well suited to this type of credit. Tom has also been talking with BCPL, the same company we got the Harvester loan from (payments due once a year). He also received a proposal from Hiawatha Bank with a better loan structure for us at 2.5% for up to \$385,000.00 with 2 payments a year (30 days after tax money comes in). Hiawatha also handles bill pay.
 - .84 points on savings through Hiawatha. They allow remote deposit. They are located in Osseo. No fees provided we move our deposits over to them. Tom recommends moving to Hiawatha.
 - Rod mentioned the interest from the BCPL goes to public schools for library books. This is a consideration, but not a show-stopper. Discussion with each Commissioner. The consensus is that Hiawatha is the best route due to the convenience factor. Tom mentioned that he learned about Hiawatha because he golfs with a minority owner of the bank.
 - Tom asked for a consensus to move to Hiawatha. With agreement, he will initiate the move.
- Treasurer update
 - Liz has found it difficult to do the treasurer duties. Tom has contacted Carlson who handles the payroll. It will cost an estimated \$9000.00 per year to outsource the handling of the bills, the books and includes the payroll work they have already been doing. The treasurer would still be an officer position but would then be able to also help with projects. Gary noted we should put into the contract to have the monthly reports by a certain day of the month.
 - Liz will need to turn the financials over to Carlson.
- 2021 budget
 - Budget has been distributed to the Commissioners for input. Tom asks for budget input to be sent to Tom by May 25th. Tom noted for Gary that typically, the budget runs around \$200,000.00 but will be higher now with the alum treatments.

9) Water Quality

- East Balsam EBWQ / Wilhoit / Kelly / Preble
 - The DNR grant approval has been given

- Contractor Bids – only one bid came in (HAB). They asked us to create our own contract. They have us on the schedule for the second week in June with a June 15th start date. Georgetown will allow them to use the East Balsam boat launch.
- They anticipate a 7-day process.
- Tom noted the herbicide spray company also offers alum treatment. When this goes out to bid again, we will have at least 2 entities who will be able to bid.
- Funding / BCPL loan resolution
- Dave Mariani read the alum loan resolution:
 - *The following preamble and resolutions were presented by Commissioner Dave Mariani and were read to the meeting.*
 - *By the provisions of Sec. 24.66 of the Wisconsin Statutes, all municipalities may borrow money for such purposes in the manner prescribed, and,*
 - *By the provisions of Chapter 24 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin is authorized to make loans from the State Trust Funds to municipalities for such purposes. (Municipality as defined by Sec. 24.60(2) of the Wisconsin Statutes means a town, village, city, county, public inland lake protection and rehabilitation district, town sanitary district created under Sec. 60.71 or 60.72, metropolitan sewerage district created under Sec. 200.05 or 200.23, joint sewerage system created under Sec. 281.43(4), school district or technical college district.)*
 - *THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the **Balsam Lake Pro & Rehab District**, in the county of **Polk**, Wisconsin, borrow from the Trust Funds of the State of Wisconsin the sum of **Three Hundred Eighty Five Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$385,000.00)** for the purpose of **financing alum treatment and monitoring of East Balsam Basin** and for no other purpose.*
 - The loan is to be payable within 2 years from the 15th day of March preceding the date the loan is made. The loan will be paid in annual installments with interest rate at **2.50** percent per annum from the date of making the loan to the 15th day of March next and thereafter annually as provided by law.
 - RESOLVED FURTHER, that at the annual or special meeting, the electors and property owners voted by majority to raise and levy upon all taxable property, within the **Balsam Lake Pro & Rehab Dist**, in the county of **Polk**, Wisconsin, a direct annual tax for the purpose of paying interest and principal on the loan as they become due.
 - RESOLVED FURTHER, that no money obtained by the **Balsam Lake Pro & Rehab Dist** by such loan from the state be applied or paid out for any purpose except **financing alum treatment and monitoring of East Balsam Basin** without the consent of the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands.
 - RESOLVED FURTHER, that in case the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin agrees to make the loan, that the chairman and secretary of the **Balsam Lake Pro & Rehab Dist**, In the county of **Polk**, Wisconsin, are authorized

and empowered, in the name of the district to execute and deliver to the commission, certificates of indebtedness, in such form as required by the Commission, for any sum of money that may be loaned to the district pursuant to this resolution. The chairman and secretary of the district will perform all necessary actions to fully carry out the provisions of Chapters 24 and 33 Wisconsin Statutes, and these resolutions.

- RESOLVED FURTHER, that this preamble and these resolutions and the aye and no vote by which they were adopted, be recorded, and that the secretary of the district forward this certified record, along with the application for the loan, to the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands of Wisconsin.
- Commission Dave Mariani moved adoption of the foregoing preamble and resolutions. Commissioner Gary Schneider seconded, 6 in favor, 0 against. Motion carried.

- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly
 - We have approximately 6 projects that we could still fund this year out of the previously approved money. 20-25 projects have been given over the last 2 years.

10) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - In speaking with Terry, it appears as though this Tom asked Bill to have a discussion with Caitlyn at the county to find out what the county guidelines are.
- Harvesting CLP / Preble
 - Rod noted Jerry Kabus may be helping with harvesting this year and will be back to Wisconsin around Memorial Day.
 - Harvester will likely be in around the first of June. The permit is in the works.
 - CLP will need to be sprayed this year because of the growth in 3 beds in East Balsam. Matt Berg reported on the plant growth. Rod asked Matt if we were going to treat, how many acres would be needed? Matt said 15 acres. A total of 15 acres will be sprayed this year (these are acres that it is hard to harvest due to shallow water in those areas). It will cost about \$17,000 of which we will get 75% back through the grant.
 - Rod asked if the spraying is in conflict with the alum treatment. Preference is to spray before the alum treatment but they are not in conflict with each other. Alum treatment is in the deeper water and spraying will be in shallow water.
- Purple Loosestrife eradication
 - We have not been doing much of that but are keeping an eye on it. Tom asked if someone wants to take on an initiative to get some communication going to those places that have purple loosestrife. Tom noted the county released Asian beetles years ago, but it did not eradicate it. Bill asked if we know where it is located. Tom noted it could be located by boat. The plants in the water we can just pull. Those on shore, we need to work with the landowners who have them. Bill said he'd be happy to go locate it and then speak with the homeowners. Tom thanked Bill for

volunteering and also noted we could approach the homeowner's association about putting in an educational article in their newsletter. Rod noted it blooms in late June or July. The process to eradicate is to wrap the flower and then pull the plant.

11) OLD BUSINESS:

- Bylaw review / Mariani
 - We will address this next month. Rod asked everyone to review the state statutes before next month. This also needs to be published on the website and the Docksides. Tom also asked Dave to resend it.

12) NEW BUSINESS

- 2020 annual meeting date
 - At a minimum, we will have a vote for commissioners. Currently the by laws call for physical presence in order to vote. Tom asked if we should continue in July per our normal schedule, or delay. August is the latest we could hold it. Rod noted we should try for July, and find out the status of the school.
 - Agenda and financials, and any resolutions need to be published in accordance with the normal schedule (30 days before the meeting date).
 - We will need to determine whether the school will allow us to meet in July. Tom will contact the school.
 - Tom asked for Docksides articles by May 25th.
- Summer Docksides articles
 - Rod will write articles on harvesting and CLP. Bill will write articles on CBCW. Tom asked Gary to write a small article on oiling goose eggs. Rod also suggested a quick bio for Gary and Tom asked him to write it. Tom also noted a lot of people are asking about the water level.
 - Tom asked Gary to find out if the village will be asking for a monetary contribution this year, so it can be put into the budget if needed. He also asked if Gary can find out information about the water level and how the village as the owner of the dam, maintains the water level (either in this Docksides or in a future one). Bill noted the current order, issued in 2014, is to maintain at the maximum level.

13) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - No updates. Tom noted we are interested in the dam, goose egg oiling and the goose roundup
- County / Mariani
 - No updates. Rod noted that Chris Nelson is now the chair of the county board.

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- None.

15) ADJOURN:

- Bill motioned to adjourn, Rod seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 AM.