



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting November 19th, 2016, 8:30 AM

Polk Business Center Meeting Room

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:36 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Rod Preble, Ray Sloss, Bill Mork, Dave Mariani (telecom)
- Ray Sloss noted that a quorum is present

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Matt Berg (plant specialist), Patty Kabus (recorder)

4) APPROVE AGENDA:

- Tom Kelly added an item to the agenda to review and vote on a resolution to apply for a cost share grant for the purpose of Healthy Lakes from the DNR.

5) APPROVE MINUTES:

- Rod motioned to approve October meeting minutes. Ray seconded, all approved, motion carried.

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

7) TREASURER REPORT AND PAY CLAIMS:

- Account activity
 - No income for the month
 - Expenses – Ray reviewed the expenses by item. \$7769.30 is the total expenses for the month
 - Interest of \$17.48 for the month

- Balance sheet
 - Ray reviewed the balance sheet, including equipment, land, land improvements
- Discussion was held around who will generate the year end reports – Ray will do the 1099 and 1096 reports
- The accountant will do biannual reports in June and December, Ray enters the general entries in Quickbooks and will generate monthly reports all other months.
- Ray discussed actual vs variances
 - Revenue was \$1583 short – that amount was put in the protection fund
 - Grants – \$18,000 over on grants
 - Board expenses – need to get expense reports to Tom for approval before the December meeting
 - There will be 2 meetings in December – DNR meeting and regular meeting
 - The DNR meeting will focus on Harvesting, December 16, 2016 at 1:00 PM – this is a public meeting and needs to be posted on the website and at the 3 posting sites in town – Dave to post meeting on the website at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting. Mark Sundeen from the DNR will be present.
 - Expenses – well under budget
 - There will be additional mileage that will appear this year
 - Scholarships, posting will be in line with the budget
 - Printing will be over budget
 - Rent – expenses are favorable to the budget
 - CBCW was over budget. Discussion around labor costs – we pay more than other lakes, and had more coverage so had higher than expected expenses. Labor needs to be either cut back on or we need to budget more. Bill noted the money is well spent if it prevents invasive species from entering the lake. He feels we should budget for this. Since if we end up with an invasive species, the money spent will be a much higher than the labor.
 - If there is an excess of 20 boats for a tournament, you have to register as a tournament. There are over 60 fishing tournaments a year, we only monitor 4 of them. During tournaments, they launch from different landings. We should have a signoff for every tournament and have people check in and check the boats. Would be beneficial to get a list of all tournaments so coverage can be arranged for them.
 - Ray saw a lot of boats that have been on another lake within 5 days. Several of those lakes have invasive species. Balsam Lake currently has no invasive species. One zebra mussel was found in Deer Lake. If there were news of an invasive species nearby, the program would need to be stepped up to keep them out of Balsam Lake.
 - The other variance – bureau of land commissioners – we are holding off on paying that for now

- Harvester grant – \$29,863 is still pending a grant. That will be the last grant money for the harvester.
- We will also exceed the county by \$500-\$600.
- Grants for 2017 – Ray reported that requests for grant payments are being done now.
 - We current are working on 3 grants. Tom and Ray are working on grant requests for 2017 payments. The grants are for Clean boats, aquatic plant mgmt, harvester. Healthy Lakes is a new grant being worked on. Historically, grant requests are in by November and we are on schedule to get these done.
 - Cheryl Clemens used to be very active in assisting with grant applications. Tom asked her about joining a meeting to bring us up to speed on what grants are available so they can be assessed. He will contact her again and set up a date for her to meet with the board.
 - Lakes conference in mid-April is a good place to gather information on grants and programs. Board wants to try to attend this year (April 5-7 in Steven's Point)
- Claims presented for payment:
 - Signal booster - \$76
 - Web services - \$36
 - Balsam Lake Hardware rental – tarp, bungies, to winterize the harvester \$22.47
 - Premium on surety bond - \$400
 - Accounting services – \$287.50
 - GPS unit - already covered
- Rod Preble motioned to approve payment of bills, Bill Mork seconded, all approved, motion carried

8) LONG TERM PLAN:

9) Water runoff program

- Water Quality
 - East Balsam Study / McGlynn – Ed will present results next month.
 - Sedimentation - Dredging / Preble, sub-committee – no info yet. Dale Ulbrich (a neighbor) offered to help Rod write permit applications. Not set yet for disposal of weeds. Discussion around possible places to pump weeds and to place bags. Need to find out from the DNR what the requirements are for weed disposal. Dan Harrington at DNR needs to weigh in on weed disposal – that will be a separate meeting from next month's meeting. No contact person identified yet from the Circle Bay residents.
 - Dredging project – Rod pulled samples from several locations around the lake. Phosphorous level is high and he thinks iron content is low. Dave noted the DNR will likely ask how we plan to dredge (hydraulic vs mechanical). Ray has a contact (Tom Schroeder) who can help us determine what needs to be done to get approval for dredging. Rod will organize a phone conference to discuss the dredging and would like to know if he needs iron content. Everything needs to be gathered before applying for the permit, and Bill James may be able to help. Dave mentioned we

need to know how we want to do the dredging before applying. Rod mentioned that Cable Pulling seems to be fine for the bays but not for East Balsam (which is a future project). Tom noted that in a previous year, the board voted to focus on the 3 bays and this was approved, and the constituency approved. Rod noted once we get the 3 bays done, we can look at other areas of the lake. The cable equipment is very flexible for 14 feet water depth or less. Per Rod, we have done the pre-application work and the next step is the permit, slated for 1st qtr of 2017. Per Tom, we believe we have opportunities for more in the future but the 3 bays are first. Getting the 3 bays done will help establish a success factor. Ray noted that East Balsam is a completely different project. Dave and Ray noted we should make sure the equipment will work for other bays as well (not including East Balsam) and Rod confirmed the cable would work for that. Rod noted there are at least a dozen other areas that are hard to get in and out of. Harvesting is for navigation, dredging is a water quality issue.

- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly – Harmony environmental will begin writing a grant request in December, due end of Feb and approved by March. Harmony will do the site inspections (some criteria applies) and work begins in July. 30 designated participants have applied. Grant is max of 25,000. Hope to continue the program in the future. The goal is to help with water runoff. Dave suggested publishing directions for making a DIY rain garden to help with runoff also. Some lakes pay for consultations (200 / visit) to have Cheryl go out and consult with lake owners as to how to help stop water runoff. Healthy Lakes covers fish sticks (trees in lake), rain gardens, native plantings, etc. The water runoff tab on the existing website could help with this. Per Ray, we could send a link to the DNR to put on their website. Pam may be able to help with this as well.
- **New agenda item** – vote on a resolution for a cost share grant for the purpose of Healthy Lakes from the DNR. Ray moved, Bill seconded, all approved. Motion carried.
- Aquatic Plant Management
 - CLP treatment / Sloss-Preble - Matt presented a PowerPoint to highlight treatment results over the last 3 years
 - 65 treated last year, 50 acres this year
 - Curly-leaf pondweed went way down, but algae went way up (fed by decomposing curly leaf)
 - In the past East Balsam seemed shallower due to dense weeds but is actually 17-18' deep
 - Most of the weeds left are forked duck weed
 - Problem areas in East Balsam Lake are scheduled for harvesting next year
 - Weed control in East Balsam is working very well
 - Turrians will grow a second crop after weed treatment, so late July would be a good time to harvest the second crop in the North and SE corners of East Balsam where the CLP count was high

- There were 208 to 159 CLP sites from last year to this year, and density is also down significantly
- Time between herbicide treatments could be prolonged after 2 more years when the current contract expires. Harvesting may even allow no herbicide for a period of time
- Matt recommends to not treat the whole basin after the contract runs out. Overtreatment affects the whole lake due to residual treatment as this also hampers native weeds
- Need to treat the curly leaf as early in spring as possible, before the native plants come up
- Matt's goal is to check the lake when the water hits about 53 degrees, Ray measures water temp daily and lets Matt know
- Ray and Matt work together to coordinate the spraying
- The next 2-3 years will show what the harvesting will do
- Matt confirmed pre, post, and turrains monitoring next year. Matt also monitors for invasive species. Purple Loosestrife continues to slowly expand. Beetles have been released to help control them. One owner mows around the purple loosestrife, they need to dig them out. Someone should contact the person on the bay who mows around them and ask them to dig up the plants as it kills an area in terms of water quality
- Matt looks for Eurasian Milfoil monthly. He has never found any. Purple loosestrife has been found and Matt dug them out but they are coming from IdleWild
- Discussion around the emergency response if an invasive species is found. First look to volunteers to dig up plants, then move to paid help. Emergency treatment is first hand clipping, then herbicide treatment. Whole lake treatment is needed if it's not handled as soon as possible. It takes about a month to get a permit to treat with herbicide – the hand digging is a stop-gap.
- Discussed whether harvesting can cause issues for native plants – response is no. Native plants come back very quickly
- Some lillies are being harvested but they come back very quickly
- Lilly roots are used by loons and swans for nesting
- Someone at the annual meeting asked for a third party dredging expert to come in at the annual meeting to explain how dredging would help the lake
- CBCW / Sloss – was already covered in previous discussion
- Harvester / Preble
 - Has been winterized
 - A 40x54 building will be needed. Retail 12000-13,000 for materials, 10,000 for cement. Power line will need to be moved but is above ground.
 - Next step is to take out for bids. Bids will be finalized by spring
- Conservancies

- Stumps Bay 3 acre acquisition – Ray wants to engage in a property evaluation after the first of the year
- Lakeland request for easement on the West side of Hwy 46 – Tom has told them they do not have permission to put the cable in. The land was donated. Lakeland is not offering any consideration for it. It goes through the wetland and they want 8 feet on each side for maintenance. Discussion around keeping the land pure while not limiting services to other people. Bill asked what the impact would be. Tom noted the land is part of the sedimentation system for Rice Creek. Ray noted that the easement contract with Lakeland gives them broad access and rights - the contract could be limited so the land is not negatively impacted.
- **New action item for next month – discussion around the contract with Lakeland easement on 46.**

10) OTHER REPORTS:

11) OLD BUSINESS:

- Harvester Building / Preble – already discussed
- Bylaws additions and wording Change / Mork
 - Wording change around special meeting between Labor Day and Memorial Day needs to be changed. Annual meeting and budget meeting needs to be removed – it should apply to any special meetings, not just limited to the 2 (annual and budget). Needs to just state special meetings rather than just the annual and budget meeting, where a vote will be taken to change the budget or to change a resolution. Bill felt the resolution is restrictive because sometimes you can't wait. Discussion around number of special meetings – there have ever only been 2
 - New wording - Any special meeting of the district shall be held between Memorial Day and Labor Day.
- Audits / Bill Mork
 - **Action Item: Changing the language of chapter 33 is very difficult. People who drafted it were not specific in the wording of 'Audit'. It is cost prohibitive. Needs to be changed. Need a legislator to change it. Rod noted Bill can work with the legislator to get it changed. Per Tom, we are tending to our financials typical of other similar districts. We pay Wisconsin Lakes \$750 per year to represent us. At the annual conference, that is the time to address it broadly, but the concern should be raised now. Adam Jarchow needs to be contracted. Wisconsin Lakes can write it, we need someone in the Legislature to sponsor it. Ray to write a letter with Bill's help.**

12) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Rediske – have approved the lease of the land subject to legal review

- County / Mariani – the county will give us a list of email addresses of residents. The county is trying to acquire email addresses from constituents. Dave will track Nelson down to follow up

13) NEW BUSINESS:

- Obtain a gas pressure washer to wash weeds off harvester while it is still in the water / Preble – purchase for next spring. Ray – need to put this in the budget – set aside excess from this year’s budget for it (700-800) – fire hose type. Need to wash the harvester once a week. **(move to old business for next month)**
- Lakeland easement request over the Rice Creek conservancy **(move to old business for next month)**
- Board recognition dinner – Dave Mariani won’t make it, Ed probably won’t make it. Invite Howard and Bonnie. Discussion to give Howard a thank you gift. Tom will work with the Indianhead to get it set up for Dec 17th. Tom to check if Howard will be in town. Discussed plaque vs briefcase or portfolio. Ask Bonnie for ideas.
- 2nd ½ 2016 expense reports due to Tom by Dec 17. Ray will send out a blank copy.
- Ray presented a commercial lease for 2017 for approval, Tom signed.
- New: Ray got a note that equalization value is approved by the county
- Extension for time to file on exempt organization filed by Rochelle – Bill has found out we have not been filing correctly in the past, so we need time to get it right

14) REVIEW AND CLOSE OLD ACTION ITEMS:

- Get DNR in to discuss aquatic plant management with Board / Preble – scheduled for Dec 16th – leave open
- Check whether the \$19,000 in financials was recorded correctly as it reflects what will be owed next year / Sloss - Closed
- Discussion with Dan Harrington as to whether we can pump onto land / Preble – leave open
- Settling pond sign needed repairs / Sloss – leave open
- Work with Balsam Lake Village to move to one spreadsheet / Rediske – leave open
- Explore email options with county / Mariani – leave open
- Auditing options / Mork/Sloss – leave open
- LeMere Special Exception / Kelly - unanimously denied by county board - Closed
- Commissioner Compensation for services to be hired / Kelly - Closed

15) REVIEW NEW ACTION ITEMS:

- Chapter 33 legislature

16) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

17) ADJOURN:

- Bill motioned, Rod seconded, all approved. Motion carried.