



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes November 20, 2021 8:30 AM

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

1) CALL TO ORDER:

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

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

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

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus (recorder, teleconference)

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Kelly received a call about someone hunting on the Rice Creek Conservancy land

5) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

6) APPROVE MINUTES:

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

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider - Commissioner Schneider presented the September and October Treasurer's report. Commissioner Mork motioned to approve the September and October Financial Reports, Commissioner Mariani seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam EBWQ / Wilhoit

- 2022 Alum treatment
 - o Grant application has been submitted
 - o And mentioned that we should confirm if the lenders are on board with the same program as last time, Commissioner Kelly indicated they have indicated interest but nothing will be finalized until the grant is approved
- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly
 - Commissioner Kelly has reported that this is the end of the formal Healthy Lakes Program. We were not able to request an extension for the unused grant. So there will not be grant money available to us next year. We have budgeted \$5000 for this program and if the board is ok with it, we will continue to offer participation until the \$5000 is gone. This would be very few projects in total. The program has pretty much run its course unless there is something strategic about having it. The board thought this is appropriate, particularly with the 10 year maintenance requirement attached to the program.
 - Commissioner Kelly has asked Cheryl at Harmony Environmental to keep an eye out for additional projects.

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - The DNR report was good, we are on budget for this year.
 - The Dockside Articles will show the numbers. Relative to the lower number of boats in East Balsam and Little Balsam, the numbers seemed low this year.
- Purple Loosestrife eradication / Mork
 - Commissioner Mork reported that this last July when they were blooming, they were not as prevalent as they were before. The one location in Town Bay is almost impossible to get to.
 - Pulling the plants as possible is the best way to manage this plant.
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Kelly
 - Commissioner Kelly mentioned this was wrapped up in September. Commissioner Preble indicated he would like to stay involved, subject to his availability. Don Coddington has verbally committed that he will stay involved for 2022.
 - There is another volunteer to harvest in 2022.

10) OLD BUSINESS:

- Fall Dock Side
 - Commissioner Kelly said thank you to everyone for submitting their articles
 - Commissioner Mariani mentioned the August meeting needs to be removed from the schedule
 - -The only activity taking place in this area is the no wake zone by Paradise. Commissioner has asked our attorney to draft an ordinance related to water patrol and then hold a public meeting. The attorney has indicated we are not restricted to holding a public meeting during summer dates. We will need to publish the public meeting.

- Polk County Decontamination Ordinance / All
 - Commissioner Kelly was advised that the County is going to put in approximately 20 spraying stations where they maintain the boat launches in the County. These will be the 5-gallon jug units
 - Bone Lake is looking at putting in a CD3 system in their North Landing and have a grant request in for this. They are approximately \$30,000 per system and it is a self-use system.
 - The high-pressure hot water system, who had it in place for the entire season. They said very few boats used the system. This was on a launch that was monitored by CBCW.
 - Commissioner Wilhoit asked what ongoing maintenance costs would be. Commissioner Kelly has not heard anything yet. A question came in about whether we really need to monitor Little Balsam and East Balsam. The reality is that the townships own these two landings and would determine whether they remain open.
 - If the 2 launches closed, then the stress put on the 2 remaining launches, and the added traffic and lines up the streets, could become a significant issue.
 - Commissioner Wilhoit asked is this would require water and power. Commissioner Kelly said it would require electricity. Any other systems would not need either water or power. Bone Lake did not believe people would want to put bleach on their boats.
 - Commissioner Schneider asked if there is an opportunity to ask Polk County to manage ours. Commissioner Kelly replied that they will only be doing this at the 20 that the County manages.
 - Commissioner Mork asked if this is a requirement. Commissioner Kelly noted that if there is a station there, then it is required for boaters to use it. But it is not a requirement to use it. Commissioner Mork was then concerned that if we put the units in 2 landings, many people would use the other two, then necessitating us to install at the other sites. Commissioner Kelly agreed, that we probably need to look at putting them in at all 4 or none.
 - Commissioner Mariani asked if we can talk to the DNR about forcing the 2 landings to be closed. Commissioner Kelly said this discussion would need to be had with Dan Harrington and Alex Smith of the DNR. Commissioner Kelly will contact them.
 - If there is an expense to maintain, it should be minimal, but Commissioner Kelly will need to determine this.
 - Violations with people not using them, would need to be monitored and the Sheriff would need to handle violations.
 - Commissioner Kelly will also contact Land and Water to see if they will help at all as well.

11) NEW BUSINESS

- Public use of conservancy land / Kelly

- This has been an annual event around deer hunting season. On the Rice Creek Land, it is currently not posted but Stumps Bay Land is posted. As far as we know, Rice Creek is being hunted but Stumps Bay is not. Commissioner Kelly asked if we want to allow hunting on the Rice Creek Conservancy. Commissioner Mork noted that allowing hunting would prevent nature walkers. Commissioner Mariani asked if there would be field dressing allowed. Commissioner Wilhoit noted the leavings is gone very quickly.
- The big question is that this means 4 wheelers would have to be allowed for disabled persons. Commissioner Kelly noted he has a call into the DNR as to whether there is any feedback from them as to whether hunting should be allowed on conservancy land. He will report back next month.
- Commissioner Kelly noted the simplest way to handle this would be to post it, but also noted that it is public land and we need to be sensitive to this fact. He could not find anything on conservancies that would prevent hunting on these public lands.
- It will be shared with people who ask, that this land is landlocked on the north and south sides.

12) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - Hunter safety class last month drew 20 people. There is controversy regarding locations for fireworks next year, so more people can see them.
 - There were 2 variances approved by the Water Zoning Board:
 - 905 Park Drive (building an addition that is a variance due to very narrow land). Commissioner Kelly requested to request the council to consider the water runoff as they go to get permits
 - Commissioner Kelly also requested that the Zoning Board pass recommendations to the council rather than just approving themselves
 - 113 Indianhead Road requested an addition/remodel with a gutter system for water mitigation. This is in Millpond.
- County / Mariani
 - The County is in very good financial shape.
 - The county is planning to spend a lot of money to improve trails and parks, noting that this is a resort-type area. This has been approved. The trails will be multi-use.
 - Chris Nelson said that some of the town's zoning will be changed so shoreline use has to be approved by the county. Some of the townships wanted to handle their own zoning, and this has been approved. There are 3 or 4 townships who have already gotten set up this way. It does not affect our lake at this point as the townships around Balsam Lake are not involved.

13) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- We are coming into the Winter Season and Commissioner Kelly recommends we convert to Zoom meetings for the winter months.

14) ADJOURN:

- Commissioner Schneider motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Wilhoit seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM