



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes October 17, 2020, 8:30 AM

Polk Business Center Meeting Room

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Tom Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Rod Preble, Gary Schneider, Bill Mork, Dale Ulbrich

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus (recorder)

4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

5) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

6) APPROVE MINUTES:

- September minutes
- Review September minutes. Bill motioned to approve the September Meeting Minutes, Rod seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider & Kelly
- July, August, September
- Gary/Tom reviewed the July, August and September financials. Bill made a motion to approve the September financials with the exception of the Balsam Village tax income which was entered twice and will be corrected, Rod seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam EBWQ / Wilhoit
 - Alum treatment progress. Andy received information from Bill James on the monitoring. Highlights in terms of monitoring are:
 - Overall, 2020 saw a 50% improvement in all categories, phosphorous, chlorophyll and water clarity. Monitoring report will be available in November.
- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly
 - There is still money available, no projects for the remainder of this year

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - 2021 DNR Grant application approval
 - Bill noted total numbers by launch location
 - We are a little under budget this year on CBCW. This is partly because CBCW start was delayed this year because of the Coronavirus.
 - Still no invasive species have been found in the lake
 - Rod made a motion to approve application for the 2021 CBCW grant, Bill seconded, all approved. Motion carried.
 - Bill will make sure the application is submitted by the October 31 deadline
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Preble
 - We are slightly below the budget for the year, with great results
 - 21-23 days in the water this year
 - 355.5 hours this year
 - 8161 pounds per harvester load – this is what we use to track how many pounds we take out of the lake.
- Purple Loosestrife eradication / Mork
 - Bill described the process for beetles that can eradicate purple loosestrife, and concluded that the process won't work in deep water but will work well on shore. This is a temporary fix. Another plausible treatment is chemicals – there are 2 different chemicals that will work well. Bill is contacting Alex Smith at the DNR to find out about permitting. It will take more than one treatment and we need to get on it right away. One possibility is to use an airboat (which the county has) to distribute the chemical treatment in the bog area, which you can't get to any other way.
 - Tom noted our ALS grant also covers loosestrife treatment

10) OLD BUSINESS:

- Bylaw review / Mariani
 - Tabled until next month
- No Wake Zone Marina / Schneider
 - Jeff at Sunnyside spoke to the Homeowners Association and they suggested talking to the Village about adding a no wake zone by the marina

- Next step is that we need to go back to the village and coordinate this with Tiffany from the Homeowner's Association. Tom will give Laurie a heads up that we will need approval from the Village of Balsam Lake Public Protection Committee.
- Water patrol / Kelly
 - Gary and Tom attended the police commission meeting last week along with Tiffany Morton. The outcome was that both the police department and the village said they don't have the resources to run the boat patrol. They spent 36 hours on the lake this year, for a cost incurred of about \$1,500.00. In 2018, approximately 180 hours for approximately \$8,000.
 - If we want a boat patrol, which we do as it is a safety issue, the District has the authority to do that. Tom will investigate further the legalities of doing so. Apparently, we have to apply with the state of Wisconsin for the legal entity. Chapter 33 suggests we need approval from each municipality that contains a no wake zone.
 - Tommy Thompson may be a resource for us and may be available to manage the program. Tiffany Morton has already spoken to him and he is amenable to it.
 - Next steps:
 - Approve a motion
 - Look into legal aspects of it
 - Hire an independent contractor – see if Tommy Thompson wants to run it.
 - The Homeowner's Association may be able to contribute money for costs but the district would be responsible for the program.
 - Can apply for grant money, which would allow replacement of the boat every 3 years. Minimum number of citations and 80 hour minimum number of hours to qualify for the grant.
 - Tommy is already licensed to teach boat safety
 - Rod noted that first step is to issue educational information and second step may be to require a boat safety course. Tommy would need to assess this
 - Bill asked if we have an issue with the budget. Tom noted that if budget is below \$10,000, the board can do that. Anything over \$10,000 goes to electorate vote. Insurance needs to be included in this number but it may already be covered in our regular insurance.
 - Rod will take the lead for the program and will contact Tommy, and we will discuss at the next meeting.
- Rice Creek sedimentation Pond / Ulbrich
 - Dale looked through the office for information and found information about the last time the pond was worked on. He feels it is about 1/3 full, and will likely last another 20 years before it needs to be dredged.
- Fall Dockside / Kelly
 - Tom reminded people to get articles in
 - Discussion about sending copies to the library

- Tom also noted using the CBCW monitors to provide educational information about the meaning of buoys and markers – maybe this could be added to the Dockside?

11) NEW BUSINESS

- Watershed project / Ulbrich
 - Dale tried to contact the county to see what they can help us with, and they never got back to Dale. He did do some research into what the county can do, and they will not be dredging. He also looked into Raskin Bay, being a sensitive area. Some dredging can be done, it is possible to do a specific areas of the bay.
- Further discussion on Healthy Lakes planting results in light of watershed protection.
- Tom described a Watershed Initiative program where 70% of the cost comes from the DNR grants, and 30% comes from property owners and/or participating partners. At this point, the County is just looking for interest to be expressed. The request has to be in by November 1st. Dale mentioned that if we have ideas that could impact our watershed, this would be a good idea to participate in, and some of the projects we recently undertook may have qualified for this grant. Putting our name in does not commit us to anything. The board agrees that we should participate in this.
- Dale mentioned that he found 4 water quality studies that have been done in the past. Dale feels it might make sense for us to look at the most recent studies to identify things we could do short-term.

12) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - Dam fund – Village of Balsam Lake are asking for \$2800 for dam maintenance.
 - Rod requested to be notified for building permits – clarification that we only want to be notified of building permits on the lake only. One person just put in a large cement pad that likely exceeded the 70% green space. After discussion, the Village would want to be notify us of all permits and we will determine how they impact the water quality.
 - Rod noted the state is handling larger projects.
- County / Mariani
 - No update

13) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- None

14) ADJOURN:

- Rod motioned to adjourn, Gary seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:27 AM