



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes September 18, 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, Dale Ulbrich (teleconference), Dave Mariani

**3) OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Chris Nelson, County Board Chair
- Patty Kabus, Recorder

**4) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Move discussion with Chris Nelson to front of meeting to discuss funding options for Balsam Lake
  - There may be some ARPO funds available to benefit Balsam Lake
    - The County will receive about \$8.6 million this year and next year, there are guidelines on how you can use it. The county has been reviewing projects. There is a resolution coming to the board on Tuesday night that the projects will need to be county-centered projects, that benefit the whole county. They will put projects into buckets and then whittle down. Some want to spend it on pet projects, but the board would like to spend it on a large, game-changer project. One bucket could be something like water quality, but how it ends up looking is in question. Projects have to be identified by 2024 and completed by 2026. Currently, the biggest idea is in the area of a trail network plan, which could include watersports. The county is also working on looking at the future of the

county. Funding for specific lake Alum treatment is probably not on the table, but lake infrastructure such as landing improvements could be a possibility.

- A re-zoning request for Caulderwood was denied. This could potentially have been a population density issue.
- Next week, an environmental services group will start working together to look at lake issues. All shoreline districts are under county authority unless they are in a municipality. They can look at identifying goals to prevent overuse of lakes. They are looking at having corporate counsel create a statement of facts (for and against) for specific projects. One of the goals will be to try to get villages to buy into the county zoning rules. Commissioner Kelly suggested the county could provide services to townships and villages to provide these educated services to help them make better informed decisions.
- AIS Aquatic Species has amended authority to issue tickets if a boat decontamination station is created and people don't wash their boats at the station. Commissioner Schneider asked if decontamination stations could be included in the county ARPO funds. Chris Nelson said this is a possibility, and said most lakes are talking about decontamination stations.
- Commissioner Kelly received a public comment on wake boats and the shoreline erosion and equipment damage. This is getting a lot of press, and some lakes are limiting the hours wake boats can be used, etc. Commissioner Kelly shared this because this is a topic that is up and coming
- The other public comment is on algae in East Balsam. There is a property owner on the south side, that the alum treatment has had no effect on the south side algae. Bill James has been asked to look into this when he does his next set of testing. Another resident along that same stretch, said this is not at all true. The water clarity has gotten worse over the summer, but is still much better than it has been in recent years. More information will be brought to the board from Bill James in upcoming meetings.

**5) APPROVE AGENDA:**

- Commissioner Kelly added long range plan for Commissioner Ulbrich under old business
- Commissioner Mork motioned to approve the agenda with this modification, Commissioner Schneider seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

**6) APPROVE MINUTES:**

- June minutes and July draft.
- Review June Minutes. Commissioner Mariani motioned to approve the June Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Mork seconded, all approved. Motion carried.
- Review July (annual Meeting) minutes draft. Commissioner Kelly noted the draft has been posted on the website and to let him know if any additional changes are needed

**7) TREASURER REPORT:**

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

- Commissioner Mariani asked how we are doing on the water patrol plan. Commissioner Kelly said we are on target with citations to qualify for the grant.

#### **8) Water Quality**

- East Balsam EBWQ / Wilhoit
  - Alum Treatment – Cheryl Clemmons of Harmony Environmental, is on target to submit the Alum draft in November
  - Bill James said we should stay the course in regards to the alum treatment and noted this was only the first treatment
- Healthy Lakes Native Plantings / Kelly
  - Cheryl Clemmons has 4 leads and one project competed recently, and continues to work on it as she gets leads

#### **9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species**

- CBCW / Mork
  - They are on target to come in under budget. All the backups this year fell through because people can make more money elsewhere
  - Decontamination options go from large, permanent structures, to small portable stations. Commissioner Mork feels the landing monitor should be doing the spraying.
  - More questions need to be answered about boats with internal ballasts, etc.
  - Discussion about needing to charge for boat launch to help offset some of these costs. Commissioner Kelly noted the village is in charge of this and collects the money and maintains the launch site with any funds raised. Commissioner Mork asked, if we have decontamination stations at the launches, if the money would be used to maintain it as well as the boat launch.
  - Discussion about policing of the decontamination station and how it could be funded by launch fees.
  - Public comment: Possibility to charge for decontamination station and use that to fund the station? Commissioner Kelly noted we should have the company who provides these stations, come to a future meeting or provide additional information on how other lakes are handling this. Cheryl Clemmons also has insights on this topic.
    - See the aquatic species transportation ordinance for information on decontamination sites. If you have facilities at a landing and a person does not use it and puts their boat in the water, the person can get a ticket through the mail. Commissioner Kelly is not yet sure of the details. Add To New Business for a future meeting
  - For 2022, with the current year budget, there is room to increase the hourly rate. Commissioner Kelly asked Commissioner Mork to bring a proposal to the board for pay increases.
- Purple Loosestrife eradication / Mork

- Commissioner Mork was not able to find any purple loosestrife this year, or else it didn't bloom or only bloomed for a very short time.
- Commissioner Kelly noted Matt Berg eradicates any that he finds as he sees it during his lake inspections (he is doing more this year), if he is able to get in it with his boat. Commissioner Mork will reach out to Matt Berg about this to develop a plan to identify when he can't get to them.
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Kelly
  - Done for the season, the harvester will be pulled next week and put into storage
  - Commissioner Schneider has picked up the ball on payroll and Commissioner Kelly is coordinating with the lead (Don Coddington) to put a succession plan in place for this project
  - We are looking for a new lead and a commissioner to help deal with Matt Berg for mapping of the CLP beds, filing for the permit to harvest the beds, and work with the lead to coordinate the harvesting plan with the team
  - They would also work with Matt on navigation planning
  - Commissioner Kelly asked the commissioners to think about it to figure out who can do this moving forward if Commissioner Preble is unable to do so

#### 10) OLD BUSINESS:

- Water patrol / Kelly
  - The program is operating well
- No Wake Zone Marina / Schneider
  - Commissioner Schneider said we need to decide what we want before it can go into public comments
  - The board votes on where we want the no wake zone to go, once we agree on boundaries. After the board approves it, we need to develop the ordinance language and then hold a public meeting to present it. Then there is a 30-day waiting period before it can go into effect. We need to get clarification as to when this can be held. The purpose of a no wake zone, is to prevent gas spillage due to waves. Having the no wake zone go all the way to the point, does not support this goal. Everyone is in favor of having a no wake zone immediately in front of the marina property, and maybe a little on each side.
  - Commissioner Kelly will work on investigating development of the language, and Commissioner Schneider will help with mapping.
- Grant applications for 2022 CBCW and Alum treatment. Unanimous agreement to submit 2022 DNR grant applications for CBCW and Alum treatment. Documentation of said facilitated by email.

#### 11) NEW BUSINESS

- Preble absence / Kelly
  - The board should not take any action at this time, until we know more. Commissioner Kelly will continue to monitor things
- Polk County Decontamination Ordinance / All

- Already discussed
- 1<sup>st</sup> half 2021 commissioner expenses are due
  - Most have been received already
  - Mileage allowance is now .56, down from .575. We did not have meetings in January or August

**12) OTHER REPORTS:**

- Village / Schneider
  - Paradise deal got turned down, and no future variances will be allowed
    - A lot of public comments came in on this
  - A pole building was approved for 900 park drive
- County / Mariani
  - Already discussed
- Long Range Plan / Ulbrich
  - Commissioner Ulbrich sent out a copy of the plan, and suggests we survey constituents to see if they are happy with the projects, do they have concerns, and what other projects do they see a need for, and comments and suggestions
  - Commissioner Ulbrich asked if we should also get feedback on some of the projects we are looking at doing or gathering information on (decontamination station, fees for use, no wake zones, wake boats, etc)
  - The survey could be in the next Dockside (November) as well as available for electronic use for those who want to use it
  - Commissioner Ulbrich asked commissioners to review the survey and forward any suggestions to him within the next week or so
  - Commissioner Ulbrich noted survey monkey is \$25 a month for as long as we want to hold it open
  - Next dockside will be November, with articles due the end of October
- Commissioner Ulbrich noted that he wrote an article about monitoring stations to monitor for zebra mussels

**13) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- AIS transportation ordinance

**14) ADJOURN:**

- Commissioner Mariani motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Mork seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM