



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes December 17, 2022 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, Jack Weix, Dave Mariani (teleconference), Dale Ulbrich, Bill Mork (teleconference)

**3) OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Patty Kabus (recorder)
- Brent White (interested in the wake boat discussion – Balsam Lake Surf Club)

**4) APPROVE AGENDA:**

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

**5) APPROVE MINUTES: November 2022**

- Review minutes. Commissioner Ulbrich motioned to approve the November Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Weix seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

**6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- **Paul Home** – Rice Lake Alum Treatment
  - We received an email asking for permission to bow hunt on the Rice Creek Sediment Area as well as Rice Lake. Discussion followed and it was decided that this is not feasible at this time, partly because of the impact on other lakes that we do not manage.

**7) TREASURER REPORT:**

- Financials / Schneider
  - Financials / Schneider - Commissioner Schneider reported that we did not get the November Treasurer's report so will need to present the November Treasurer's report next month but are on target for our budget this month. Commissioner Ulbrich motioned to approve the abbreviated November Financial Reports, Commissioner Mariani seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

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

- East Balsam / Wilhoit
  - A study is being done on the Cedar Lake algae bloom this past year. It is likely due to high iron content in that lake. But so far so good on the phosphorous levels in our lake.
  - We have submitted (early) the grant application for the 2024 Alum treatment.

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

- CBCW / Mork
  - The numbers came in a little over budget this year. With the cleaning stations, we may need to look at staffing for next year.
- Purple loosestrife yellow Iris eradication / Mork
  - We are set to release beetles in the spring. We thought it would be done last year. Commissioner Mork will be in frequent communication with them to make sure it gets done next year.
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
  - No update until spring

#### **10) Water Patrol / Schneider**

- New Water Patrol Boat Update
  - We have been working with the Homeowner's Association, who will provide up to \$20,000 towards a boat. Sunnyside Marina has provided a bid for \$43,000 for a boat that meets the preferred specifications, including a trailer. Currently our boat is stored inside on a rack We have asked him for a bid for trade-in on our boat. Since up to 75% can be covered by a grant, this seems to be a good option. It is also possible that we may want to keep the current boat so we have a second boat for those weekends where we want to have 2 boats on the water and have a second in case one breaks down.
  - Once we get a trade in value, we can determine next steps.
  - We are looking to hire a second patrol officer, and he has someone new we could hire. We did budget more hours for next year.
  - We did not budget money for training, and our 2023 budget is low because of training for 2 officers. In the past, training expense was covered by other police departments that Tom worked for.
  - Tommy Thompson also asked for a pay increase. We may just want to model after the village increases. Commissioner Kelly asked Commissioner Schneider to come up with a recommendation and we will consider it. He shared what we did for the

Harvester employees. Commissioner Schneider suggested we go with the same increase the village has given to officers, and tie it to the village increases going forward.

- Commissioner Mork mentioned that we need to tie increases to performance when the officer issues so few tickets on the lake.
- Commissioner Schneider said he did have a conversation with Tommy about the need for more enforcement and tickets so the enforcement has increased effectiveness.

## **11) OLD BUSINESS**

- Watercraft CLEANING STATIONS CD3 / Ulbrich
  - Commissioner Ulbrich got a communication from the DNR that they will not allow the cleaning station at Sunnyside, then they came back and corrected it and said this was acceptable. We will hear on February 15<sup>th</sup> if we are approved.
  - We will then contact the attorney to draft agreements with the villages
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
  - The county approached us to see if we are interested in joining a group to determine what can we do to manage Zebra Mussels. The first meeting is Monday December 19<sup>th</sup>, with a bunch of lakes. Commissioner Ulbrich will send out the Microsoft Meeting link in case anyone else wants to join. The meeting will run from 9-11 am.
- Nanno Bubbles technology / Ulbrich
  - Commissioner Ulbrich sent out a communication with reasons to consider nano bubble technology, including the source of the issues we have in some of the bays. These are some of the same bays we considered dredging a few years ago.
  - Homeowners can use this technology around their docks and do not require a permit. This technology ‘eats’ the microbes to remove the sediment. Only about 10% of the sludge remains after treatment. How long the treatment lasts would depend on the nutrients in the sediment, but it can last a long time.
  - We could consider a trial of one area to see how it works. It does require a 110 electric connection.
- Large wave boats - shoreline erosion – safety – survey - ordinance / Schneider
  - We did a survey of the entire lake in 2021 to identify areas of concern. We had a good response of about 15% this year. The 2 main areas of concern were wave boats and how it relates to safety and shoreline erosion, and navigation.
  - The Dockside that will coming out in the next 10 days or so has an article recapping the survey and some studies that have been done on the impacts of wave boats.
  - One effort involves education of residents and the general public.
  - We also included information in the Dockside, information about the Wisconsin regulations, and it also includes a map of the lake showing where no wake areas are located based on distance from shore.

- We are in process of determining next steps, whether to just enforce the state regulations and/or whether to implement a stricter local ordinance.
- The Board hopes to make a recommendation by spring as to next steps and if a local ordinance seems desirable, we would have a public meeting in the June timeframe.
- Brent shared that he runs a Facebook page called Balsam Lake Surf Club. He also referred us to a website called wakeresponsibly.com, which has some really good information for wake surfing responsibly.
- Brent shared that the idea is to help wake boat owners be more responsible.
- BL snowmobile club use of BLPRD building for servicing snow graders / Kelly
  - Commissioner Kelly will provide updates at a future meeting.

#### **12) NEW BUSINESS**

- Water Patrol 2023 budget / Schneider
  - Already covered under item 10 above.

#### **13) OTHER REPORTS:**

- Village / Schneider
  - There was some discussion about tax increases around the lake. Taxes will not increase significantly for the village.
- County / Mariani
  - Ryan suggested that Commissioner Mariani deal with the Environmental Services Group moving forward, so he has more information for the Commissioners moving forward. New Contacts will be Colton Sorenson, Kaitlyn Anderson and Bob Kazmierski.

#### **14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- The next few meetings will likely be via Zoom or Microsoft Teams due to travel schedules.

#### **15) ADJOURN:**

- Commissioner Ulbrich motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Kelly seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:12 AM