



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes May 20, 2023 8:30 AM

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:32 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Gary Schneider, Jack Weix, Dave Mariani, Bill Mork

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus, recorder
- Noah Gausman, water patrol
- Mark Pausch
- Grady Levine
- Chief Tommy Thompson, water patrol

4) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

5) APPROVE MINUTES: April 2023

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Chris Nelson – Polk County passed an ordinance on lake rentals, to bring clarity on the number of people you can have per bedroom. The ordinance is being challenged by the Wisconsin Realtor's Association. There currently is no one stepping forward to speak up on behalf of the ordinance. The BLPRD had written a letter of support for the ordinance

when the ordinance was originally passed, based on our concern for water quality. Discussion about whether we want to support this effort. Our support would be limited to the impact on water quality. We could reinforce our original statement that we are concerned about water quality and are concerned about the ability of the septic systems to handle the volume.

- Email from Tyler Conley, who wants to preserve the ability to wakeboard on Little Balsam.

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider
 - Commissioner Schneider Presented the April Financials
 - Commissioner Mork motioned to approve the financials, Commissioner Kelly seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam / Kelly
 - We were successful in getting the grant for our 2024 alum treatment. We should have alum reports from Bill James at the University of Wisconsin by April. This project is proving to be very successful so far.

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - People have been cooperating with the cleaning stations for the most part. CBCW is staffed a little light in East Balsam but otherwise are ready for the CBCW program. CBCW staff will be helping inform people about how to use the cleaning stations.
 - We have informed the DNR to notify individuals submitting fishing permits, to let them know about the cleaning stations.
 - There are some outstanding questions about what to do if there is a problem with one of the cleaning stations. Any issues will be referred to Commissioner Ulbrich.
- Purple loosestrife yellow Iris eradication / Mork
 - We are set to have beetles released this year to control purple loosestrife.
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
 - The survey was very successful with the lowest level to date. East Balsam has very little CLP. No need to treat chemically this year. Cheryl at Harmony Environmental is looking into extending the grant for another year.
 - The crew is somewhat set for the year. We are trying to reach one more person. Don Coddington, who currently heads the harvesting program, would like to pass the responsibility on to another person. Commissioner Kelly suggested looking into hiring some farmers to see if they would be interested.
 - The GPS tracking machine is broken. Commissioner Weix will be working to get a quote to get it fixed.
 - Payroll – we will continue to use spreadsheets to report payroll due to the cost of automation.

10) Water Patrol / Schneider

- Large waive watercraft / Schneider
 - QR codes at the landing sites will allow boaters to submit complaints and to report invasive species. Submitted complaints will be sent to Tommy Thompson.
 - There is also an option to text Tommy Thompson if they have a complaint.
 - Discussion followed. If someone turns in a complaint, the Water Patrol will speak to the person. One the site, people will be notified that if a complaint goes to court, the person who submitted the complaint would need to go to court to testify against the person. The intent of the endeavor is to allow lake users to positively influence safety on the lake.
 - The District Attorney has agreed to handle our citations for now. If it gets to be a lot, they may back down on this agreement.
 - We continue to try to enforce the laws currently in effect rather than enacting new ordinances. We will revisit this after this year, and then determine whether additional steps are needed.
 - For every 15 hours, there needs to be one citation or two warnings in order to be grant eligible.
 - Discussion about the level of hours and enforcement to be pursued for boat patrols.
 - Boating at or after sundown is a particular issue in East Balsam that needs to be addressed.

11) OLD BUSINESS

- Watercraft CLEANING STATIONS CD3 / Ulbrich
 - They are in pace and we are getting reports on usage (which has been strong)
 - Terry would like to relocate the 46 cleaning station, but this needs to be coordinated with the Village of Balsam Lake
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
 - This is year 2 of Balsam Lake having zebra mussels. This year will focus on establishment of the mussels in the lake
- Petition to join District – Kelly
 - Hopefully, this is close to completion
- Recorder/Admin position – All
 - Patty will stay for at least another year, but we still need to have succession planning in place
 - In related discussion, we also need to find another Commissioner to replace Andy Wilhoit’s position so we have a vacancy on the board. Andy has resigned via his wife. We will contact Milltown to see if they would like to appoint someone to the board.
- Website enhancement – Weix
 - The new look to the website is almost ready to go.
- 2024 budget – Schneider

- The budget worksheets have been sent out and need to be returned as soon as possible. It will be finalized in the next week or two and sent back out to the board and the public notification.
- Dockside Articles due 5/18 – Kelly
 - Articles will be needed very quickly for the spring issue
 - Collaboration with the surf club will be mentioned in the new dockside as well

12) NEW BUSINESS

- Stumps Bay Conservancy – Power Line Easement – Kelly
 - We received a letter requesting an updated easement for the Stumps Bay conservancy from the Polk Electric, to move the power lines underground.
 - Commissioner Mork motioned to allow the easement chance, Commissioner Schneider seconded, all approved, motion carried on May 20, 2023.
- Municipal Appointee to board – Kelly
 - Commissioner Kelly will be contacting the city of Milltown to determine whether they want to appoint a representative to the board.
- Lake/ District Manager
 - Discussion about whether we want to hire a full time or close to full time person to manage the lake district on a day-to-day basis. There is now a lot more to do, and having someone able to work on grants, research, oversight, etc, is likely needed at this point.
 - Cameras – we now have cleaning systems. Commissioner Mork asked if we should consider adding cameras to the landings. Commissioner Kelly noted that there are now cameras on 5 other lakes in the area. These may be used to facilitate the cleaning station use to assist the CBCW staff. Commissioner Kelly asked Commissioner Mork to pursue getting information. Commissioner Schneider noted the cleaning station has cameras as an option.

13) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - Discussion about the condition of the boat landings is on the agenda for the Village of Balsam Lake board.
- County / Mariani
 - No update

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Milltown tax assessments

15) ADJOURN:

- Commissioner Mork motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Schneider seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:28 AM