



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes October 21, 2023 8:30 AM

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

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1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Gary Schneider, Dale Ulbrich, Terry Palmberg, Dave Mariani, Bill Mork

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus, recorder

4) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

5) APPROVE MINUTES: September 2023

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Zebra Mussels Sighting - various

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider - Commissioner Schneider Presented the September Financials

- Commissioner Mork motioned to approve the September financials (recognizing there will be one correction in cleaning station expense which will be fixed in 2024), Commissioner Mariani seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam Alum /2024 and 2026 Kelly
 - In December, Commissioner Kelly will present the 2024 Alum costs. Receiving bids now. This was approved in the 2022 annual meeting
 - Main, Boston Bay and Little Balsam water quality testing has been completed for the year, and Commissioner Kelly will be meeting with Kaitlyn Anderson from the county and will present results in the November meeting
 - Commissioner Palmberg agreed to assist with the water quality and alum treatment programs

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - We are relatively close to budget this year. Commissioner Mork asked if we want to make changes. Commissioner Ulbrich noted that the monitors play an important role with visitors coming onto the lake. No changes to program anticipated for 2024
- Purple loosestrife yellow Iris eradication / Mork
 - The beetles were released in Town Bay and East Balsam. The next step is to see about 2024 and to verify the effect they are having
 - Commissioner Kelly noted there is more purple loosestrife in the entire county
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
- The Harvester and equipment have been placed in storage, and the second motor has been replaced and it is now ready for next year
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
 - We are just monitoring the situation at this point. We really can't do anything about the zebra mussels in the lake and it will run its course
 - Commissioner Ulbrich will send pictures to Katelin Anderson
- Watercraft CLEANING STATIONS CD3 / Ulbrich
 - The cleaning station has been put into storage. The batteries still need to be taken out and Olson will clean out the water holding barrels. There was one issue with one of the vacuums and a new part has been ordered
 - The stations that need to be covered still needs to be put on
 - Commissioner Kelly noted that Terry Morton attended a lakes and rivers meeting, and noted that no lakes had turned in people not using the stations to the county

10) Water Patrol / Schneider

- Commissioner Schneider shared that we are closing for the year. We had over 300 hours which was a significant increase over last year. There is an issue being worked through with Noah, who is appealing a decision to disqualify him due to a new rule requiring additional training. We are contacting the representatives and will have more information after the November meeting

11) OLD BUSINESS

- Recorder/Admin position – All
 - No update
- Lake/ District Manager – All
 - Commissioners Kelly, Palmberg and Mariani are working with the homeowner's association to advertise the position, and are also working with other lake districts to try to find someone
 - We did get an inquiry last week from someone wanting to find out more information
 - A resident asked how the position was being funded, so word is getting out
 - Commissioner Palmberg noted that we should also notify the county that we are looking for someone, so they can help get the word out
- Website enhancement – Weix
 - This is an ongoing project
- Rice Creek Conservancy - Land Allowed Public Use / Kelly
 - Commissioner Kelly spoke to the attorney and was informed that the state of Wisconsin allows someone injured can sue the owner but they are very unlikely to win. So the liability concern is small other than the expense of defending ourselves
 - There have been some hunters using the land
 - The snowmobile club uses a small portion of the Rice Creek land
 - The trail system also goes through the land
 - Commissioner Kelly asked what people want to do.
 - Commissioner Schneider felt we should allow hunting. Commissioner Palmberg would rather not see it open for hunting. Commissioner Mariani and Commissioner Ulbrich agreed.
 - Commissioner Kelly will query Commissioners Mork (who had to sign off) and Commissioner Weix to see what they think we should do
 - Next month we can discuss further and put it to a vote
- Process and Procedure Documentation / Kelly
 - Please update your portions by next month
- Water Patrol Boat Purchase / Schneider
 - No update at this time
- Construction Project Little Balsam Hillside cave in / Palmberg
 - Erosion is worse and it does not look like it has been mitigated at this point
 - We have asked several questions that have not been answered yet
 - Commissioner Palmberg will be bringing this up at the Milltown meeting next week
 - Commissioner Palmberg will also try to contact the county environmental committee to find out if they are aware of the issue
- Nanno Technology – sediment remediation / Ulbrich
 - Commissioner Ulbrich has contacted 2 lakes that are using this technology.

- At Arrowhead Lake in Stevens Point, the results have been pretty amazing
- Commissioner Ulbrich will go to see Lake Arrowhead in November
- The Minnesota lake has also seen very good results
- One old quarry that is now a lake, had been loaded with manure, and after using the system, it is now very clear and the fish that had all died are now going to be restocked
- The state was not aware of nano technology and Commissioner Ulbrich will be sharing information with them
- There is a third lake in California that is just now installing their system. Commissioner Ulbrich will be talking with them later this year to see their results. They are a similar lake as Balsam Lake
- Commissioner Kelly asked where the phosphorous would go that is in the sediment. Commissioner Ulbrich stated that the bacteria uses up the oxygen and then most of the bacteria then dies. There is just not enough movement in the bays to turn over the water. This process would mitigate that.
- The system has a small hum but you can have a conversation right next to it. It's very quiet
- The 'before' analysis is done by satellite, and then an 'after' analysis. Lake Arrowhead is waiting for their 'after' analysis results
- You can also use a buoy to track various elements. The one put into Lake Arrowhead has shown improvement in every category
- Alex Smith was pretty interested in the science behind nano technology
- We don't have to get any sort of license or permit for this, so we can move forward without having to apply for permits at this time.
- There is no muck removal or anything like there would be if we were to dredge or something
- Commissioner Kelly noted that Sheryl Clemens asked if we were looking into nano bubble technology, and he told her we were working on it at this time
- Commissioner Mariani expressed this sounds like a good program
- Commissioner Palmberg thinks this sounds promising and likes the fact that it can be moved around. Commissioner Schneider agreed
- It takes 60 years for the muck to build up, and to be able to mitigate it in one season is pretty amazing. It can be moved around to different bays as needed
- We can go see the results at Stevens Point. They worked with an engineering firm to help them work through. It was noted that we could see if the engineering firm to see if they can help us. Commissioner Kelly also noted that UW-Stevens Point has a good environmental sciences program so may be able to help us

12) NEW BUSINESS

- Winter Dockside
 - Commissioner Kelly asked for articles in by the November meeting

- We need to change the mailings from third class to first class so they will forward mail to snowbirds, to get better coverage
- Commissioner Palmberg will provide an article for the Lake Manager
- Commissioner Palmberg asked if someone is going to provide an article on wake boats. Commissioner Schneider noted he will include something on it in the Water Patrol article

13) OTHER REPORTS:

- Milltown / Palmberg
 - The last meeting was delayed and is coming up on Monday
- County / Mariani
 - We have a new county administrator, Moe Nordby
 - Commissioner Kelly noted that Moe was the primary contact, helping with servicing the truck and the harvester
 - Bob Kasmersky is moving to a new position and will no longer be involved with lakes anymore. Derrick Wogchik is replacing Bob
 - Clam Lake dam has been drained and the DNR will be providing them a new dam. The lake will be dry for over a year. Commissioner Kelly noted that in the long term, this will be good for the lake
 - There is a quarry that has been approved near Trollhaugen Ski Area. There may be up to 100 trucks a day going through and neighbors are not happy with it
 - The county budget has been passed and they have lowered our levy
 - The country is also looking for a zoning administrator

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- None

15) ADJOURN:

- Commissioner Mariani motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Schneider seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:06