



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting Minutes November 18, 2023 8:30 AM

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7101007484?omn=82130398070>

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

- Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM

**2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

- Tom Kelly, Gary Schneider, Dale Ulbrich, Terry Palmberg, Dave Mariani, Jack Weix

**3) OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Patty Kabus, recorder

**4) APPROVE AGENDA:**

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

**5) APPROVE MINUTES: October 2023**

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

**6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Email about hunting on conservancy land.

**7) TREASURER REPORT:**

- Financials / Schneider - Commissioner Schneider Presented the October Financials
- Commissioner Weix motioned to approve the October financials, Commissioner Ulbrich seconded, all approved. Motion carried

## **8) Water Quality**

- East Balsam Alum /2024 and 2026 Kelly
  - Commissioner Kelly sent out the Alum report. A narrative of the results will be included in the fall Dockside. We are above the goals we had set for the program.
  - We received one response to our published bid request – Solitude Lake Services. The 2024 alum application bid came in at \$332,000.

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

- CBCW / Mork
  - No update
- Purple loosestrife yellow Iris eradication / Mork
  - No update
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
  - We completed only 1/3 of the harvesting done this year due to mechanical issues this year. We have a backup for next year (Apple River's equipment)
  - We bought an extra serpentine belt and an extra motor to have a spare going forward.
  - Don will still be with us next year. There is someone interested in working the harvester program going forward.
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
  - People have sent photos of zebra mussels around the lake. They are in every basin now and they are everywhere except millpond.
  - The veliger count is up significantly from last year. There is now an established population in Balsam Lake.
- Watercraft CLEANING STATIONS CD3 / Ulbrich
  - The cleaning stations have now been closed for the year. The 2 mobile stations have been winterized and are ready for next season.
  - We still have about \$14,000 to collect on the grant for the year. The DNR now has everything they need for final reimbursement.
  - There will be another invoice for AIS coming yet this year from Matt.

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

- Noah lost his appeal so cannot work on boat patrol next year. We will need to post for another water patrol next year and our hours will decline.
- Commissioner Kelly asked Commissioner Schneider to check into the possibility of using volunteers. This idea would need to be run through legal and they would not be able to write tickets, but could take videos and refer to law enforcement.
- Commissioner Palmberg offered to write up a posting for the position, and it can be included in the Dockside.
- 273 patrol hours in 2023. Citations stayed about the same, warnings doubled. Most warnings were for slow no wake zones.

## **11) OLD BUSINESS**

- Recorder/Admin position – All

- No responses yet
- Lake/ District Manager – All
  - 2 live candidates, one has been interviewed, a second interview is scheduled for this week. Both seem to be strong candidates.
- Website enhancement – Weix
  - The website is now operating to meet our needs. We were contacted by an organization that has a standardized website used in many lakes around the country. Management fee is \$215 to \$250 per month. Our website is about 96% ADA compliant. The company is out of California and so is much more ADA-aware.
  - Issues with our site is things like font being too small, etc.
- Rice Creek Conservancy - Land Allowed Public Use / Kelly
  - This relates to all the conservancy land. Commissioner Kelly shared information from the attorney that says our liability is limited, but not non-existent.
  - Commissioner Weix reached out to the Deer Lake and Half Moon conservancies, neither of them currently restrict their land use from hunting.
  - Commissioner Weix noted our lake is a recreation use. Surf boats should not be restricted, neither should conservancy land be restricted.
  - Commissioner Kelly noted he spoke with a large conservancy group (Landmark Conservancy) in Polk County. They have a mixture of restricted and non-restricted land.
  - Commissioner Palmberg asked if we know what the neighbors would prefer. He also noted maybe we should ask those landowners what they prefer. He also noted we should develop written conservation goals, and based on those rules, it should inform our decision moving forward. Other commissioners think this is a great goal. Commissioner Kelly asked Commissioner Palmberg if he would be willing to lead this effort.
  - Commissioner Kelly noted that Commissioner Mork made a comment that the land was donated so that the land is available to all people. He said it was perceived that hunting prevents the land from being used by anyone else, since hunting seasons run about 9 months out of the year. Commissioner Kelly noted that we should review the deeds to see if there is any mention of requirements by people who donated the land.
  - Commissioner Kelly noted we are not ready to take a vote on this at this time.
- Process and Procedure Documentation / Kelly
  - Most of the details have been added to the new procedures manual. Commissioner Weix will send instructions for updating the website to be added to the manual. There are 2 places highlighted in purple that still needs to be expanded upon.
- Water Patrol Boat Purchase/ Schneider
  - No updates. The boat is on hold while the homeowner's Association works on ownership, registration, etc
- Construction Project Little Balsam Hillside cave in / Palmberg

- Commissioner Palmberg met with Milltown. They recommended he reach out to Ryan Wood, explaining the situation and asked for his assistance. He is also not responding. Commissioner Palmberg asked if Commissioner Mariani can help with the county, where there are some new players. There is a new Environmental Resource Committee that we can reach out to. Commissioner Palmberg will forward his emails to Commissioner Mariani to send to the new committee members.
- Nanno Technology – sediment remediation – DNR grant resolution / Ulbrich
  - Commissioner Ulbrich went to 2 lakes and saw amazing results. There needs to be a formal resolution done this week. Commissioner Kelly asked for a motion confirming support. Commissioner Schneider made the motion, Commissioner Mariani seconded, all approved, Motion Carried.
  - The DNR is happy with what they have seen so far. They are looking for more lake information to verify this is viable technology. We have applied for a grant from the DNR. And we anticipate a member vote at the next annual meeting.
  - There will be a Dockside article on it and we anticipate a member vote at the next annual meeting. The article has been routed to the commissioners and Commissioner Kelly asked everyone to forward any questions to Commissioner Ulbrich as soon as possible, as the Dockside formatting begins Monday.
- Winter Dockside
  - We have suppliers and partners who have supplied articles for the Dockside as well.
  - Formatting begins Monday, the initial draft should be ready in 2 weeks. Publishing target date is in mid-December.

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

- Create a Conservancy Land Goals document to inform land use.

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

- Milltown / Palmberg
  - Commissioner Palmberg presented at the town meeting, he will be presenting every other month. They liked what they heard and are supportive on the nanobubble technology. They were frustrated by the cave in news, but feel it is not in their area of responsibility.
  - It is a positive thing that they are engaged and looking for ways they can help.
- County / Mariani
  - New environmental resource committee members have now closed the manure pit on East Balsam. It hadn't been used for several years but was still running into the lake). They have removed the manure from that pit.
  - It seems like the county is going to be working more with the farms in our watershed to mitigate the runoff, which is a good sign.

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

- None

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

- Commissioner Mariani motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Palmberg seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:59 AM.