



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting December 16, 2023 8:30 AM Central Time

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88685624036>

Meeting ID: 886 8562 4036

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

- Tom Kelly, Gary Schneider, Terry Palmberg, Dave Mariani, Jack Weix, Bill Mork (teleconference)

**3) OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Patty Kabus, recorder

**4) APPROVE AGENDA:**

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

**5) APPROVE MINUTES: November 2023**

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

**6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Comment regarding Conservancy land from Nick Strulzak with info about the Rice Creek Conservancy Tony Glenna property abuts the SW edge of the conservancy. The conservancy was established as a result of a lawsuit for pollution of Balsam Lake. The Rice Creek land has been actively hunted this year, a group from Milltown and a group from St Paul. Tony expressed some concerns about rifle hunting on that land.
- There is some initiatives regarding wake boats. More info later in the minutes.

**7) TREASURER REPORT:**

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

**8) Water Quality**

- East Balsam Alum /2024 and 2026 Kelly
  - No update, articles were put into the dockside

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

- CBCW / Mork
  - Question asked whether we need the landing monitors anymore, since we have the cleaning stations now. Commissioner Weix asked if maybe we could just eliminate the monitoring at the 2 less used stations. Commissioner Schneider agreed and noted the communication at the larger launches has value
- Purple loosestrife yellow Iris eradication / Mork
  - We need to follow up on the beetle release done last year
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
  - No update
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
  - Infestation has expanded exponentially, and we will continue to monitor. Matt Berg, Polk County Land & Water, and the DNR all also monitor zebra mussels
- Watercraft CLEANING STATIONS CD3 / Ulbrich
  - Everything has been put away for the winter. We have received the majority of the grant funding for this

**10) Water Patrol / Schneider**

- Noah lost his appeal and likely won't be back next year. Posting has been places on **the** website, and Commissioner Weix is also investigating other places to advertise – with the county and other venues such as Indeed
- We could consider a non-certified person – they could not issue tickets but can at least do some safety checks and boater education. These hours would not apply to our grant but could be a paid position
- Commissioner Kelly asked what the board thinks about the possibility of using either a paid or non paid person. In the past, the CBCW tried using volunteers and the concept did not work well. With Noah not being certified, his wages are not eligible for the grant funding. We need to figure out how this will be paid.

- The new boat is still in process

## **11) OLD BUSINESS**

- Lake/ District Manager – All
  - There is a phone interview this coming week for a lake district manager and have already interviewed one other candidate
  - Both candidates have experience in this type of position
  - Polk County Land & Water offered to share the resume on some websites for us
- Rice Creek Conservancy - Land Allowed Public Use / Palmberg & Mork
  - We need to document how to handle conservancy land moving forward, so we have something that can be used. We have 8 properties in total, covering about 129 acres. The new document lays out the history and background of the conservancy land. Commissioner Palmberg introduced a new document he is in the process of putting together for the board to review and has sent out to the board for initial review and comments.
  - We can grant licenses to use the land, but cannot charge for licensing.
  - Risk mitigation was discussed
  - Discussion of some of the concerns of neighbors as to bullets being fired, as well as allowing stands being put up for same day use. The DNR will enforce this but someone would need to monitor this
  - Discussion to limit to archery hunting only, signs, etc. More to be discussed
  - Commissioner Kelly noted that there is a snowmobile trail that runs across a very small portion of the Rice Creek conservancy. This should be retained, but no ATV's.
  - Commissioner Palmberg and Commissioner Mork will come back with version 2
- Process and Procedure Documentation / Kelly
  - Only 2 items left to be documented.
- Construction Project Little Balsam Hillside cave in / Palmberg
  - Having trouble finding someone to help with this issue. It doesn't look like anything has been done
  - Commissioner Weix noted that he has in the Polk County Zoning Department that may be able to help. He will get those contacts to Commissioner Palmberg
- Nanno Technology – sediment remediation – DNR grant resolution / Ulbrich
  - This still appears to have strong potential to have a great impact in some of our bays
  - The grant application has been submitted
- Winter Dockside
  - Commissioner Kelly thanked the board for all their hard work on the Dockside. It is targeted to be mailed next week

## **12) NEW BUSINESS**

- 2024 CBCW staffing options / Mork
- Mobile website / Weix
- 2023 water patrol staffing and compensation / Schneider

## **13) OTHER REPORTS:**

- Milltown / Palmberg
  - Milltown is very supportive of the Nano Technology and the Dockside info
- County / Mariani
  - A new director starts in January for Land and Water
  - Many issues are being worked on with Cleanups and seeding, etc

**14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- None
- January meeting discussion – we do not need to meet. All commissioners agreed. The next meeting will be in February. The bylaws require that we meet at least once quarterly

**15) ADJOURN:**

- Commissioner Mariani motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Weix seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 AM.