



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting February 17, 2024 8:30 AM Central Time

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

Thomas Kelly is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Feb 10, 2024 08:30 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83942041842?pwd=ZGoyVy9mSitpejB3SXkzT09UZVRxUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 4204 1842

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Gary Schneider, Terry Palmberg, Jack Weix, Bill Mork

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Marisa Weider, Lake District Manager
- Patty Kabus, recorder
- Brian Wertish, Homeowner's Association

4) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

5) APPROVE MINUTES: DECEMBER 2023

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Unity School is thinking of doing a project for water runoff and is looking for funding possibly for a 2025 project

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider
- 2023 overages were discussed and explained
- Commissioner Weix motioned to approve the December and January financials, Commissioner Mork seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

8) Water Quality

- Solitude contract 24 & 26 / Weider & Kelly
 - We received a contract from Solitude. This contract would cover both 2024 and 2026. It will be \$320,000.00 and \$325,000.00 in those 2 years. It will cover about 100 acres of East Balsam and would be done in June and would last about a week
 - Commissioner Kelly asked for a motion to include the bid. Commissioner Mork motioned, Commissioner Weix seconded, all approved, motion carried.
- We have received the water quality report from Bill James, our lake limnologist.
- We have sent in a request for a monitoring grant and should hear back in the next few lakes

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - In our last meeting, we discussed reducing hours. Commissioner Mork noted we need to have 200 hours at each landing.
 - Commissioner Mork has done some calculations about costs and hours if we were to reduce hours in Little Balsam and East Balsam landings. We would still want to maintain the \$4000.00 grant for the 200 hours
 - The consensus on the board is that with zebra mussels in the lake, we should continue with the program and put increased emphasis on boats leaving the lake
- Purple loosestrife yellow Iris eradication / Mork
 - Purple Loosestrife – beetles were released the last 2 years, so they may take a year off. But they would determine this in May or June – if it's a bumper year, they may want to do it again. Digging the plants up as they are found, is also a good option
 - Purple Iris is typically treated by digging them out
 - Commissioner Weix mentioned the possibility of using technology to track where the beds are. Commissioners Mork and Kelly explained that our lake monitors as well as Matt Berg, note the locations where the beds exist when they are working on creating the CLP maps each spring
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
 - Commissioner Weix reported that we expect a bumper year due to the mild winter
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich

- No update
- Watercraft CLEANING STATIONS CD3 / Ulbrich
 - No update

10) Water Patrol / Schneider

- 2023 water patrol staffing and compensation / Schneider
 - Commissioner Schneider reported that we are looking for a new person to replace Noah's position as it does not look like he will be able to come back. We are likely looking for a retired law enforcement person to see if we can find someone. We will be sending out the posting to more police stations. The Homeowner's association will also be asked if they can send out a blast. Word of mouth is probably our best bet at this point
 - Commissioner Kelly noted that for a Minnesota police officer to be certified, they would need to take a test to be certified in Wisconsin
 - Currently the chief is making \$41.00 per hour and is getting a \$2.00 per hour increase this year. Do we want to increase compensation to mirror the village compensation? Commissioner Schneider recommends we do that. All commissioners agree, so we will do that.
 - Commissioner Schneider asked if we should also increase the compensation for our harvester operators. Commissioner Kelly noted that operators on other lakes are making significantly less. Commissioner Mork noted that he thought the other lakes are run by farmers and they are allowed to keep the byproducts for fertilizer on their fields.
 - Commissioner Mork noted that on CBCW, where they had to go to \$15.00 per hour to keep pace with places such as Walmart. Commissioner Weix suggested we put a pay scale in place based on years of experience for 2025.
 - Commissioner Kelly asked that if we get feedback from the operators and monitors before 2025, we bring it to the board.

11) OLD BUSINESS

- Lake/ District Manager – All
 - Marisa is on board. Commissioner Kelly thanked the board for their flexibility in interview dates.
 - Commissioner Kelly asked the board to work with Marisa on their areas of expertise
- Rice Creek Conservancy - Land Allowed Public Use / Palmberg & Mork
 - Commissioners Mork and Palmberg recently released a document on the conservancy properties
 - Commissioner Palmberg said they wanted to take a step back to research the history of the 3 conservancies as well as nearby homes and landowners. They also looked at other conservancy documents and found they were broad in allowing or not allowing activities. Our primary area of concern is hunting, but archery and recreational use can happen at the same time.

- Legal advice was to include a lot more information about what and why the conservancy was created and its original intended use. They also added information about another property that has some restrictions on land use.
- Commissioner Kelly noted there will be a need to do some signage at each property
 - Enter at your own risk, wear orange, no overnight camping, etc. They will need to determine what else should be posted. Commissioner Palmberg offered to put a draft information together for review by the board and by our attorney
- Commissioner Palmberg asked for suggestions about whether we should put this on the website
 - Commissioner Kelly asked for a motion to approve the policy on the conservancy document. Commissioner Schneider motioned, commissioner Weix seconded, all approved, motion carried
- Process and Procedure Documentation / Kabus & Kelly
- Construction Project Little Balsam Hillside cave in / Palmberg
 - Commissioners Kelly and Palmberg have been working with the county about getting back into the loop as variances are recommended.
 - Commissioner Palmberg has been working on trying to get action on the issue with Little Balsam Lake. The person approving the projects did not have the experience needed before he gave permits. Logan with the county will work with the cave-in to clean up the current issue on Little Balsam. An engineer will need to get involved (at the expense of the homeowner) and this will be a long and expensive process. There may be other issues that will become apparent due to the amount of variances that have been approved.
 - Commissioner Kelly noted that the Environmental Services Committee that will be approving variance requests moving forward.
 - Going forward, in theory, when a shoreline variance is applied for, a copy will be forwarded to the BLPRD. We will be able to comment on the request with the understanding that the county makes the final decision but will appreciate our feedback.
- Nanno Technology – sediment remediation – DNR grant resolution / Ulbrich
 - No update. Commissioner Weix received a list of the grants that have been requested. Commissioner Kelly will forward this to the rest of the board members. Commissioner Kelly did not see anything regarding our grant for the nanobubble technology. He will follow up with Dale – it may just be located in a different list of grants.
 - Commissioner Weix asked who writes the grants for us. Commissioner Kelly explained that it has been the board and Cheryl Clemons. He mentioned that moving forward, we should check with Marisa to see if we can do it, or if we need outside help. Commissioner Kelly asked Marisa if she is comfortable doing grants and she said absolutely and has experience with writing as well as ranking grants so has experience with all areas of them.

12) NEW BUSINESS

- 2024 CBCW staffing options / Mork
 - i) Commissioner Mork will get an update from Terry Morton
- Mobile website / Weix
 - i) Commissioner Weix noted that the mobile website is up and running. He asked if we need to post both the agenda and the minutes. Commissioner Kelly noted that the agenda needs to be posted, but once the minutes have been approved, we should remove the agenda
- Egg Oiling / Wieder
 - Brian Wertish from the BL Homeowner's Association, reported that the Homeowner's Association will be taking over the egg oiling program. With the mild winter, we expect a lot of eggs this spring.
 - The Village has not issued a permit for it yet
 - The Village would like to hear back from the BLPRD regarding their thoughts
 - Brian discussed getting a permit that goes beyond the village since there are multiple municipalities involved. They would like to ask that the BLPRD request the permit since some homeowners may not want the program
 - Commissioner Kelly indicated the BLPRD is willing to help with this program

13) OTHER REPORTS:

- Milltown / Palmberg
 - Commissioner Palmberg noted that the meeting is coming up a week from Monday. He will update them on the egg oiling
- County / Mariani
 - No update other than the updates provided earlier. Commissioner Schneider noted that we may also want to get on the Village zoning to get on their list to review variances too

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Commissioner Palmberg noted there is a lot of interest in the Dockside. He asked if we should put some copies at various businesses. Commissioner Kelly noted it is a mailing only to the district, the DNR and is put on the website. Commissioner Palmberg suggested we include the chairs of the municipalities around the lake. Commissioner Kelly agreed and will take ownership of it.

15) ADJOURN:

- Commissioner Palmberg motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Mork seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 AM.