

# DOCK SIDE

## Member Survey Feedback Directs BLPRD Long Range Plan

by Dale Ulbrich

Every ten years the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District updates its long range plan in order to get DNR grants to offset the cost of projects on the lake. This past December and January, BLPRD conducted a survey of District members via the *Dock Side* newsletter, the BLPRD website, and an electronic survey using the Balsam Lake Homeowners' Association's email list. The intent of the survey was to hear from members about the importance and satisfaction of the primary focus areas of the BLPRD's long range plan. Additionally, the board was interested in potential new projects or areas of focus. Fifteen percent of those contacted responded to the survey.

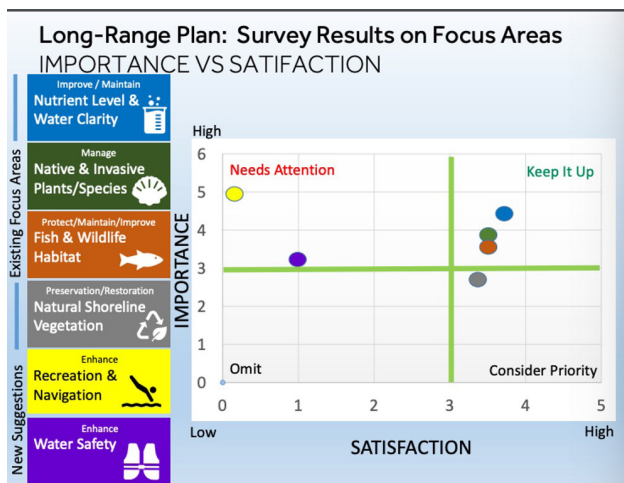
Four areas of focus included in the 2012 LRP continue to be areas of concern in 2022. Two additional new suggested areas of focus also came up. The table below provides a summary of the importance and satisfaction findings of the focus areas.

**Nutrient Level & Water Clarity** continues to be the first priority area for the District. Members want to ensure the water is clean, without over abundant invasive plants and algae. There is strong support for continuation of alum treatments in East Balsam. In addition, at the 2021 BLPRD annual meeting members voted overwhelmingly in favor of continued funding for phase 2 of the alum treatment.

Other survey suggestions included “not fertilizing the lake” by reducing nutrient from entering the lake through creeks, by minimizing sources of fertilizer runoff, and eliminating discharge into the lake from broken septic systems. These sources of nutrient contribute to plant growth and algae in the lake.

**Native and Invasive Plants and Animals** is the second priority with an emphasis on continuing curly leaf pondweed harvesting and when appropriate, increasing harvesting. Enhanced boat launch inspections is also encouraged to continue the success of this program and the help limit the introduction of new invasives into the lake. The hours for inspections are planned to be increased during the summer of 2022. Other new suggested projects included implementing boat cleaning stations and continued zebra mussel monitoring at the public boat launches to further protect against potential new invaders. See related article on “*Boat Cleaning Stations Coming*” on page 3.

**Fish & Wildlife Habitat** is the third priority. Many respondents mentioned that if the first and second priorities above are successful, habitats will improve. Although this is likely true, many mentioned the need for additional stocking native fish in the lake and restoring or improving spawning grounds that are currently covered by unnatural levels of decaying weeds, that prevent native fish from reproducing.



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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

### Summer 2022

Planning for this summer season is well underway. Clean Boats Clean Waters, harvesting, water patrol and future initiatives are in the works.

**Thank you to the Unity School District** for facilitating the annual meeting once again and to Commissioner Mariani and Patty Kabus for coordinating.

**East Balsam Water Quality/Alum** – Phase two of the four-phase alum treatment for East Balsam is scheduled for mid-June. We look forward to continued water quality improvement in this basin. More information is available in this newsletter courtesy of Commissioner Wilhoit

**APM Plan/Harvesting/Herbicide** – The spring survey was completed in mid-May and will determine if CLP treatment with herbicide is needed this season. Thank you to the volunteer committee that updated the District's Aquatic Plant Management Plan in 2021; it is a useful tool for determining herbicide treatment. Harvesting has begun in mid-June and will continue through late summer.

**Water Runoff / Healthy Lakes** – Healthy Lakes native plantings, rain gardens and diversion projects will continue to be partially funded through the District and DNR grant funding in 2022. We received an extension for our unused DNR grant funds that will allow for 75 percent funding up to \$1,000 for approximately eight projects on a first come, first serve basis. Please contact Tom Kelly at 612-508-0879 if you have interest in reducing water runoff via a Healthy Lakes project.

**Water Safety Patrol** – Following a successful rollout of the water patrol in 2021 by the BLPRD and BLHA we continue to update equipment and look at expanding these services.

**Large Wave Boats** – The district is receiving an increasing number of complaints about large wave boats and their impact on safety, shoreline erosion and equipment damage. Use common sense and follow no wake watercraft ordinances.

**Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW)** – Thank you to Commissioner Mork and Team Lead Terry Morton for their on-going efforts to protect our lake from aquatic invasive species. The best review to date came from our lake biologist, Matt Berg, who stated "Balsam Lake CBCW is the gold standard." With that said, our lake, as are all recreational lakes, is subject to the introduction of additional invasive species. The board will continue to look for new methods and technology to address these threats.

**Finances and 2022 Budget** – With the 2022 budget approved at our last annual meeting we will be presenting the 2023 budget at the upcoming annual meeting.

**Member Survey** – Commissioner Ulbrich has completed the member survey which identifies priorities and needs of our membership. The survey results can be found on our website BLPRD.com

**THANK YOU for your participation and support.**  
**Enjoy the summer season. ● — Tom Kelly**



*A breeding male Scarlet Tanager, unmistakable, brilliant red with black wings and tail. Females are olive-yellow with darker olive wings and tails. Learn more at [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org).*

### Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Commissioners

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1875 Pine Island Park Street  
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### Contact us

Please contact the commissioners with any questions, comments or concerns you have. Commissioners meet on the third Saturday of the month, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Polk County Business Center, lower level conference room. You are welcome to attend the meetings.

#### 2022 Meeting Dates

June 18	October 15
<b>July 16 Annual Meeting</b>	November 19
September 17	December 17



# New Boat Cleaning Stations Coming

by Dale Ulbrich

Every year millions of dollars are spent to clean up messes of the past, and as the saying goes, *an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure*. With this in mind, and the desire to prevent additional invasive species from entering Balsam Lake, BLPRD is investigating grant funding for a new program of boat cleaning stations at Balsam Lake boat launches. The cleaning stations are targeted at preventing non-native aquatic plants and animals from entering our lake.

Thousands of dollars and many hours of effort are spent each year to remove tons of curly leaf pondweed, an invasive plant that clogs Balsam Lake. To prevent other, new invasive species from entering the lake, the installation of self-service, waterless, boat cleaning stations is being planned. Located at all Balsam Lake boat launches, the stations are in support of the new Polk County Illegal to Transport Ordinance amendment that requires all boaters use a boat cleaning [decontamination] station before entering or after leaving a body of water if available.\*

The cleaning stations are designed to help boat owners “Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose” of potential contaminants from boats, live wells and trailers quickly with easy-to-use tools: long-handled brushes and tongs to remove plants from boat or trailer, air blowers and wet/dry vacuums to remove water that may contain small organisms like zebra mussels or fragments of Eurasian water milfoil. Lights are available for nighttime use. A demonstration of the cleaning stations can be viewed at <https://youtu.be/kzr-3khKDd0>.

The stations are free for boat owners to use and will be installed at each Balsam Lake boat launch. BLPRD is pursuing DNR grant funding during the current funding cycle beginning June 1. Preliminary approval of the application will happen by September 1; final applications are due early November; final notice of approval of funding, February 15, 2023. Stations would be installed at each launch in spring 2023. Directional signage with instructions for orderly use is also planned. Additional details will be presented at the July 2022 BLPRD annual meeting.

These boat cleaning stations are a great investment to ensure Balsam Lake remains a tremendous natural resource that can be enjoyed now and for future generations. For more information about the boat cleaning stations, please contact Dale Ulbrich, BLPRD commissioner at [dalerulbrich@yahoo.com](mailto:dalerulbrich@yahoo.com). ●

The invasive species Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussel are present in nearby lakes.

In summer 2021, over 19,000 boats were recorded entering Balsam Lake at Town Bay and the Highway 46 boat launches. An additional 400 boats were recorded entering at the East Balsam launch. This volume does not include the number of boat launches that occur when monitors are off duty.



The CD3 Watercraft Cleaning Station. Public use research has shown people use the cleaning stations even when launch inspectors are not present; users found the stations easy and fast to use, often in less than 5 minutes; and, users would plan to use the cleaning station again. In a pilot study of 38,000 cleaning stations in 22 states, on average each cleaning station saw 678 uses per month per system. CD3 systems are solar powered; their use is monitored.

\*Polk County, Wisconsin Code of Ordinances, Chapter 24, Article III prohibits launching or operating on a public roadway any boat, boat trailer, or hunting, trapping, fishing, or boating equipment, including canoes, lines, anchors, nets, decoys, and waders if aquatic plants or invasive animals are attached. If a decontamination station is available for use at a public or private access, the boater shall decontaminate equipment per posted directions using the station provided and/or pursuant to the direction of decontamination personnel present.



**Natural Shoreline Vegetation** is the fourth priority with an emphasis on native plantings along the shoreline. Native vegetation at the shoreline acts as a natural buffer to keep fertilizer and sediment runoff, grass clippings and fallen leaves from washing directly into the lake, contributing to high phosphorous levels that fertilize weeds and algae. The board will continue to encourage lakeshore property owners to take advantage of the DNR-funded native planting adjacent to the lake. This grant program covers 75 percent of the cost with the property owner paying 25 percent. Continued monitoring of land conservancies (like the stumps) along the lake as a buffer for wildlife was also encouraged. Lastly, continued maintenance of creek sediment basins like the Rice Creek basin is emphasized to keep field sediment runoff from entering the lake.

### Two New Areas of Focus...

Over the past two years, during the pandemic, people have been staying a little closer to home, which means the lake is busy. Some commented that Balsam Lake is busier than they have ever remembered seeing it. With the added demands on the lake by more and larger boats, many mentioned water safety and recreation and navigation concerns.



**Water Safety** concerns led to suggestions for an increased boat patrol presence to remind boaters of the “rules of the road” by issuing warnings and educational reminders with a goal toward safety for everyone on lake. Additionally, for repeat offenders, the boat patrol is encouraged to enforce regulations by issuing citations. Wake boats were mentioned the most because of the large waves they create. The board is strongly encouraged to consider modified regulations for wake boats in order to reduce the potential danger to other boaters and the erosion caused by the large waves they create. The board is reviewing studies already conducted in other states and municipalities for options to balance the popularity of this newer water sport with safety and the lake environment.



**Recreation and Navigation** concerns were especially apparent in the 2021 summer season that started with high water levels and was quickly impacted by dry weather in July and August. Low lake levels made recreation and navigation challenging in certain areas of the lake. Suggestions for more careful monitoring of the lake level with improved dam controls is strongly encouraged. Additionally, some bays with unnaturally high phosphorous levels should be considered for restoration and clean-up to return the bays to more natural habitats with easier navigation.

### In summary...

Survey respondents were in strong alignment with the LRP’s top four priority areas and with the board continuing to pursue projects in these focus areas. Approximately 55 percent of respondents are very satisfied to somewhat satisfied with the progress on the current focus area. Twenty-five percent of respondents are neutral to progress. Twenty percent are somewhat unsatisfied to very unsatisfied with progress suggesting there is more room for improvement.

BLPRD will report on the progress we are making on the existing focus areas. In addition, as new program areas like water safety and recreation and navigation are further defined and solutions and funding are identified, progress will be reported.

Further education about topics important to the lake’s health is strongly encouraged in all areas as well. The board plans to continue communication through the *Dock Side*, the BLPRD website, postings and educational materials at boat launches, via the boat patrol, at the annual meeting, and by email blasts for more urgent information.

Send comments to [dalerulbrich@yahoo.com](mailto:dalerulbrich@yahoo.com) or other BLPRD commissioners. A discussion of the LRP will be presented at the annual meeting at 8:30am, July 16, 2022 at Unity High School (see page 7). ●



### Lake Water Level

One of the concerns frequently raised in our surveys is the water level of the lake. A consistent water level is important for boating on any lake, but particularly in the shallow areas of Balsam Lake.

Balsam Lake’s water level is regulated by the dam located on the south side of the Mill Pond. The dam was built in 1916 and is maintained by the Village of Balsam Lake with financial assistance from BLPRD. The water level is monitored by village employees and adjusted by adding or removing 6-inch boards on the dam.

On November 24, 1920, an order was entered against the Polk Electric Company, former owners of the dam, that fixes the following elevation levels for the lake. These levels have been adopted by Wisconsin DNR:

**Maximum level: 94.3 feet**

**Minimum level during April, May, and June: 93.1 feet**

**Remainder of the year: 92.6 feet**

For the year 2021, the lowest level recorded was 94.3 feet on July 15th; the highest level was 94.9 feet on August 9th.

It’s a fine balance to keep the lake at optimal levels. Letting too much water go through the dam can be hard to recover from if rainfall levels are minimal. On the other hand, holding too much water can cause high water conditions and pressure on the dam if rainfall is heavy.

Although the dam does act as a drain, the lake doesn’t have a faucet to regulate the input of water. The input is rainfall, and we all know that rainfall is hard to predict.

# CLP Harvesting Update

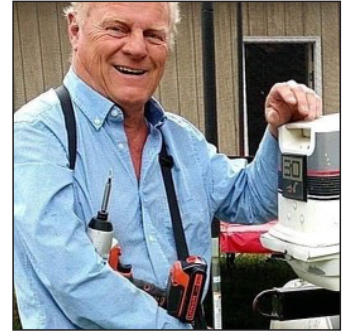
This year, ice-out on the lake was early May versus the end of March in 2021, and two to three weeks later than average.

Matt Berg, our lake biologist, will have surveyed curly leaf pondweed in mid-May to qualify if herbicide treatment in East Balsam is required, and to determine the size and location of CLP beds throughout the lake.

Based on survey results we will use our aquatic plant management plan (APM) and the guidelines therein to determine if herbicide treatment in East Balsam is justified to treat CLP. Our position in the past five years has been to avoid herbicide when possible for the benefit of the native plants and water quality. The district has treated East Balsam with herbicide once in the last five years as we have seen progress in reducing bed sizes and density with our harvesting initiative. Herbicide treatment, if needed, will have been completed in early June.

This winter we lost our lead commissioner of harvesting operations Rod Preble. Rod was a tremendous resource to the lake as he led our harvesting operations, the establishment of the boat patrol and was the APM lead. Rod will be dearly missed as a friend, District commissioner and contributing member of the greater Balsam Lake community.

Don Coddington will continue as the lead for harvester operations and is complemented by an experienced crew. The district anticipates harvesting approximately 80 acres during the 2022 season. ●



*Thank you Rod Preble,  
for your friendship and  
service.*

# Second Year of Water Patrol

From all accounts, the first year of the Balsam Lake Water Patrol was a success. For 2022, we would like to improve on that success. BLPRD has budgeted for more hours and will be purchasing additional equipment to improve the operation.

In 2021 the Balsam Lake Water Patrol worked approximately 150 hours; one hundred twenty-four hours were worked for patrol, and twenty-five hours were for administrative tasks. For 2022, Chief Thompson has requested to increase the total hours to 220. This would allow for 12 patrol hours per week for the period between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The two hundred twenty hour goal will be dependent on weather (no patrol hours used if the weather is inclement) and staffing issues. Chief Thompson will be working most of the hours and will attempt to hire another officer to assist if needed.

In 2022, BLPRD and the Balsam Lake Homeowners Association will again partner to cover any expenses not reimbursed by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Through the grant process, DNR reimburses 75 percent of qualified expenses.

Please enjoy our lake in a safe and responsible manner and greet Chief Thompson when you see him patrolling the lake. ●



## Boater safety course

Anyone born on or after January 1, 1989 must pass a boater safety class to operate a motor boat in Wisconsin and carry a boater education card. The Boating Safety course is offered online. Go to [boat-ed.com/wisconsin](https://boat-ed.com/wisconsin) to access the course materials and take the test.

### Common Courtesy Goes A Long Way —

### Wakeboat Etiquette Tips

- Stay at least 150 feet away from structures or shore; ride the core, avoid the shore.
- Minimize repetitive passes.
- Drive a predicted path.
- Avoid close passes to other boats; don't follow another boat too closely.
- Don't impede traffic. Wakesurfers usually travel at 10 to 12 mph.
- Avoid wakesurfing in busy areas.
- Look before you turn.
- Refrain from tricks when near other boats.
- Keep in mind that local boating laws and navigation rules still apply. Follow them and everyone will enjoy their time on the water we share.
- Keep music at a responsible level; sound travels much farther than you think on the water, and loud music can impede other boaters' peace and quiet.



# East Balsam Alum Treatment

At the annual meeting for the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District held on July 17th, 2021 at Unity High School, a presentation was given by John Holz from HAB Aquatics Solutions. HAB applied the first alum treatment to the East Balsam basin. Dr. Holz discussed the results from the first alum treatment and the findings from the group hired by BLRPD to monitor the lake. All of the findings were consistent with expectations for the first of four alum treatments, and the results were consistent with results of other lakes in the area that have applied alum.

After the presentation, a vote was taken to authorize BLRPD to secure a loan for the second phase of the alum treatment project. The vote was in favor of proceeding with the second phase provided BLRPD secured a grant from the state in the amount of \$200,000. The request for the grant money will be made on November 1, 2021 and the response from the State should be returned in early spring 2022.

Unfortunately, in August 2021 there was an algal bloom in the East Balsam basin. This bloom was created by a number of factors and was short-lived. This type of bloom was not consistent with the types of algal blooms that were experienced in the past, prior to the first alum treatment. The University of Wisconsin Stout was notified of the bloom and returned to the lake to take samples and concluded this was not a blue-green type of bloom that occurred in prior years. They noted that having an algal bloom after alum is applied the first time is sometimes common. This was something that had been discussed in prior years at the annual meeting by biologist Bill James who studied the East Balsam basin and who mentioned that there is the possibility for a bloom after only one treatment. The recommendation was to continue with the prescribed future treatments.

The second alum treatment is scheduled for June 2022. After completion of the second alum treatment 60 percent of the prescribed treatment will have been completed. ●



*The HAB barge on East Balsam*

## **BLRPD 2022 ANNUAL MEETING**

### *WIS. STATS. CHAPTER 33, PUBLIC INLAND WATERS. 33.-1 (2).*

**(ar)** For the purpose of voting at meetings of the district, a person who is a U.S. citizen and 18 years of age or older and who meets any of the following requirements:

1. The person's name appears as an owner of real property on the tax roll under s. 70.65 (2) (a) 1. that was delivered under s. 74.03 on or before the 3rd Monday in December of the previous year.
2. The person owns title to real property but the person's name does not appear as an owner of real property on the tax roll specified in subd. 1.
3. The person is the official representative, officer or employee who is authorized to vote on behalf of a trust, foundation, corporation, association or organization that owns real property in the district.

If a person is not named on the tax roll it is up to that person to provide evidence to the District that he/she is owner of property or a designated representative of an organizational property owner. Evidence may be in the form of:

- a copy of a deed indicating ownership, or
- a letter on the stationery of an organization owning property which clearly authorizes the person to vote on behalf of that organization.

Each qualified voter is entitled to cast one vote at the annual meeting. Ownership of more than one parcel of real estate within the District does not entitle the owner to more than one vote. Commissioners appointed by the county or town/village/city are eligible to vote at the annual meeting only if they qualify as lake district property owners or electors. No absentee ballots or proxies are permitted.

\*Corporations, governmental bodies, trusts and other organizational owners are treated as single owners with one vote. When a property is recorded in a trust, corporation, association or other organization, the members of that organization must designate an official representative to vote on their behalf. Trust members who reside in the District maintain their voting eligibility by virtue of being an elector at an annual meeting. Trust members who reside outside the District are not electors and so must designate their representative.



## **Public Notification**

### **BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT**

46th ANNUAL MEETING will be held at Unity School Performing Arts Center,  
1908 – 150th Street Balsam Lake, Wisconsin on July 16, 2022 beginning at 8:30 A.M.  
Registration begins at 8:00 A.M.

- The Electors will vote by secret ballot to fill one commissioner position.
- Implementation of watercraft cleaning stations will be presented for member vote
- The annual budget will be discussed and adopted by a vote of the Electors in attendance.

## **Agenda**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
2. **COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS PRESENT**
3. **APPROVE AGENDA**
4. **APPROVE MINUTES OF July 17, 2021 ANNUAL MEETING**
5. **REPORTS**
  - Opening Comments – Tom Kelly
  - East Balsam 2022 Alum Treatment – Andy Wilhoit and John Holz with HAB Aquatics
  - Water Safety Patrol – Gary Schneider
  - No Wake Zone Marina – Gary Schneider
  - Aquatic Plan Management/Aquatic Invasive Species – Dale Ulrich
  - Herbicide / Harvesting Curley Pond Weeds and Navigation – Tom Kelly
  - Clean Boats Clean Waters – Bill Mork
  - Healthy Lakes – Tom Kelly
  - Watercraft Cleaning Stations – Dale Ulrich
- 6) **TREASURER REPORT**
  - 2021 Annual Report and 2022 YTD / 2023 Budget – Gary Schneider
- 7) **Registered Commissioner Candidates Eligible For 2021 Election - vote for one**
  - Tom Kelly
- 8) **OLD BUSINESS**
  - Long Range Lake Management Plan / Member Survey - Dale Ulrich
- 9) **ELECTION RESULTS**
- 10) **NEW BUSINESS**
  - Watercraft Cleaning Stations – Dale Ulrich
- 11) **ADJOURN**

## **Voter registration**

At any annual meeting or special meeting of the lake district where voting will take place, registration is required. The Lake District obtains its voter registration list from the Polk County Treasurer, who gets this from the Real Estate Tax Rolls. Often only one name listed as the owner of the real estate. In this case the “spouse” of the listed property owner may vote. One official representative of a trust or corporation in the district may vote. A person or persons who own more than one piece of property can only vote once. There are no absentee ballots or proxies.

Election rules are specified by Wis. Stat. §33.01 (9) (ar), §33.30 (3) and §33.30 (5).

## **Meeting notices**

Notices of the meeting and agenda are posted several days before the meeting at the following locations:

Village of Balsam Lake  
404 Main St  
Balsam Lake, WI

Jonzy Market  
1043 185th Ave  
Balsam Lake, WI

Balsam Lake Post Office  
308 Pearl St  
Balsam Lake, WI

## BLPRD 2022 ANNUAL MEETING

### BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT: BUDGET OVERVIEW 2020-2022

	Actual Dec 2021	2022 Budget	Actual Feb YTD 2022	Proposed 2023 Budget
<b>REVENUE</b>				
BL PROTECTION FUND INCOME	9			
WATER PATROL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT	11,001			12,650
TAX APPROPRIATION	255,035	209,650	108,206	231,993
INTEREST CHECKING/CD/SAV	2,289	1,800	362	1,800
GRANTS AIS 2019 -2020	20,024			
STATE GRANTS	3,405			
GRANT CBCW	16,000	16,000	4,000	16,000
EBWQ/ALUM 2020 & 2022		206,500		
GRANT HEALTHY LAKES 101	456	1,000		1,000
<b>GRANTS TOTAL</b>	<b>39,885</b>	<b>223,500</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>17,000</b>
LOTTERY CREDIT	-	1,500		1,500
BOAT PATROL (DNR/BLHOA)	-	9,900		
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>308,219</b>	<b>446,350</b>	<b>112,568</b>	<b>264,943</b>
LOAN PROCEEDS		385,532		
TRANSFER FROM 2021		52,678		42,367
<b>TOTAL FUNDING SOURCES</b>	<b>308,219</b>	<b>884,560</b>	<b>112,568</b>	<b>307,310</b>
<b>COST OF OPERATIONS / APPROPRIATIONS</b>				
BOARD - ADMINISTRATION	-			
Annual meeting expense	427	2,000		1,000
Administrative support	1,253	900		1,300
Business Registration Fee	10			
Operations equipment	-	100		100
Office supplies	-	100		100
Safety deposit box	-	50		
Software	941	500	102	1,000
<b>TOTAL BOARD ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>2,631</b>	<b>3,650</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>3,500</b>
COMMISSIONER EXPENSES				
Meetings	4,300	7,000		5,000
Mileage	939	3,000		1,000
Reimbursed Expenses		100		100
Annual meeting 'Thank You'		500		500
Convention expenses	-	300		300
Books, subscriptions, reference manuals	25	850	750	750
Commissioner Project activity expense				100
<b>Total COMMISSIONER EXPENSES</b>	<b>5,264</b>	<b>11,750</b>	<b>750</b>	<b>7,750</b>
BANK SERVICE CHARGES	5			
EXPENSES TO BE REIMBURSED WP	11,921			12,650
DUES/SCHOLARSHIP	-	1,000		
POSTAGE	1,112	1,200		1,300
PRINTING	8,461	8,500		8,750
RENT	1,800	1,800		1,800
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES</b>	<b>23,299</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>24,500</b>
AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT	1,059			
Permits 308	1,500		960	
Herbicide Contractor		37,400		37,400
LAKE BIOLOGIST	10,055			11,500
APM Plan & PI Survey		8,400		-
Water Quality Study	-			-
HARVESTING OPERATIONS	5,696	7,500		7,400
<b>Total AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>17,118</b>	<b>54,800</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>57,260</b>
CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS	54,976	48,150		64,000
CBCW 283-16 EXPENSE	45			100
WATER RUNOFF PROGRAM	174	2,000		1,000
WATER QUALITY PROJECTS	443	2,000		1,000
ALUM CONSULTING/MONITORING	15,445	15,400		15,900
HEALTHY LAKES 101	1,968	500		-
EBWQ 2020 & 2022 Alum Treatment	300	385,532		-
LAKE BOTTOM RESTORATION				-
WATER SAFETY PATROL	5,501			-
<b>TOTAL WATER QUALITY</b>	<b>78,852</b>	<b>453,582</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>82,000</b>
Alum Loan Payment 2022 Treatment		200,000		92,500
Alum Loan Payment 2020 Treatment	81,611	82,000	41,693	
Alum Loan Payment Interest 2020&2022	-	2,050		6,000
BCPL Loan #0201642.02 & .03	18,418	21,386		
INTEREST ON LOAN	3,693	642	1,073	
<b>TOTAL LOANS</b>	<b>103,722</b>	<b>306,078</b>	<b>42,766</b>	<b>98,500</b>



	Actual Dec 2021	2022 Budget	Actual Feb YTD 2022	Proposed 2023 Budget
LAKE MANAGEMENT SERVICES	762			
- Portable Toilets	1,520	4,000		3,100
- Signage	1,000		500	
- CONSERVANCY	-			
State Grant Expense	495			
AIS Grant ACEI-170-15 Expense	585			
AIS Grant ACEI-102-12 Expense	158			
AIS Grant Writing	1,215			2,500
VOBL DAM MAINTENANCE	2,800	2,800		2,800
LONG RANGE APM PLAN	4,973	2,000		
LOG RANGE LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN		1,000		
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE & STORAGE	3,862	3,000		4,000
WATER SAFETY PATROL		9,900	377	
<b>TOTAL LAKE MANAGEMENT SERVICES</b>	<b>16,370</b>	<b>23,700</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>12,900</b>
<b>CONTRACT SERVICES</b>				
ACCOUNTING	11,810	10,000	900	13,200
INSURANCE/BOND	4,840	5,500	614	5,500
LEGAL	525	1,000	679	1,000
OTHER CONTRACT SERVICES	350	1,000		
WEBSITE MAINTENANCE	1,073	1,000	450	1,200
<b>TOTAL OTHER CONTRACT SERVICES</b>	<b>18,598</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>2,643</b>	<b>20,900</b>
<b>TOTAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>265,854</b>	<b>884,560</b>	<b>46,638</b>	<b>307,310</b>
TOTAL LOAN PAYMENT				92,766
<b>BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION FUND</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>REVENUE</b>				
Balance Forward	183,222	241,558	294,236	336,236
Transferred from 2020&2021 Operating Account	58,336	52,678	42,367	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>241,558</b>	<b>294,236</b>	<b>336,603</b>	
<b>LISTED CAPITAL &amp; MAINTENANCE PROJ</b>	<b>Year Approved</b>			
RICE CREEK SEDIMENTATION	2006	50575	50575	50575
AIS RAPID RESPONSE PLAN	2017-2022	20000	20000	30000
*DREDGING MACHINE	2015	95880	95880	95880
PROPOSED INCREASE IN AIS RESPONSE PLAN	2022		10000	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>166,455</b>	<b>176,455</b>	<b>176,455</b>
	<b>2020</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
HNB LOAN EBWQ ALUM 2022			185,532	92,766
HNB LOAN EBWQ ALUM 2020	164,000	82,000		
BCPL Loan #02016142.01				
BCPL Loan #02016142.02	4,707	-		
BCPL Loan #02016142.03	35,096	21,386		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>203,803</b>	<b>103,386</b>	<b>185,532</b>	<b>92,766</b>

## BLPRD 2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

### BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES JULY 17, 2021, 8:30 AM UNITY PAC

#### 1) CALL TO ORDER

- Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:35 AM

#### 2) COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS PRESENT

- Commissioners Tom Kelly, Andy Wilhoit, Bill Mork, Rod Preble, Dave Mariani, Dale Ulbrich, Gary Schneider
- John Holz, PhD, HAB Aquatic Solutions
- Patty Kabus, Recorder

#### 3) APPROVE AGENDA

- Ron Helms motioned to approve the agenda, Dave Herr seconded, all approved, motion carried

#### 4) APPROVE MINUTES OF AUGUST 24, 2019 ANNUAL MEETING

- Ron Helms motioned to approve the July 18, 2020 meeting minutes, Dave Herr seconded, all approved, motion carried

#### 5) REPORTS

- Opening Comments – Commissioner Tom Kelly
- Thanks to the Commissioners, all the volunteers, Dave and Amanda from Unity for putting the venue together for us
- Thanks to the district members for their support for the district
- East Balsam 2022 Alum Treatment – Commissioner Andy Wilhoit and John Holz with HAB Aquatics
- Commissioner Wilhoit gave a brief history of his involvement on the Alum project, and recognized Cheryl Clemens from Harmony Environmental, for her work on the grants for the project
- Commissioner Wilhoit introduced John Holz from HAD Aquatics
- John Holz presented information about the first Alum Application
  - Cause of poor water quality is too much algae, caused by too much phosphorous in the water. The one problem not related to algae is weed growth
  - The goal was to reduce the phosphorous in the water
  - Sources of phosphorous are external or internal. The study showed that most of the phosphorous in East Balsam is internal loading. 70% of the phosphorous in East Balsam is in the bottom of the lake, in areas 10 feet or greater depth. This made Alum treatment a very good option for East Balsam

—continued on page 10

- (4) Bill James (UW Stout) did the study and recommended 4 treatments in the East Balsam. The first treatment makes the most difference. Follow-up treatments make it last longer
- (5) The first treatment was very successful. East Balsam results are the best of the 500 or so lakes HAD has treated in the past.
- (6) 72% reduction in the amount of algae from 2 years ago
- (7) 82% water clarity improvement in the same time period
- (8) In Bill James' study, 83% reduction in the amount of Alum treatment over the same period
- (9) Studies of Cedar Lake shows that after treatment greatly improves water property values

**QUESTIONS:**

- (1) Edward Sass – Is Phosphorous treatment permanent? Answer – we estimate the treatment will last approximately 20-25 years. At that time, we may need to do another lower treatment
- (2) Vaness Menard – Asked about Loveless having issues – will that ever come to our lake? Answer – Commissioner Kelly said it is not connected to our lake so it will not impact us
- (3) Al Felgate – asked if the treatment can impact well water? Answer – Alum will not migrate into the water. Once it blocks the phosphorous, it stays in the bottom of the lake. John also noted that alum is used in drinking water, and that it is common for phosphorous to be low in wells. Al also noted that loons are in the lake more, and they would not stay if the water was cloudy
- (4) Judy Felgate – there are lots of weeds on the north shore of East Balsam. What effect does the treatment have on weeds? Answer – We are not treating weeds, just the phosphorous level in the water, which controls algae. The Alum treatment is not designed to treat weeds
- (5) Al Felgate – Aren't the fast motors causing issues? Have we considered lowering the speed on the lake? Answer – wind and wave action does not impact the Alum treatment. We actually want wave action, as this helps mix and bind phosphorous to the Alum
- (6) Dean Simmons – Why is East Balsam treatment more effective than other lakes? Answer – It's hard to say for sure.
- (7) Ron Helms – Is regrowth of weeds more in East Balsam because it is a shallower lake? Answer – Yes

**RESOLUTION FOR SECOND ALUM TREATMENT FUNDING READ BY COMMISSIONER DAVE MARIANI, SECRETARY:**

Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District Board Resolution 02-2021 RESOLUTION of the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District County of Polk, Wisconsin

- WHEREAS** Balsam Lake is an important resource used by the public for recreation and enjoyment of natural beauty; and
- WHEREAS** public use and enjoyment of Balsam Lake is best served by protection of Balsam Lake from the deteriorating water quality in the East Balsam Basin; and
- WHEREAS** we recognize the need to provide information and education about specific alum treatment in the East Balsam Basin opportunities; and
- WHEREAS** alum treatment in specific DNR approved areas of the lake will lead to better water quality, and will promote the public health, comfort, convenience, necessity and public welfare; and
- WHEREAS** we recognize the need for alum treatment in specific areas; and
- WHEREAS** we are qualified to carry out the responsibilities of the East Balsam Lake Basin alum project.

**IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT:**

The District Board of Commissioners of the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District is hereby authorized to borrow up to the sum of Three Hundred and Eighty Five Thousand and 00/100 (\$385,532.00) for the purpose of financing the purchase of an alum treatment of the East Balsam basin subject to approval of a WI DNR grant of \$200,000.00 AND, levy upon all the taxable property of the district a direct and irrevocable annual tax for the purpose of paying, and sufficient to pay both the interest on the loan as it becomes due and repay the loan principal within 2.5 years of making of the loan.

**IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT,** the Officers and Commissioners of Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District are authorized and directed to execute any and all actions reasonably necessary to complete such contemplated borrowing transaction and complete the alum application and monitoring.

- Commissioner Kelly asked if anyone else needed to hand in their ballots, that they do so now
- Water Safety Patrol – Commissioner Rod Preble

Tommy Thompson is now doing water safety patrol. Commissioner Preble noted that after 2 years of no water patrol, it was a wild west.

Question (Ron Helms) – why is town bay split out on the slides from no wake zone? Answer – just for information. The speed is the same for both

**QUESTIONS:**

- (1) Fran Hollenstien – what is the issue caused by wake boats. Answer (Tommy Thompson) – the law says the wake cannot cause a hazardous wake or wash. We are waiting for clarification as to what this means. Part 2 of this law says that if you create damage, you are liable for the damage. Commissioner Kelly clarified the 100/200 feet from shore is always a no wake zone, and asked that residents inform their families when they are in town. He also noted we will report back in the *Dock Side* or at the next annual meeting
- (2) David Kerr – How do we report violations? Commissioner Preble – call the Commissioners, who will call Tommy and see if he can find the boat. If you can, take a picture of the boat and send it to Tommy. Commissioner Preble also noted that in bass tournaments, if there are over 20 boats, and a violation is reported and a ticket issued, the person is immediately disqualified from the tournament.

Tommy notes that slow/no wake is defined as the absolute slowest speed you can travel and still maintain steerage.

Email Thomas.Thompson@balsamlakepolice.org with any violations, preferably including a picture of the boat

A resident commended everyone on the board for their efforts, and said it is making a big difference

- **AQUATIC PLAN MANAGEMENT/AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES – COMMISSIONER ROD PREBLE**

This year's focus is on managing invasive species  
Spraying is determined by very objective data methods. This year, no spraying was indicated. This means that the harvesting is doing its job  
Matt Berg checks landings once a month all summer  
Once a year, he also does a check of the entire shoreline  
This year, we are also adding plates to monitor for zebra mussels  
Yellow Iris plant was found this year for the first time. The entire plant is poisonous which makes it hard to remove  
Purple Loosestrife, Forget-me-nots and Narrow Leaf cattails are invasive but not critical. Volunteers could help remove these

- **HARVESTING CURLY LEAF PONDWEED AND NAVIGATION – COMMISSIONER ROD PREBLE**

This year was an early ice-out.

Testing is showing lower levels of CLP. Harvesting is being used to remove the weeds

The harvester is down right now, being fixed. But we are on track for this year's harvesting. It is a censor issue that has been intermittent all year. They are narrowing down the cause of the issue. We are being cautious because we don't want to risk the engine for a small issue.

Each fall, turion counts help determine the next year's harvesting plan

- **CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS – COMMISSIONER BILL MORK**

Commissioner Mork reported the hours on the landings and hours they are being monitored

We again have a veteran crew this year, and are looking for more participation. It pays \$15 per hour (PK – check, is this right? I thought it was \$12)

Commissioner Mork reviewed the invasive species we are currently working on eradicating. He asked for volunteers willing to help with this effort

Commissioner Mork discussed zebra mussels, and noted we are working with the commercial contractors we work with, because our best chance to eradicate zebra mussels is to catch them very early

Commissioner Mork reviewed the stats for this year vs last year

**AT THIS TIME, COMMISSIONER KELLY NOTED THE ALUM VOTE RESULTS - 128 IN FAVOR OF ALUM TREATMENT, 3 AGAINST. THE ALUM TREATMENT FUNDING HAS PASSED**

- **HEALTHY LAKES – COMMISSIONER TOM KELLY**

Commissioner Kelly provided an overview of the Healthy Lakes program

**6) TREASURER REPORT**

- **2020 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2021 YTD / 2022 BUDGET – COMMISSIONER GARY SCHNEIDER**

Commissioner Schneider highlighted that this year, the tax assessment revenue is down next year

Grant revenue includes anticipated grant from the 2022 Alum Treatment

Excess cash flow from 2020 of \$52,000 will be used towards 2022 budget. We will consider doing this in the future as well

Admin costs show a 9% decrease from 2021

Aquatic Plant management decrease are due to decreases in the APM plan and studies

Loans – Alum Loan, Harvester loan will be paid off in March of 2022

Lake Management Services increased by \$7000, mostly due to the management plans and dam contributions made to the Village

Review of current account values and loan status year over year

Question (Jean O'Connell) – what is the dredging for? Answer – it was approved but has been scrapped. It is just showing because it had been approved

Question (Abe Wegman) please provide a Rice Creek Sediment update. Commissioner Ulbrich – It was studied last year and is about 1/3 full right now. Per the DNR, they think when it reaches about 2/3 full, it is appropriate for it to be dredged. Based on estimates, we are about 10 years away from that need

Jerry Connessy motioned to approve the budget as presented, Ron Helm seconded, all approved, motion carried

**7) REGISTERED COMMISSIONER CANDIDATES ELIGIBLE FOR 2021 ELECTION**

- Vote for two

Dale Ulbrich

Andy Wilhoit

- Commissioner Kelly reported that voted have been tabulated, and by a simple majority, both have been re-elected

**8) OLD BUSINESS**

- Long Range Lake Management Plan Update – Commissioner Dale Ulbrich

Where we are today – 2006 and 2012 were the last amendments, along with a 2020 amendment focused on Alum Treatment

Main focus in our plan is habitat and plant and animal preservation management

- Update was required in 2022, but the DNR has stated that because we did the amendment in 2019, we do not have to do the update. But because the focus in 2019 was focused on Alum in 2019, we want to do a survey on whether we should do anything (and if so, what) of people in the district, asking for ideas for what they want to include. The survey will be on the website. If we do not get a good response, we will do a mailing to everyone in the lake district.
- Ultimately, we want to end up with a list of potential ideas, which we would then estimate based on cost, effort, risk, and value to prioritize the potential projects and determine where it makes sense to focus our efforts

**9) ELECTION RESULTS**

- See item 7 above

**10) NEW BUSINESS**

- Commissioner Kelly recognized the work Patty Kabus does to help
- Commissioner Kelly thanked the Plan Management volunteers and Commissioners for their efforts on updating the plans
- ACTION ITEM: Commissioner Ulbrich had a couple constituents call to ask if there is a way to modify our bylaws to allow mail or other voting in the future  
Commissioner Kelly noted our current bylaws do not allow absentee voting, but we can research this
- ACTION ITEM: Jay Olson – Asked if we are looking into charges for boats coming onto the lake. Commissioner Kelly replied that we are currently investigating this and will report back on it

**11) ADJOURN**

- Ron Helms motioned to adjourn, Jean O'Connell seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned



# Dock Side

Balsam Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District  
P.O. Box 202  
Balsam Lake, WI 54810

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
BALSAM LAKE, WI  
54810  
PERMIT NO. 202

## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE ENCLOSED



## Clean Boats Clean Waters

Once again the CBCW program is off to a great start under the direction of Terry Morton. Twenty twenty-one had the crew working approximately 4,000 hours while inspecting a similar number of watercraft. All landing monitors except one have returned from last year and Terry reports that he has a good number of individuals for backup if needed. The program began on May 7th and will run until October 8th.

The hours for the landings are as follows:

### 46 Store and Town Bay

Monday: 10 am - 6 pm  
Tuesday: Off  
Wednesday-Sunday: 6 am - 6 pm

### Little Balsam and East Balsam

Tuesday-Friday: 6 am - 10 am  
Saturday-Sunday: 6 am - 2 pm  
Monday: Off

In addition Polk County has enacted a new ordinance that requires anyone launching a boat to utilize a cleaning station when available at the landing. BLPRD is investigating the possibility of installing cleaning stations at the landings on Balsam Lake. The cleaning stations are self-service and vary in size and price. The cost is supplemented by the Wisconsin DNR via grants. See page 3. ●



Signage at Balsam's Town Bay landing.



**Clean, Drain, Dry...**  
every water body,  
every time. Before  
launching and before  
leaving the water  
access:

**CLEAN** off visible aquatic plants, animals and mud from boat, trailer and all equipment.

**DRAIN** motor, bilge, live well and any other water-containing devices.

**DRY** everything for at least five days before reuse or disinfect.

**NEVER MOVE** fish or bait from one body of water to another.

[stopaquaticinvasive.org](http://stopaquaticinvasive.org)