



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting June 15, 2024 8:30 AM Central Time

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

Marisa Wieder is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83575516151>

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

- Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:34 AM

**2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**3) OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Marisa Wieder, Lake District Manager
- Patty Kabus, Recorder
- Graden Levine

**4) APPROVE AGENDA:**

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

**5) APPROVE MINUTES:** May 2024

- Commissioner Weix motioned to approve the May Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Schneider seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

**6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Graden reported that he had a meeting with Commissioner Schneider regarding issues in Little Balsam. They are suggesting signs to be installed to tell boaters to avoid wakes. Graden said they are receiving complaints and have a communication strategy to reach out to those who are causing issues. It would be 2 traffic style signs. Commissioner

Palmberg asked if it was possible to put a sign on a buoy. It was discussed that it would be better to put it on a landowner property. Commissioner Ulbrich noted we would use yellow tape to mark off 'low wake zone'. The other commissioners were in agreement. Commissioner Schneider will follow up with the homeowner and also with the DNR.

**7) TREASURER REPORT:**

- Financials / Schneider
  - Commissioner Schneider presented the May Financials.
  - Commissioner Mork motioned to approve the May financials, Commissioner Palmberg seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

**8) Water Quality**

- Alum / Wieder & Kelly
  - Marisa reported on the alum treatment that occurred last week. Approximately 302 acres were treated. They hit all the metrics they were hoping to achieve. This was the 3<sup>rd</sup> of 4 planned treatments. Commissioner Palmberg suggested the pictures be included in the fall dockside. Marisa will do that. Commissioner Palmberg asked when the next monitors occur. Bill James will be our twice between now and September to monitor progress. Commissioner Kelly also suggested we can contract with Land and Water to include East Balsam in the whole lake monitoring process.
  - We are still waiting for East Balsam to be removed from the impaired lake list.

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

- CBCW / Mork
  - CBCW is now underway and is going well.
  - Discussion around hours of operation at the various landing
  - Also, discussion around cameras at the cleaning stations, and the possibility of adding them to identify people who don't use the cleaning station
  - Commissioner Ulbrich noted that Milltown and Georgetown are in favor of enforcing the cleaning station use per the Polk County ordinance. Marisa noted that violations are not being followed up on by the sheriff's office. They are going to try to have the sheriff's department attend the next land and water meeting.
- Herbicide / Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
  - Harvesting began last week. We also did a chemical treatment on East Balsam. We just received our mapping for the entire lake from Matt Berg.
  - We are still having an issue with the harvester shutting down occasionally. There are currently only 2 people, plus one new hire to work on the harvester. Don Coddington really wants to pass the torch to someone else. Commissioner Weix met with someone from Apple River, who would be able to work on the harvester as well. They are very experienced people who are able to run and maintain the harvester. Currently, there is not an organized schedule for what to harvest and where. It is possible they could start this year and basically take over the majority of the lake. The current operators do not want to work in the rain or on weekends, but the Apple River operators will work in rain or per the schedule. Commissioner Weix

noted we would still keep the local team on the lake one or two days a week and then use the Apple River team the rest of the lake.

- Matt berg noted that there is only one small spot left on East Balsam. Commissioner Weix asked if the chemical treatment should be considered in Millpond. Commissioner Kelly stated that due to water flow, chemical treatment wouldn't work well, but that it is possible to move the harvester into Millpond.
- We do have a new GPS in the harvester with waypoints. The new team is very familiar with how to use them.
- Commissioner Schneider asked if we got the huge amounts of weeds that was predicted. Commissioner Weix noted that there is.
- Commissioner Kelly noted that there were complaints that the alum treatment killed fish. Commissioner Kelly corrected that and let them know this was due to the herbicide treatment. Commissioner Weix has received a number of complaints about weeds floating on the lake.
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
  - Commissioner Kelly asked if we should remove this item. Commissioner Schneider said yes, it should come off.

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

- 2024 water patrol / Schneider
  - Commissioner Schneider reported on a wake boat incident with St Croix Docks. It has been discussed with the owner and the person who caused the incident. Hopefully this will not happen again.
  - There was a boater safety class over Memorial Day weekend. There were 8 students and 2 parents, which was a little low. Hopefully it will build over the next few years. It went well. Commissioner Kelly asked if there is a way to determine how many people in our zip code signed up for an online class. It appears there may be about 5 more. Commissioner Schneider thanked Graden for attending and talking to the group.
  - A new boat is in the process of being purchased. It should be on the water hopefully by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July
  - Incidents reported include mostly people sitting in the front of boats and pontoons with their legs dangling in the water
  - Commissioner Kelly asked if the wake surfing in the no wake zone has been followed up on. There was a white boat with a black decal. Commissioner Kelly will find the video and forward it to the commissioners and to Graden.

#### **11) OLD BUSINESS**

- Rice Creek Conservancy - signage / Palmberg
  - Waiting for mosquitos to die down a bit to get the signs installed. They should start going in this week.
  - A side benefit is that we now have a better high-resolution logo we can use
- Construction Project Little Balsam Hillside cave in / Palmberg

- Commissioner Palmberg noted that we have an updated erosion control plan at this time. The disappointing point is that they are not requiring correction by removing rocks and putting material under them. They are also not requiring an infiltration basin. This means that it is what it is at this point. Commissioner Kelly asked if we should request it formally. The commissioners agreed. Marisa noted there is a Geotech fabric textile under the rocks. This helps with erosion but not runoff. Commissioner Kelly asked if we put in a 30' buffer, if that would help. Marisa asked if what we want is just to express disappointment with Land and Water.
- Commissioner Kelly asked Marisa to put together a communication. It will be sent to the board and then sent to Land and Water. Commissioner Palmberg noted specifically the infiltration, the buffer zone, and to ask how they are going to access the lake based on the plan. Marisa noted that the current plan is typically used for agricultural only. The letter should go to Mo, Land and Water, and Zoning. Commissioner Palmberg will assist Marisa. Commissioner Ulbrich stated this should also go to Georgetown, Milltown and the Village because similar issues are happening in various places around the lake. Commissioner Kelly noted that the building inspector has been following up on this situation very quickly. Commissioner Kelly will route the inspector's name and contact information.
- Nanno Technology – sediment remediation / Ulbrich
  - Commissioner Ulbrich met with the electrician and said they will be able to set up a meter on the stations. They have met with Molear to determine requirements. We are now waiting for the annual meeting for approval.
  - Commissioner Kelly noted we have budgeted for in 2025 but not 2024. \$96, 000.00 will come from the protection fund, and the rest (about \$31,000.00) will come from the budget
  - Commissioner Kelly asked if September would be too late. Commissioner Ulbrich explained that it could be put in later this year and will stay until ice-in.
  - Commissioner Kelly will state that we can put this into play this year, but that we would need to borrow funds from the protection fund this year and then pay back next year, since funding is included in the 2025 budget. Pipes will be attached to docks.
  - Commissioner Palmberg asked if it makes sense to run through the winter. Commissioner Ulbrich noted the bacteria slows down over the winter, and that it renders the ice unsafe. So we really don't want to try to use it during the winter.
  - Outlets are in shallow water and the intake is in deeper water, which creates a swirling action.
  - The bays (Boston Bay in particular) that are scheduled to be treated have some of the highest organic and phosphorous levels Molear has ever seen.
  - We will monitor the bays being treated as well as those not being treated to correctly assess how the system is working.
- Stumps Bay Conservancy / Kelly

- Commissioner Kelly provided an update that nothing will happen this year concerning additions to Stumps Bay Conservancy.
- 2025 Budget / Schneider
  - Commissioner Schneider noted that the proposed budget has been sent out.
  - Commissioner Kelly noted we should make a motion to approve the 2025 budget to send to the residents at the annual meeting. Commissioner Schneider motioned to accept the proposed budget, commissioner Ulbrich seconded, all approved, motion carried.
- 24 Summer Dockside / Kelly
  - Final proof should be in by Monday or Tuesday, and hopefully mailing will occur around the first of July.
  - Commissioner Weix noted we should change the article owner from him to Marisa so she is the owner of the article.
  - Marisa suggested we have a brochure to hand out at the annual meeting.

## **12) NEW BUSINESS**

- Water Runoff / Palmberg
  - Marisa was able to determine that Blake Lake is having success using the Healthy Lakes grant. Board members were very familiar with, and were some of the initial users of the program and that helped with acceptance. They provided seed packets and free saplings to residents, and this has helped raise awareness.
  - Commissioner Kelly noted that buffer zones are part of our plan.
  - Commissioner Weix asked if we can potentially use a grant to improve the land on the property where the harvester is being stored
- Annual meeting is July 20<sup>th</sup>. Board members should be there at 7:30. We need election volunteers and judges. We have 4 judges lined up.
- The meeting will be at Unity School. Marisa will follow up and confirm this for us.
- Commissioners Ulbrich and Schneider are up for election this year. Ballots and checking books are ready to go.
- Commissioner Ulbrich volunteered to put the slides together again this year. He and Marisa will work together to put the slides together

## **13) OTHER REPORTS:**

- Milltown / Palmberg
  - The meeting report has been sent out. There was nothing new this week, but a new presentation will occur in July to update on this meeting, including this month's minutes.
- County / Mariani
  - Nothing to report. Commissioner Kelly sent out a communication regarding the dam. The dam has been considered in fair condition for the last 10 years. There will need to be repairs made.

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

- The workers comp will be onsite to monitor our equipment and our operations.

**15) ADJOURN:**

- Commissioner Weix motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Weix seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM.