



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting October 19, 2024 8:30 AM Central Time

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

Online at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81937475741?pwd=1d4OP0GbiXxuBA2lZOmWza3GB4591g.1>

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

- Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM

**2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**3) OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Marisa Wieder, Lake District Manager
- Patty Kabus, Recorder
- Dan Ruck, Lake area resident

**4) APPROVE AGENDA:**

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

**5) APPROVE MINUTES: September 2024**

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

**6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

- Dan Ruck noted that the conservation land is public land. He noted that water quality is important to the Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. Commissioner Mork noted that this is not public land and explained that the district used to allow trapping

on the lake and then they started to have issues with side by sides on the land, and it was a safety issue. It is hard to limit and control access and still allow trapping. He noted that it is difficult to not allow hunting but allow trapping. The decision was made to limit both. Commissioner Palmberg asked Dan to explain how trapping could be allowed in a way that protects residents. Dan noted that he only traps in water, so people would not be hurt or going in the water. He noted there is very little walking that happens in that area. Commissioner Palmberg asked if there are licensing for water trapping, and how you can make sure people don't leave their traps in the water, and how you would limit the number of people trapping. Commissioner Kelly thanked Dan for his input, and told him the board will consider this topic at next board meeting.

- Marisa has information from another lake district that allows limited use trapping, she will forward it on to the rest of the board. Commissioners Palmberg and Commissioner Mork noted that this could be a slippery slope but possibly an exception could be granted on an annual basis. A lot of work went into this policy and reservations were expressed about gutting the program at this point.

#### **7) TREASURER REPORT:**

- Financials / Schneider
  - i) Commissioner Schneider presented the August Financials. – Commissioner Mariani motioned to approve the August financials, Commissioner Weix seconded, all approved. Motion carried.
  - ii) Commissioner Schneider presented the September Financials. – Commissioner Palmberg motioned to approve the September financials, Commissioner Ulbrich seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

#### **8) Water Quality**

- Alum / Wieder & Kelly
  - Commissioner Kelly noted that water quality in other parts of the lake (his bay) is much better than other years. The other 3 basins are also much improved.
  - This was a rather robust season for weeds. The weeds are then absorbing the phosphorous in the lake.
- 2024 sampling results
  - Results from monitoring continue to be very favorable and exceed the established targets.

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

- CBCW / Mork
  - The season is over for CBCW. There were a couple incidents that we may need to have a plan for the future when we have breakdowns. It would be beneficial if we have someone to rely on when we have issues. The vacuum was getting filled quickly. Olson is now pumping them so this issue has been remedied.
  - There was also one other issue with the compressor that the vendor looked at. They will address after the season ends. We need a handyman who is available to service it when needed. Commissioner Kelly asked how we go about finding someone to

service it. Terry Morton is trying to find someone as well. Commissioner Palmberg asked about the Peppers gas station, Commissioner Kelly will check into this and also asked that if other commissioners have ideas, they bring them to Commissioner Kelly. It was also suggested we craft something for the website and also ask on facebook if anyone is interested. The nannobubbler is under warranty for a year and the company we bought it from can provide service on it. Commissioner Kelly noted that if a handyman can work on industrial strength pumps, it would be helpful

- Herbicide / Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
  - Everything has been put away for the year, and is in for maintenance right now. It will be put in storage in the next few weeks. It is currently shutting down unexpectedly and the county is working on it.
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
  - Nothing new to report

#### **10) Water Patrol**

- 2024 water patrol / Kelly
  - The season is about wrapped up for the year. There are discussions underway with the county and other lake districts to cost-share on another officer.

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

- Construction Project Little Balsam Hillside cave in / Palmberg
  - The lakeshore has been converted to rip-rap. The county continues to monitor the project.
- Nanno Technology – sediment remediation / Ulbrich
  - The equipment has been shipped and we should be installed in the next week or so. It will be used for a while this year and then will be ready to go as soon as the ice is out in the spring.
  - 'Before' mapping is being done in both the bay being treated (Boston Bay) as well as Forest Circle, which is being used as a control set. We can do intermittent mapping of the muck so we can follow how effective it is.
- Fall Dockside / Kelly
  - Dockside articles are due in the next day or so, please submit them in word format. Karen Englebretson will be formatting and we will have them printed (printer not yet identified).
- Updating web design / Palmberg & Wieder
  - Commissioner Palmberg and Marisa presented a new web site design. Commissioner Palmberg said they took the current website to make sure they got all the information, and also looked at other lake district websites. The goal is to make sure it is easily accessible and easy to use.
  - The goal will be for us to be able to maintain the website ourselves.

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

- Lake and River Organization Recreational Deputy / Wieder

- There is interest in pooling funds to help fund a second recreational deputy. The chief of the sheriff reached out to us. The new position would be exclusive to lake deputy. The county would bill lakes for the hours spent on each lake.
- Commissioner Kelly noted that once the program is defined, we should express interest in helping fund this position. Some of the other lakes do not have any water patrol of their own. So our involvement helps not only our lake but also the other lakes. We would just tell them how many hours we would like to utilize. We cannot calculate this until we know what the hourly rate would be.
- Water Runoff / Wieder
  - Potential project cost share with LWRD
    - We do have information as to where we have runoff issues on the lake. 10 letters were sent out, one person was very interested, but once they got the cost, the homeowners backed out. LWRD will pay 50% of the cost.
    - Commissioner Kelly asked if partnering with this lake owner is something the BLPRD would like to investigate. We need to get further information on the specific plan and property.
    - The contract would be with the county. We would assist in the landowner's share.
    - Marisa will get more details on the specific project and will forward it to the board. The Lake District is interested in getting involved.
- Water quality survey main lake, Boston Bay & Little Balsam
  - This report has been distributed to the board and posted on the website. Boston Bay and the main lake continues to be healthy, so much Little Balsam. Little Balsam appears to have some water browning. All 3 basins need to be monitored.
  - A comment was made that zoning on Little Balsam is being violated and contributes to the water quality problem. Shoreline zoning is ineffective in enforcing their own zoning, which is contributing to the issue.
- Commissioner resignation
  - Commissioner Schneider has submitted his resignation and thanked the board for their work. The board also thanked Commissioner Schneider for his work. He will assist in turnover of the financial responsibilities.
  - Commissioner Kelly introduced Dave Wagner. Dave previously served on the board for 6 years, and advised us at the annual meeting that he was interested in taking on the Treasurer Position on the board. Dave shared his biography, and is well qualified to join the board.
  - Commissioner Kelly recommended that we invite Dave to join our board to replace Gary's position. Commissioner Mork had worked with him before and recommends him. Everyone else agreed.
  - Commissioner Kelly made a motion to appoint Dave Wagner to replace Commissioner Schneider as Commissioner, Commissioner Mariani seconded, all approved, motion carried.

**13) OTHER REPORTS:**

- Milltown / Palmberg
  - The attorney who is helping Apple River bring zoning into the village responsibility instead of the county, is willing to help Milltown do the same. It would not impact shoreline zoning but would include other zoning areas.
- County / Mariani
  - Commissioner Mariani as well as Commissioner Kelly have been in communication regarding shoreline issues. Sarah McCurdy has expressed that is the zoning department is not properly enforcing zoning regulations, she will take it over.
  - House numbers are being changed in Balsam Lake Township, followed by the Village of Balsam Lake. This is being done for fire and emergency access.
  - The county is still looking at setbacks where they make sense. This is both shoreline zoning as well as non-shoreline zoning.
  - The county may be taking on recycling changes. More to come.
  - The month of November is working on their budget at this time.

**14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- None

**15) ADJOURN:**

- Commissioner Mork motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Weix seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at

DRAFT