



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting September 21, 2024 8:30 AM Central Time

Polk Business Center Lower Level Community Room

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

1) CALL TO ORDER:

- Commissioner Kelly called the meeting to order at 8:30 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

4) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

5) APPROVE MINUTES: June 2024

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Someone approached Commissioner Kelly asking why we restrict trapping on conservation land. More to come.

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider

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

8) Water Quality

- Alum / Wieder & Kelly
 - i) The most recent reports have been distributed and they are phenomenal. We did pay down the loan with the grant we received.
 - ii) The lake is much clearer, even in areas of East Balsam where the alum was not applied.
 - iii) The grant has been submitted this year.

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - i) CBCW – no update
 - ii) Bill Mork communicated that there are no more beetles on the lake that control the purple loosestrife, so more will need to be released.
- Herbicide / Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
 - iii) We are done for the season. We plan to get all permits submitted this fall rather than waiting until spring.
 - iv) Harvester is going in on Monday and Rod will take a look at it for us – there is an oil pressure that is knocking off the switch. We have backup pumps and motors.
 - v) The new crew from Apple River has some ideas that will be much more efficient, but it may be expensive. We have an operator who will be starting in the spring, who has experience with the same harvester we have.
 - vi) Rob Skaars is also interested in being more involved.
 - vii) There has been some pushback from a fisherman who was upset about the dump truck being at the landing.
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
 - i) We will get a final report next month.

10) Water Patrol

- 2024 water patrol / Kelly
 - i) Tommy Thompson is now reporting to Commissioner Kelly.
 - ii) The Homeowner's Association is responsible for the buoys.
 - iii) Marisa noted that there is discussion among lake managers to possibly help fund a second county recreation officer. They are gauging interest in this by the end of next month. Commissioner Kelly noted that we would be interested in helping fund this, and would welcome extra help and be willing to help. The time spent on our lake may be proportional to the cost they are assessed.

11) OLD BUSINESS

- Rice Creek and Stumps Bay Conservancy - signage / Palmberg
 - i) Stumps Bay – the signs have been posted and is done for now. We will monitor it.
 - ii) Rice Creek – the full signage has been posted where people park.
 - iii) Commissioner Palmberg got a call from a homeowner about no trapping. To be discussed more in the next few weeks. The reason to have no trapping is due to potential injury by people or pets being caught in a trap.
 - iv) Commissioner Kelly noted that at one time, there was an initiative to trap out the muskrats due for the benefit of the wild rice.
 - v) Marisa noted that there are 2 types of traps, aquatic and land, and different sizes. So if we wanted to, we could allow only certain types. Commissioner Palmberg noted that we have the flexibility to do what we want to do, and that we are trying to make it safe and accessible for everyone, not just a few people.
 - vi) Neighbors will monitor and will report to the sheriff if there are violations.
- Construction Project Little Balsam Hillside cave in / Palmberg
 - i) We are meeting with the County Administrator, the zoning department and the DNR regarding the cave in situation. We are also filing a complaint with the DNR. The remediation that was ordered by the county has not been completed. The head of both Land and Water and the Zoning Department is very aware of the issue and will step in if needed.
 - ii) Other issues now appearing, this appears to mean that a precedent has been set. Discussion about contacting our Lawyer to find out what our options are :
 - Bear Island – The homeowners stacked pavers in the water and used dirt from other places on the property to backfill. A violation has been filed with the DNR. The supervisor has also been called as well as the Village. We can also escalate to the DNR Section Chief if needed.
 - Boathouse across from the cave in – there are 4 structures on a property. A 4th permit has now been issued for the property, which is against zoning ordinances (only 3 structures are allowed). The County Administrator agreed that this should not have happened.
- Nanno Technology – sediment remediation / Ulbrich
 - i) Commissioner Ulbrich and Marisa mapped the bays using the DNR's protocol for where to collect data. The initial data will be utilized to compare year over year. Depth, muck and vegetative species were collected at each site. Removal of phosphorous-laden sediment is one goal of treatment. Once the nano bubbler has done its job, the lake's normal self-cleaning processes will take over. One bay that is not being treated will be used as a control.
 - ii) The harvester could potentially use the technology to map out where electrical lines, etc are at so they can be avoided. The new crew relies primarily on the GPS data.

- iii) Installation will occur this year (late October) so it's ready for spring. It probably won't run very long this year. Marisa will add documentation for this process to our procedures manual.

12) NEW BUSINESS

- Authorizing resolutions for 2024 grants / Wieder
 - i) Alum Tx
 - Resolution for alum grant read by Marisa Wieder, Lake Manager:

STANDARD AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, (applicant) is interested in obtaining a cost share grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the purpose of East Balsam Alum Treatment 4; WHEREAS, the respondent attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the application;

**WHEREAS, an Agreement/Contract is required to carry out the project; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (applicant) will meet the financial obligations necessary to fully and satisfactorily complete the project and hereby authorizes and empowers the following officials or employees to submit the following documents to the DNR for financial assistance that may be available: Task Title of Authorized Representative
Email address and phone number if alternative is used**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that respondent will comply with all local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and ordinances relating to this project and the cost-share Agreement/Contract. I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by at a legal meeting

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE: The Authorized Signature and the Representative should not be the same person, unless minutes of the meeting where the resolution was adopted are attached.

Commissioner Ulbrich motioned to approve the Alum resolution, Commissioner Mariani seconded, all approved, motion carried.

- ii) APM update
 - Resolution for new no wake zone read by Marisa Wieder, Lake Manager:

STANDARD AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, (applicant) is interested in obtaining a cost share grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the purpose of the APM Plan Update; WHEREAS, the respondent attests to the validity and veracity of the statements and representations contained in the application; WHEREAS, an Agreement/Contract is required to carry out the project; and NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that (applicant) will meet the financial obligations necessary to fully and satisfactorily complete the project and hereby authorizes and empowers the following officials or employees to submit the following documents to the DNR for financial assistance that

may be available: Task Title of Authorized Representative Email address and phone number if alternative is used

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that respondent will comply with all local, state, and federal rules, regulations, and ordinances relating to this project and the cost-share Agreement/Contract. I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by at a legal meeting

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

NOTE: The Authorized Signature and the Representative should not be the same person, unless minutes of the meeting where the resolution was adopted are attached.

Commissioner Weix motioned to approve the APM update resolution, Commissioner Palmberg seconded, all approved, motion carried.

iii) CBCW

– Resolution for new no wake zone read by Marisa Wieder, Lake Manager:

STANDARD AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District requests grant funds under the Department of Natural Resources' Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Grant Program and hereby authorizes Bill Mork to act on its behalf by signing and submitting an application for financial assistance; completing and submitting periodic reports, if needed; and taking necessary actions to direct and complete the Clean Boats, Clean Waters project. Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District will meet the financial obligations of the AIS program.

Commissioner Schneider motioned to approve the APM update resolution, Commissioner Ulbrich seconded, all approved, motion carried.

- Water Runoff / Wieder
 - i) Marisa presented information about homeowner assistance in addressing significant erosion correction methods. Commissioner Palmberg noted that if we can get a list of the 10 or so worst issues, we can consider reaching out to the homeowners about potential remediation. There is county funding available to help with this, and many lakes are also providing funding assistance. They are tending to budget \$1000 to \$3000 per project to help. We may need to prioritize year to year as to which projects should be done first.
 - ii) **ADD TO NEXT MEETING:** Look at the worst 10 properties and discuss what we can do to help get the issues remediated. Discuss whether we want to consider future funding of shoreline mitigation to help residents. This is not in the current budget but could be added to future years. Discussion about doing a tour and potentially even awarding the best examples of what can be done.
 - iii) Website will be updated with information about shoreline mitigation.
 - iv) Marisa is willing and able to assist with site panning.

- v) Details will be distributed to the commissioners for their review.
- vi) Blake Lake created an 'Ask and Expert' date where someone could go to homes to answer questions and provide assistance.
- Fall Dockside / Kelly
 - i) Discussion about finding a new printer to assemble our Docksidess. Karen is back to help with our dockside. She may have some contacts for printing. Commissioners Ulbrich and Commissioner Schneider both have contacts for printing that we can consider. Discussion around whether shipping should be included in the printing process.
 - ii) Fall Dockside drafts should be sent to Commissioner Kelly by the October board meeting with a goal to have them in the mail by early December.
 - iii) Marisa noted we should include things to consider to help with Zebra Mussels (such as lifting motors out of the water).
 - iv) Commissioner Ulbrich noted including an article about shoreline and water quality management, summarizing and emphasizing shoreline management.
- APM Plan / Wieder
 - i) The lake plan will be updated and measures will be built up in the plan, focusing on curly leaf treatment and updating the harvester information.
- Updating web design and service provider / Weix & Wieder
 - i) We are feeling like the web service provider just provides a standard response to specific questions and does not respond to the actual questions asked. At this point, we will be updating the website ourselves. We need someone who can redesign the pages and potentially maintain them for us.
 - ii) We may need to create a multi-step approach to updating the site by page so we have a better plan to handle website updating. Currently, Beaver Builder is being used to maintain the site. Begin by fixing the menu we currently have. Commissioner Palmberg and Marisa will come back with a starting point at the next year.
 - iii) **ADD TO NEXT MEETING:** Marisa and Commissioners Palmberg and Weix will bring this to the board next month.

13) OTHER REPORTS:

- Milltown / Palmberg
 - i) Response to the update provided in the meeting continues to be positive.
- County / Mariani
 - i) Pam Garvey is the replacement for the previous person. The county is now considering some setback changes and adding details to not have a 75-foot setback in some situations.
 - ii) Street numbers are going to be redone around the lake as part of the 911 initiative.
 - iii) Eric Wojich is land and conservation and noted they are at the 10-year point and will be reviewing farm impact on the lake.

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- A new potential conservation land acquisition will be discussed in future meetings.
- **ADD TO NEXT MEETING:** Gary has expressed a desire to resign from the board for personal reasons. The pieces will be moved around a bit as this change occurs. A good portion of the treasurer responsibility has now been outsourced so it is not as time-consuming. Gary will offer transition assistance to the new Treasurer. A few potential replacements have been identified, and Commissioner Kelly is looking into them. Timing for this change is flexible.

15) ADJOURN:

- Commissioner Palmberg motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Schneider seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:06.