



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes January 21, 2023 8:30 AM

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

1) CALL TO ORDER:

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

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT via ZOOM:

- Tom Kelly, Gary Schneider, Jack Weix, Dave Mariani, Dale Ulbrich, Bill Mork, Andy Wilhoit

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Brent White, Balsam Lake Surf Club

4) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

5) APPROVE MINUTES: December 2022

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Mark Pautsch – large wave watercraft
 - If there are changes to watercraft, they should apply to all boats and the whole lakes, and existing ordinances should be enforced. Ensure the side effects are understood, and we should listen to feedback from everyone. He said we should have asked people what their main concerns are – Commissioner Ulbrich noted this was asked in last year's survey.

- Brent White – Mark sent him a copy of the letter as well. Brent noted that his group wants to have a group as well. He asked that the concerns be put on as an agenda item and that we share the survey results. Commissioner Kelly noted that we are accepting surveys through the end of January. Results will be published and will remain on the agenda.

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider
 - Financials / Schneider - Commissioner Schneider reviewed the November Treasurer's report. Commissioner Mork motioned to approve the November Financial Reports, Commissioner Wilhoit seconded, all approved. Motion carried.
 - Financials / Schneider - Commissioner Schneider reported that we did not get the December Treasurer's report so will need to present the November Treasurer's report next month but are on target for our budget this month.
 - Commissioner Schneider stated that there was an error on the tax levy. There are 2 options: to send out refunds, or to account for it next year and use the money towards next year's taxes. His recommendation is to use the money towards next year's budget. Commissioner Kelly, stated that refunding through municipalities would be difficult and that we should have operating overages for 2023 including the tax error all should be credited to the 2023 budget.

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam / Wilhoit
 - Still waiting to hear back from Bill James regarding Cedar Lake, but the iron content seems to have caused the issues on that lake. We do not yet have a cost for 2024.

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - Commissioner Mork will circle back with Terry closer to the start of the year about getting additional workers lined up. Commissioner Kelly asked if we expect changes to CBCW staffing due to the cleaning stations. Commissioner Ulbrich said there are brochures available to help people get comfortable with using them. Commissioner Mork mentioned we would want to have the monitors assist with ensuring that people use the stations. The Wisconsin DNR has a website that includes a bunch of available informational pamphlets. Commissioner Kelly noted that we need to be sure that the pamphlets or the signage includes the ordinance wording. The county has already posted the ordinance at most landings. Commissioner Weix stated that we could also send information to the surf club, the fishing tournaments, etc to make the landings smoother.
 - Commissioner Kelly asked who tracks the tournaments on the lake. Commissioner Mork will contact Cheryl to see if she has the list, and can contact them.
- Purple loosestrife yellow Iris eradication / Mork
 - Commissioner Mork reported that the county will release beetles in two locations on the lake.

- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
 - Nothing to report at this time. Commissioner Kelly noted that there is another new person interested in joining the team this year (Eric Baumeister).

10) Water Patrol / Schneider

- Large wave watercraft - shoreline erosion – safety – survey - ordinance / Schneider
 - We are waiting for the survey to be completed and then will begin compiling results. A first draft of survey results has been shared with the board, more surveys are still coming in. The consensus is that something needs to be done. One educational thing that people don't understand is that waves dissipate over distance, so they aren't understanding the need to more distance from shore.
- Water Patrol 2023 budget / Schneider
 - Boat purchase – We need voter approval for anything over \$10,000 so will get it ready for the annual meeting to get approval to move forward with the purchase. The DNR grant is over 5 years.
 - Tommy had a 7% raise in his initial budget, Commissioner Schneider informed him that the board approved a \$1 raise. There will be 2 officers this summer, and the new officer does not need training this year.

11) OLD BUSINESS

- Watercraft CLEANING STATIONS CD3 / Ulbrich
 - Commissioner Ulbrich showed a diagram showing where some of the cleaning stations are located, showed possible sign content, and discussed who is responsible to provide information for the signs. There are 3 categories – fishing regulations and limits, launch and lake rules and invasive species. Polk County is happy that we are proposing using similar signage that other lakes have used.
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
 - Tyler is in the process of updating the DNR website to note that we now have zebra mussels in the lake
- Nanno Bubbles technology / Ulbrich
 - No update
- BL snowmobile club use of BLPRD building for servicing snow graders / Kelly
 - Commissioner Kelly contacted the snowmobile club and let him know that we would need a lease and insurance, but would be willing to lease space for a nominal fee. They currently do not need it.

12) NEW BUSINESS

- PCLW watershed project
- Commissioner Mariani updated the board on the TRM grant program that the county is giving money for projects. He asked if the BLPRD is interested in applying for any of this money. Commissioner Kelly noted that this program is different from the PCLW grant project, and that last year, the board agreed to potentially participate on a shared basis.

13) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider

- No update.
- County / Mariani
 - There is a zebra mussel forum webinar coming up on Feb 2 and runs all day in case anyone is interested to join

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- Commissioner Ulbrich noted we should discuss what to put in the next Dockside. Commissioner Kelly noted we have to post the annual meeting notice 2 weeks before the annual meeting, so need to have the Dockside articles ready in April, to be ready for the printer in the first 2 weeks of May. It then goes to the printer in early June. As to what goes in there, some of the topics will be:
 - Annual Meeting Notice
 - CBCW
 - Cleaning Stations
 - Water Safety
 - Large wave boats
 - Minutes from last year's meeting
 - Financials that are going to be approved
 - Any other material projects that are being considered for approvals at the meeting
- February meeting – do we need one? Everyone is fine with cancelling, but asked that Commissioner Ulbrich send out the survey results when they are available. Commissioner Kelly noted that we will leave the meeting in place for now but may cancel them. But the sub-committee will meet to review them

15) ADJOURN:

- Commissioner Weix motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Wilhoit seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:58 AM