



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Monthly Meeting Minutes for March 18, 2023 8:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84292712527?pwd=WktMemtIQ1ZrMGh6YnhlbjlyU52QT09>

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

1) CALL TO ORDER:

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

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT (all via teleconference):

- Tom Kelly, Gary Schneider, Jack Weix, Dave Mariani, Dale Ulbrich

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Patty Kabus, recorder

4) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

5) APPROVE MINUTES: January 2023

- Review minutes. Commissioner Weix motioned to approve the January Meeting Minutes, Commissioner Mariani seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- Brian Winger – wake boats
 - Brian sent a letter and recommends we institute a 400 feet no wake ordinance
 - To be discussed when we get to that line item

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Schneider

- Financials / Schneider - Commissioner Schneider reported that we did not get the February Treasurer's report so will need to present the report next month but are on target for our budget this month
- Commissioner Schneider Presented the December (year end) Financials
- Commissioner Schneider Presented the January Financials
- Commissioner Schneider Presented the February Financials
- Commissioner Mariani motioned to approve the financials, Commissioner Ulbrich seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

8) Water Quality

- East Balsam / Wilhoit
 - We did get grant approval for alum monitoring, and Tom has signed documents for the loan application for 2024. Cheryl recommended we go for the grant now instead of waiting

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - Current focus is doing what we can to get a list of fishing tournaments and contact local law enforcement to see how they can support us in terms of forcing the use of cleaning stations and other needs
 - Commissioner Ulbrich reported that we can put the Polk County ordinance decals on the side of the cleaning stations. He also recommended that any tournaments that have a logo put their decals there as well to show their support for the cleaning stations. He will contact Commissioner Mork to get the contact list
- Purple loosestrife yellow Iris eradication / Mork
 - No report
- Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
 - This program begins in April or May
 - The survey will happen a week or two after ice-out
 - Don Coddington has said he would like a replacement identified. This person should be mechanically inclined. Commissioner Weix will meet with him in the spring. Skills also need to include ability to back up a large trailer
 - Commissioner Kelly mentioned that Eric Bowmeister is interested in potentially taking this over. He recently retired, and has been a longtime resident of the lake.
 - The GPS system has broken and we will take it to see if it can be fixed this spring.
 - Should we consider putting electricity in the storage building?

10) Water Patrol / Schneider

- Second Officer Discussion
 - Commissioner Schneider reported that the second officer is working through the background checks, drug tests, psych eval, etc. He has agreed to come on board
 - They are also working to have the new boat ready for the 2024 boating season
 - We will have a meeting this spring to discuss what our expectations are for this season

- Recommend to keep the old boat so we can use it for holiday or busy weekends to have a second boat during those times
- Large wave watercraft - shoreline erosion – safety – survey – subcommittee recommendations / Schneider
 - Discussion about survey results, result points to the fact that we need to do something
 - Methods to educate the public, communication, signage, brochures, etc
 - Water patrol courtesy stops to remind people about the wake issue
 - Add wake issue to the annual meeting
 - Work with the DNR to see what help their patrols can do to help us
 - Commissioner Weix noted we should be clear on the website and in our communications, that we hear the complaints and are actively looking for answers. We should let them know what we are doing and what steps are being taken
 - Question was asked what people can do if they see something. Commissioner Kelly suggested that they should take a picture or video of the boat registration and send it to the water patrol (Tommy Thompson) along with a description of what they saw. “See Something – Say Something”. We should add this to the action plan and publish in the DockSide

11) OLD BUSINESS

- Watercraft CLEANING STATIONS CD3 / Ulbrich
 - March 15th, our grant went into play. At this time, the process for payment and reimbursement request is moving forward. ¼ can be paid initially. The rest is paid after the cleaning stations are installed. We will be getting 175 towels that can be passed out at no cost, to be used the weekend of June 2-4th, and then any remaining handed out after that
 - There are also brochures coming with information about our invasive species and species we are trying to prevent. There are also instructions on how to report suspected invasive species
 - We have really good support from the municipalities and the Homeowner’s Association
 - We are still working on finalizing the land use agreements with each of the municipalities
 - Commissioner Ulbrich noted that QR codes could also be put on the signage, and that some of our signage need painting and reorganization of information
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
 - We are currently in a wait and see mode. The DNR will continue to monitor, especially in the locations that mussels have been found
 - We had a forum in February. There was really nothing new reported, it’s still just monitoring. Texas and Minnesota have been pretty bullish in trying new things to try to reduce populations, without much success. Wisconsin is taking a less aggressive approach.

- One possibility is providing cinder blocks in the lake and cleaning them monthly, in an effort to attract and then remove them from the lake. There wasn't a lot of confidence in this method
- The County and the DNR are both trying to keep our infestation out of other lakes and that played into our getting the grant
- There are about 75 invasives that are on the watch list. Eurasian milfoil is probably the biggest risk on the list because it is so invasive, there are also a few more that are big on the list. We already have 5 invasives in the lake

12) NEW BUSINESS

- Petition to join District – Huss, Mariani, Ulbrich
 - We have discovered that this has not yet been completed. Petitions have been sent to the 3 constituents to be completed and sent in. Commissioner Kelly asked that the 3 petitions be submitted to him as soon as possible
- DNR grant awards – Alum application 2024, Alum monitoring 2023-2025, CBCW 2023, Cleaning Stations 2023-28
 - This was 7 different grants and all were approved. Commissioner Kelly expressed appreciation for the great work
- Recorder/Admin position
 - Patty has expressed a desire to phase out of this role through the annual meeting or at least through the end of the year
 - Commissioner Kelly noted that all hours spent should be billed, and that the commissioners come back to the next meeting with ideas

13) OTHER REPORTS:

- Village / Schneider
 - No update, however, we did get the assessments from the villages. Milltown has now surpassed the Village of Balsam Lake, so the Milltown municipality should now be able to appoint someone to represent them to the BLPRD Board if they so choose
- County / Mariani
 - No update

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- None

15) ADJOURN:

- Commissioner Mariani motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Schneider seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM