



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting November 16, 2024 8:30 AM Central Time

Call in phone number 612-508-0879

Online at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82287258252>

**1) CALL TO ORDER:**

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

**2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

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

**3) OTHERS PRESENT:**

- Marisa Wieder, Lake District Manager
- Patty Kabus, Recorder
- Chris Nelson, area builder

**4) APPROVE AGENDA:**

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

**5) APPROVE MINUTES:** October 2024

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

**6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:** *Shoreline* zoning authority – townships vs county / Chris Nelson

- Chris Nelson shared some information at the Milltown township meeting last month. He and Adam Jarchow will be on the December meeting. Apple River will now be doing their own zoning, but cannot do shoreline zoning. There are now 5 or 6 townships who do their own zoning. Only the county can do shoreline zoning, but townships and villages can do their own zoning that is not shoreline. Some of the permits being issued

are not allowing the townships before issuing permits. So townships are taking over zoning to keep the rural flavor in the townships. Only the Village of Balsam Lake regulates their own shoreline zoning. Milltown may consider taking over their own zoning. Discussion about things like solar farms, etc. Comments by the board, included the desire for the BLPRD to be involved in zoning and permit processes by the county or by the townships. Chris noted that currently, Villages have the ability to regulate shoreline zoning, townships do not. Commissioner Kelly asked for a history of how the Village took over shoreline zoning. Chris noted that the authority was given to villages a long time ago. Additional discussion about potential impact to this type of change. Marisa was asked to research the DNR 115 model shoreline ordinance, and distribute to the board.

**7) TREASURER REPORT:**

- Financials / Kelly & Wagner
  - i) Dave Wagner presented the October Financials. Commissioner Ulbrich motioned to approve the October financials, Commissioner Mariani seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

**8) Water Quality**

- Alum / Wieder & Kelly
  - i) The report from Bill James as well as the annual report were distributed to the board members. In summary, East Balsam is doing what we expected plus a little better. Other Bays are solid. Little Balsam is a little less clean. Commissioner Kelly noted that we should monitor Little Balsam closely. Discussion about monitoring the creeks (Rice Creek plus one other creek) that feed Little Balsam. Commissioner Kelly asked Marisa to check with the county to see if they have done phosphorous testing in the past, and get the results if possible. Commissioner Ulbrich reported that phosphorous testing was done over 20 years ago, before the sedimentation project was done. Discussion about DNR programs to help improve water quality. Marisa noted there are programs to educate farmers on how water quality helps crop yield and quality. She will look into these programs. Our current long-range plan expires in 2029, perhaps this could be included in a long-range plan.
  - ii) The grant for Alum as well as the APM plan has been submitted.

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

- CBCW / Mork
  - i) No update
- Herbicide / Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
  - ii) No update, we have not seen a bill yet.
- Zebra Mussels /Ulbrich
  - i) No update, take this off the agenda

**10) Water Patrol**

- 2024 water patrol / Kelly

- i) Patrol hours were down, but citations were fairly consistent with last year. Less warnings this year.
- ii) Additional revenue we will see will be applied to the Operating budget, which will offset homeowner costs.
- iii) Commissioner Mork asked if there were any incidents on the lake. Commissioner Kelly noted that to his knowledge, there were no airlifting incidents this year. It seems that boating incidents seem to be less than previously.

## 11) OLD BUSINESS

- Nanno Technology – Aquatic plant data / Ulbrich & Wieder
  - i) It has been running since October 30<sup>th</sup>. Right at the end of this season, we will do another map to get a sense of how it is working. Commissioner Ulbrich noted the water was considerably clearer even after 1 week. The bay being treated is visibly breaking down the leaves as they fall into the lake. The progress is encouraging so far. We are close to the end of the season, and it will probably be taken out next Saturday. The unit itself will be acid washed with a vinegar solution, and the pipes are gravity drained. The current location is in Boston Bay.
  - ii) Commissioner Wagner asked how long each bay will be treated. Commissioner Ulbrich stated between 3 and 6 months.
  - iii) Commissioner Kelly asked who was doing the cleaning, Commissioner Ulbrich noted he will do it with Commissioner Palmberg, so there are 2 commissioners that know how to do it.
  - iv) Marisa presented a plant survey that was done before the nano bubbler was initially installed.
  - v) Raskin Bay will likely be the control bay for Forest Circle.
- Fall Dockside / Kelly
  - i) Commissioner Kelly thanked everyone for getting their articles in. Mailing should be early December.
- Updating web design / Palmberg & Wieder
  - i) Marisa updated on the progress of the new website design.
  - ii) Commissioner Weix said current website use is very low.
  - iii) Possibly, there could be an article in the spring Dockside to highlight the website and the available information. Commissioner Kelly asked if JJ Webb Services would continue to be used. Marisa noted that the website is hosted by GoDaddy, and we are now doing our own website work, so it's not likely that JJ Webb Services will be needed in the future.
- Lake and River Organization Recreational Deputy / Wieder
  - i) Marisa spoke to the County Sherriff about rates, he said that depending on the deputy working the shift, the hourly rate would be between \$54 and \$65 per hours, or \$10,000 and \$12,000 if we match our previous hours.
  - ii) Marisa asked if there is a number of hours we would like to request. Commissioner Kelly noted that we paid about \$5500 last year on a deputy, which comes in at

about 100 hours. This is not a commitment. Commissioner Palmberg noted maybe we should ask for a few more hours and we could back off if needed. The group settled on asking for about 120 hours so the county can plan their hours. We would say we are negotiable, and would prefer to focus on weekends and holidays.

- Water Runoff – Shoreline survey data / Wieder
  - i) Cost share project w/ county – Marisa shared the shoreline survey raw data. She presented the results, focusing on metrics that indicate shoreline health. Almost half of the properties on the lake have 25% or less native plantings on their shorelines. A 35 foot native buffer makes a big difference in water quality.
  - ii) Commissioner Kelly noted this information would be very valuable in an article for the spring Dockside.
  - iii) There are about 20 properties that currently have active erosion occurring. These would be a great place to start. Bare soil should also be a focus.
  - iv) A question was asked about total shoreline around the lake, including islands. Marisa will recheck this.
  - v) We will need to determine objective goals to track progress in restoration efforts.
  - vi) Commissioner Ulbrich noted the county may help us in this effort, at least in identifying the parcels.
  - vii) Discussion about how we could influence homeowners to mitigate their property erosion and runoff issues, one property in particular. Notes that the 20 active erosion properties should be prioritized first, although the property being discussed does already have an engineering plan.

## **12) NEW BUSINESS**

- Trapping regulations for conservation properties / Palmberg
  - i) After further research, it was discovered that the one person who asked for access to hunt, has another access option. It turns out this is a more complex issue, and if we were to charge for trapping, we also take on the liability. Also, the beaver is an animal that contributes to filtration of the water, so we would not want to have trapped in our conservation land. Commissioner Palmberg noted that we already have a good document about conservation land, and that we should leave it as is. Commissioner Palmberg received a call from a nearby resident who appreciates the lack of truckloads of people coming to hunt on conservation lands.
- Proposed updates to NR107 and NR 109 / Wieder
  - i) Marisa presented information about some aquatic plant harvesting changes. These were abandoned in 2022, but are again being considered. They are now at step 4 of 11 in an effort to combine these into a single rule. This would increase permit fees for harvesting. At this time, they have been approved to draft a proposal. Public comments are about a year away at this time.

## **13) OTHER REPORTS:**

- Milltown / Palmberg
  - i) No update other than what Chris Nelson already reported.

- County / Mariani
  - i) Commissioner Mariani spoke to Kaitlyn, they are working on grants at this time.
  - ii) Bone Lake now has zebra mussels.
  - iii) The county is going to begin taxing for the county recycling program. No idea at this point how much this will cost.
  - iv) Commissioner Kelly noted that he met with the County Commissioner to see how we can get involved in the shoreline zoning. We are now receiving one notice for each variance request that comes in.

**14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:**

- **ADD FOR NEXT MONTH** – discuss potential of a recreational sheriff next month
- **ADD FOR NEXT MONTH** – Ask Marisa to suggest to the county, to have the additional water patrol person also monitor the use of the cleaning stations as one of their roles and responsibilities. Discuss options.

**15) ADJOURN:**

- Commissioner Mariani motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Weix seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.