



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Board Meeting April 12, 2025 8:30 AM Central Time

To join via phone: Call +1 (312) 626-6799, enter the Meeting ID (822 8725 8252) followed by #, then press # again to skip Participant ID step

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

1) CALL TO ORDER:

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

2) COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Tom Kelly, Dave Wagner, Jack Weix, Terry Palmberg, Dean Truitt, Dave Mariani

3) OTHERS PRESENT:

- Marisa Wieder, Lake District Manager
- Patty Kabus, Recorder
- Angela Mariani

4) APPROVE AGENDA:

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

5) APPROVE MINUTES: March 2025

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

6) PUBLIC COMMENTS:

- None

7) TREASURER REPORT:

- Financials / Truitt & Kelly

- i) Commissioner Truitt presented the March Financials.
- ii) Commissioner Palmberg motioned to approve the March financials, Commissioner Wagner seconded, all approved. Motion carried.

8) Water Quality

- Alum / Wieder & Kelly
 - i) There is a possible new grant source (TRM) that would work in conjunction with the original water surface grant. It is possible we may add one alum treatment in what would have been an off year. Further discussion ensued.
 - ii) A question was asked about whether there may be a confidence level if we have to add an additional treatment. Commissioner Kelly noted that there is always a risk that the project may not work quite as well as originally planned. If Bill James does recommend an additional treatment, we will ask him how confident he is that this will make a significant difference.

9) Aquatic Plant Management and Invasive species

- CBCW / Mork
 - i) No update
- Herbicide / Harvesting CLP & Navigation / Weix
 - i) We have received a quote for herbicide treatment with a 3-year commitment, including a statement that we are not liable if we don't need to use it.
 - ii) The permits have been submitted, and we are working on the newspaper notices. We are almost a month ahead of where we were last year. We are now looking at the mechanical harvesting. We will take a very calculated approach this year as far as where and when harvesting is done. The current plan is to work each Monday – Wednesday and then pull the conveyor for the week. This will help keep the landings available as much as possible.
 - iii) We are looking at 100 hours in May, 200 hours in June, and then trying to keep the harvester off the lake the beginning of June. We may go a bit over budget in hours. Once the CLP beds are hit, we will focus on navigation later in the year.
 - iv) Commissioner Weix brought up the idea of using a barge. He noted that Apple River switched to using a pickup truck and dump trailer instead of a conveyor. They found this works much more efficiently than a conveyor. They suggested we rent one for a week just to try it out and see if it works a lot better for us for future planning. A trailer would cost about \$7500 for a 7500 pound trailer.

10) Water Patrol

- 2024/2025 water patrol / Kelly
 - i) Tommy Thompson presented info – 169.5 hours in 2024. 10 citations and 13 warnings, including one wake boat. This includes exempt and administrative hours. We have to keep administrative hours under 30%. This year will probably be higher due to the new boat because he can out on the water longer. At this point, we have had no response to efforts to hire someone.

- ii) Discussion about the types of citations that are issued. Tommy stated he normally focuses on the safety issues. Personal watercraft cause the most issues with spinning to spray another boat being the most common. Pontoon boats with feet hanging off the end is another serious safety issue that will result in a citation.
- iii) Boater safety classes – Commissioner Wagner noted that his kids went to boater safety and he is all in favor of it. Tommy noted that there will be one on Memorial Day Weekend, Friday night for 3 hours and Saturday for 5 hours.
- iv) Commissioner Kelly thanked Tommy for his time.

11) OLD BUSINESS

- Water Runoff / Wieder
 - i) Nothing new to report.
- County recreation deputy / Wieder
 - i) The County Recreation Deputy noted that weekends and holidays are the priority. There is currently not a draft schedule but it will be planned soon. Their focus will also be on dangerous and reckless boating, as well as evenings due to boating while intoxicated. He noted that boats are washed between lakes. More to come.
- Polk County Shoreland zoning updates / Wieder
 - i) Commissioner Kelly noted that he has been notified that enforcement is moving forward on the single property that has 4 structures.
 - ii) The ordinance has not yet been sent to the DNR. A public hearing won't come until after it is approved by the DNR.
- Nanobubble DNR permitting / Wagner & Wieder
 - i) Not a whole lot has changed since the last meeting. We have been able to verify that the monitoring is covered by the surface water grant program.
 - ii) We are trying to get cost estimates for additional monitoring of lab and monitoring services.
 - iii) Angela is a lake resident who works for an environmental lab that does testing and would be able and interested to help with the testing. She set up a meeting with someone with the DNR who manages extension of the lakes. She wants a better explanation as to why they are considering nano bubbles a pesticide. She feels there is now enough history from other lakes that this should not be needed.
 - iv) Dave Wagner updated Angela about the meeting that took place with the DNR and Alex. Angela noted that her company has a very good relationship with the DNR and actually does some recommendations that they give to the DNR as to what should happen.
 - v) All Commissioners all expressed support for her doing this and doing it on behalf of the lake district. Commissioner Kelly asked her to feel free to represent us on behalf of the BLPRD and also noted that this is a much bigger deal than just our lake or Tri-Lakes.
 - vi) Commissioner Kelly provided a financial overview of the project. He said we are looking at approximately \$25,000 for the additional monitoring expense this year as

opposed to about \$9000 that was budgeted, due to the added requirements. If we have to approve this, it requires constituent approval for costs above \$10,000.

- vii) Commissioner Wagner reported that he went to Molear (who sold us the equipment) to ask them to help financially or otherwise. They have had a meeting internally, and we should hear back from them in the next week. This is to their benefit in getting further sales in the state.
- viii) Between Angela and Molear, we are trying to bring down the costs of required monitoring.
- ix) Commissioner Weix asked if we can recoup any of the monitoring costs if it turns out that we are financing the DNR's research by selling the data. After discussion, this is not an option since the permitting is dependent on the data. Also, the data is public knowledge since we are also a government entity.
- Stumps Bay Conservancy / Wagner
 - i) Commissioner Wagner shared that Marisa has gotten an appraiser lined up to do an appraisal. The appraisal will happen next week, so we will have the information needed for the annual meeting and the grant application. Acquisition would not happen until 2026. An initial appraisal has already been done but we are required to have our own DNR certified appraisal as well.
- Landing cameras – Weix & Mork
 - i) Jack reached out to the Village Board to share that we are looking into cameras. The current President seemed open but he is stepping down. Most likely, this will be taken over by the new chair of the village. Commissioner Weix proposes that we ask them to determine in the next meeting, if they will approve the use of cameras. We have to have a decision by February in order to put them in next year. The village and 46 Store would be the first 2 locations if approved. The village has a concern about how long they may want to be committed to approve.
 - ii) Marisa shared that a grant is available provided it is used for educational purposes. Ongoing monitoring would not be included
 - iii) Cost - \$18,500.00 for initial camera and install, monitoring is about \$2,600.00 per site per year.
 - iv) Commissioner Kelly asked Commissioner Weix to get costs for budgeting, assuming the village approves it.

12) NEW BUSINESS

- Website hosting change / Wieder
 - i) There is a new lake district hosting service, at \$175 per year for non-members of Wisconsin Lakes, or \$125 for those that are members.
 - ii) There is also an available of a news feed on the page, that the host will provide, as well as an upcoming news blast service, where constituents can sign up to be emailed with updates. This is currently in testing so will be coming in the future.
 - iii) Marisa met with one of the volunteers this week. They suggested that we try to reorganize a little bit to focus on the current plan and information, and use Google

Drive with a link for historical information, with a link from the site to the drive. This will be important because their site has a data limit.

- iv) Commissioner Palmberg said the new layout is very user friendly. He expressed support and offered assistance to Marisa. Commissioner Weix agreed. He also asked if confidential information for board-only use could be stored there. Marisa confirmed that it could be done.
- v) Commissioner Kelly asked what additional costs above \$125.00. Marisa stated there are none.
- vi) Everyone agreed that we should move forward with this change. Marisa asked Commissioner Weix when our contract with the current provider expires. We do not believe there is a specific date, but it was noted that the sooner the better.
- TRM Grant 2026 alum treatment Weider/Kelly
 - i) Marisa shared that we applied for a surface water grant last fall but did not receive the grant. A meeting was held to discuss how to do this better moving forward. The TRM grant is an additional grant that we can also apply for. The TRM grants need to be submitted by April 15th. The TRM grant has a cap of \$225,000, and can also apply for the surface water grant this year. Today, we need to approve the resolution so we can submit it by the date.
 - ii) Resolution for alum grant read by Marisa Wieder, Lake Manager:

STANDARD AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Balsam Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (BLPRD) is interested in acquiring a Grant from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purpose of implementing measures to control agricultural or urban storm water runoff pollution sources (as described in the application and pursuant to ss. 281.65 or 281.66, Wis. Stats., and chs. NR 151, 153 and 155);

and WHEREAS, a cost-sharing grant is required to carry out the project:

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that BLPRD HEREBY AUTHORIZES District Chair, Balsam Lake District, to act on behalf of BLPRD to:

- Sign and submit an application to the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for any financial aid that may be available;
- Sign a grant agreement between the local government (applicant) and the Department of Natural Resources;
- Sign and submit reimbursement claims along with necessary supporting documentation;
- Sign and submit an Environment Hazards Assessment Form, if required; and
- Take necessary action to undertake, direct and complete the approved project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that BLPRD shall comply with all state and federal laws, regulations and permit requirements pertaining to implementation of this project and to fulfillment of the grant document provisions.

Adopted this 12 day of April, 2025. I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted by at a legal meeting on day of April 12, 2025.

Authorized Signature: _____

Title: _____

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

- USDA trapping Rice Creek
 - i) We have had a request by the USDA to trap beaver on the Rice Creek Sediment Basin. We learned 2 weeks ago, that they have been trapping 6-12 beavers each season for years. They do this primarily to help with water flow.
 - ii) Commissioner Kelly noted his support to allow USDA to continue trapping. He asked how the rest of the board felt. He noted that Bill also expressed his support for the program. Commissioner Palmberg noted they had gotten clarification that there have been at least 2 people trapping, and is concerned that they may have to provide a lot of reporting to the DNR. Commissioner Kelly noted he spoke to the land and water department, and said they also trap as needed for public safety reasons.
 - iii) Marisa asked if we are looking at an exemption, or if we are changing our position. Commissioner Palmberg noted that this is an exemption. The DNR allows one exemption annually. Preference would be to go to a US or state governmental agency rather than to a resident. Commissioner Kelly expressed support for this, to be approved annually, with a stipulation that if there is any reporting required, the other entity is responsible for this.
 - iv) Commissioner Kelly asked if the board would support allowing the USDA to trap beaver on the Rice Creek Sediment, provided we take on no liability or reporting, and that the other agency pays for any liability or reporting. Commissioner Palmberg made the motion, Commissioner Wagner seconded, all approved, motion carries.
- 2026 Budget Truitt/Kelly
 - i) Dean has updated the budget template. This will be distributed to the commissioners, and would like input by May 1st. Any questions, please get them to Commissioner Truitt and Commissioner Kelly as soon as possible. A first draft will be reviewed in May, which will go in the June Dockside and will be publicized in the local newspaper. This is required at least 2 weeks before the annual meeting.
 - ii) Commissioner Kelly confirmed that Commissioner Mariani will work on getting the venue lined up.
 - iii) Commissioner Truitt noted that he has reviewed the last few years' budgets and is cleaning up some of the wording. We may want to consolidate some of the wording and he asked for comments or recommendations for changes.
 - iv) Commissioner Kelly noted this is a cash flow budget rather than the more traditional P&L budget.

- WI Lakes Conference highlights / Wieder
 - i) Marisa provided an update on the conference. The internet hosting was a result of this conference. She also noted that engaging communities digitally and through social media was a highlight.
 - ii) Marisa also noted there are updates on 107 and 109 (aquatic management). The DNR shared proposed changes with the attendees. The anticipated changes would not take place until Jan 1 2028. They will be considering Lake management Plans to be done every 5 years instead of every 10 years. Also, refunds for applications will no longer be refunded if no treatment appears. Also, harvesting permits will be changed to every 5 years, with ½ of the application fees still due each year but no application required. There was also discussion about posting requirements. Currently, newspaper publication is required. The DNR wants to take responsibility for public notice for herbicide or mechanical treatments. The fee structures are also being proposed to be changed, with the base and acreage fees to be raised. This will result in significant permit increases for harvesting and herbicide. There will be a public markup of proposed changes by the end of this year.
 - iii) Commissioner Kelly noted that if any commissioners want to go to this conference next year, the district will pay for expenses.
- Tom Thompson
 - i) Already covered above
- Little Balsam Water Quality
 - i) Commissioner Kelly noted that we looked at the water quality reports in Little Balsam. He has shared the water quality summary with the Directors, showing that Little Balsam has higher phosphorous, Iron and water clarity levels in Little Balsam Lake. We have had discussions with Barr Engineering regarding the sedimentation pond and how well it is working. Commissioner Kelly reached out to Polk County to ask if they have any data on the water quality in 3 of the Tributaries (Harter, Otter and Rice Creeks). Otter Creek is downstream from the Rice Creek Sediment Pond. Otter Creek is the only one that has water quality concerns with high phosphorous levels that are beyond the state levels. Land and Water came to the district about putting in a sedimentation pond at the farm where Otter Creek originates. The project never happened. Commissioner Kelly spoke with Land and Water, and they are confident that this will move forward in the fall of 2025. The pond would control the flow of the water and the nutrients through a sedimentation pond that would be similar to the Rice Creek Sedimentation Pond. Land and Water will keep us informed as to how this project progresses.
 - ii) Commissioner Kelly noted that in Land & Water's opinion, Otter Creek is the biggest concern. Water quality has improved since the Rice Creek sediment pond was installed. The pond will need to be dredged at some point in the future but this is still years away.

- iii) Commissioner Kelly asked Marisa if the sonar we purchased can be used to measure the amount of sediment in the bottom of the Rice Creek Sedimentation Pond, to determine when we might need to start looking at dredging. Commissioner Wagner noted that Barr said we should start considering dredging when it is 1/4 full. Per Dale's testing, we are about 1/3 full. The ponds are generally designed to go about 30 years, and we are already at about 25 years. He noted that looking at it now, may be good timing to do it. He suggested we should possibly include some assessment in next year's budget to do some testing and/or to assist with the new sedimentation project. Commissioner Kelly said that Land and Water would probably have better information that we could draw on, as well as information as to how the Rice Creek Sedimentation Pond was designed.
- iv) Commissioner Kelly noted that we do have money set aside in our capital fund to assist with this. Commissioner Kelly asked Commissioners Palmer and Wagner to follow up on this.

13) OTHER REPORTS:

- Milltown / Palmberg
 - i) No updates
- County / Mariani
 - i) No updates

14) FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

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15) ADJOURN:

- Commissioner Mariani motioned to adjourn, Commissioner Wagner seconded, all approved, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:47 AM.