

**BASS LAKE REHABILITATION DISTRICT
ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Monday, September 15, 2008

St. Joseph Town Hall – 1337 County Road V

Commissioners Present: John Coughlin, Chair
Dick Allyn, Secretary
John Haag, Treasurer
Ron Laumeyer, Commissioner
Linda Luckey, Commissioner/St. Croix County Board
Representative

Commissioners Absent: Bill Lawson and Brett Bader

1. Call to Order

Chairman John Coughlin called the Commissioners Meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. He noted that St. Joseph Town Representative/Commissioner Brett Bader could not attend due to his wife's illness.

2. Secretary's Report

Copies of the minutes of the June 7, 2008 Commissioners Meeting which took place before and after the Annual Meeting have been provided. **Motion to approve the minutes** was made by John Haag and seconded by Linda Luckey. **Motion passed.**

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Haag reported on the checking and savings bank balances, totaling \$19,020. **Motion to approve Treasurer's Report** was made by Dick Allyn and seconded by Ron Laumeyer. **Motion passed.**

4. BLRD Strategic Planning – Updates and Discussion

Dick Allyn gave a brief report about the August 28, 2008 Planning Committee Meeting at the Town Hall. Bye Barsness and Aleisha Miller lead the attendees through agenda items that included an introduction to the Lake Plan writing process, Bass Lake management history, a summary of the sociological survey, and information from Buzz Sorge, long-time WDNR expert on lakes, including Bass Lake.

Tom Spaniol suggested the District should have a web site where District information would be available. There was a consensus this issue should be pursued. Tom is interested in helping out; call him with ideas at 612 747 7700.

There was then a discussion of St. Croix County land and water conservation matters. While a county representative was not present Ron Laumeier discussed efforts to improve fishing in the lake. He had conferred with WDNR lake specialist Marty Engle. Two initiatives were planned: (1) consider dropping some trees along the shoreline which improves fish habitat, and (2) the planting of 625 6"- 8" walleye fry in the late fall before freeze up. In addition, Ron talked to the County about the status of resetting the concrete slabs at the boat landing. The work was scheduled by the County for the week of September 15th.

Chairman Coughlin read a letter from Regina Ripple which questioned the lake quality monitoring process.

5. **Ordinance Enforcement and Signage**

There was then the Final Public Hearing and discussion for the consideration of a proposed amendment to the District's Ordinance to Regulate Boating on Bass Lake. The amendment prohibits the practice of "power loading" at the Public Landing. The amendment was unanimously supported at the June 7, 2008 Annual Meeting. The underlined amended language provides:

"Section IV. (b)(2) at any time within 100 feet of the Public Landing, any shore, buoyed restricted area, dock pier, anchored float, or restricted aquatic area designated and identified in Section IV(c)(1) and (2) of this ordinance. The prohibition contained herein includes the practice of "power loading" or gunning a boat's motor to power a boat onto a boat trailer at the Public Landing. Provided, in addition, consistent with Wisconsin Statutes regulating personal watercraft, including jet skis, the slow-no-wake area shall be 200 ft. from shore for such personal watercraft."

Motion to adopt the above-stated amendment to the District's Ordinance to Regulate Boating on Bass Lake was made by Dick Allyn and seconded by John Haag. **Motion passed.**

There was then a discussion of the Bass Lake Patrol activity for the 2008 summer. John Lehto reported on the need to find a new home for docking the patrol boat next summer. John is willing to store the boat this winter. Lake Patrol Officer Chuck Struemke than summarized his patrol efforts. He issued 20 citations and a number of warnings. All tickets were paid save one. The normal fine is \$37.20 but \$123 for violators who fail to appear or pay. The District is to receive a portion of the revenue. Chuck reported seeing a Sheriff deputy on the lake a few times but he was not enforcing the lake ordinances nor would the District receive a share of the fine revenue. Chuck provided assistance to persons so requesting. There was then a discussion of the need to certify Officer Struemke's position to the state licensing agency. **Motion to authorize and delegate the Chairman to sign and submit the necessary certification papers** was made by Dick Allyn and seconded by John Haag. Chuck requested consideration of a cost-of-living

adjustment to his hourly pay to \$30, as well as a vest and a raincoat. It was taken under advisement. Chuck stated that his cell phone number is 715 441 9934 and that people on the lake should call him if there is a problem on the water. Ron Laumeyer questioned Chuck about how much fine money would come back to the District and whether the program was worth the investment. Wally Laumeyer wondered if there was some other way to educate the public. This prompted a discussion about the feasibility of raising the fine to \$50 first offense and \$100 second offense. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

The subject of amending the District's Docks and Piers Ordinance was postponed until the November Commissioners Meeting in order to review the new law and WDNR regulations.

6. County and Town Updates

County Commissioner Linda Luckey reported about the county's budget shortfall, the Library Referendums, and consideration of purchasing the NMC Building. Bret Bader is expected to report on Town matters at the November Commissioners Meeting.

7. News and Updates

There was a round of applause and thanks to Ron Laumeyer and his wife Terrie for hosting the District picnic.

8. Public comment/Resident Concerns

There were questions about whether the district can charge fees for use of the public landing? The Chairman will check into the matter to see if it can be source of revenue. There was then a discussion about a boat house two doors south of Ron Orf's cabin that appears to have had a second story added. Heidi Eckstrom, John Haag, and others in attendance reported witnessing the construction work on what appears to be a nonconforming use. The identity of the owner was not clear but further inquiry is going to proceed. The boat house will be reported to the County Zoning Administrator.

9. Review of Building Plans, Shoreline Restorations and Property Issues.

Lake resident Colleen Gray appeared again to urge that some of her land holdings be removed from the District and not subject to the levy paid by all property owners. Dick Allyn observed that, like Ms. Gray, there are a number of owners that have more than one lot that is accessed and connected to the lake by the owner's lake front lot. However, it was agreed that at the November Commissioners Meeting there would be a public hearing to consider whether or not to detach her land that lies to the east of Ridge Run. A plat book showing the particular lot that is being considered for removal from the District will be necessary.

10. Next Commissioners Meeting: November 10, 2008

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the Commissioners Meeting was made by John Haag and seconded by Ron Laumeyer. **Motion Passed.**

Recorded by:

Dick Allyn, Secretary