

BASS LAKE REHABILITATION DISTRICT
ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN
www.blrd.org

MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING

Monday, November 9, 2009

St. Joseph Town Hall – 1337 County Road V

Commissioners Present: John Coughlin, Chair
 Dick Allyn, Secretary
 John Haag, Treasurer
 Ron Laumeyer
 Tom Spaniol
 Linda Luckey, St. Croix County Representative
 Brett Bader, St. Joseph Town Representative

1. Call to Order

Chairman John Coughlin called the Commissioners Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Secretary's Report

Copies of the minutes of the September 14, 2009 Commissioners Meeting had been previously distributed. The minutes were amended to reflect (1) Paragraph 4 - adding the word "when" after "\$2,500," (2) Paragraph 6 – adding "She reported that because the structure is below the ordinary high water mark, it has been under the jurisdiction of the WDNR since 2005." at the end of the 5th sentence, (3) Same paragraph – replacing the phrase "county official's" with "county environmental health specialist's," and Paragraph 7 - deleting all reference to a joke about purchasing beer. **Motion to approve the minutes, as amended,** was made by Linda Luckey and seconded by John Haag. **Motion passed.**

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer John Haag reported that the checking and savings bank balances total \$12,344.26. All bills are current. **Motion to approve Treasurer's Report** was made by Dick Allyn and seconded by Ron Laumeyer. **Motion passed.**

4. BLRD Lake Quality Management Plan 2009

Bye Barsness, Chairman of the Lake Quality Committee reported on the recent Committee meeting and that the next meeting would be on November 11, 2009. He stated that they were working on preparation of a map of the lake showing depths. There is a proposal being discussed with the WDNR about placing downed trees along strategic points of shoreline to increase fish spawning. Ron Laumeyer noted that the lake needs better crappie spawning conditions. There may be a possible grant for fish habitat improvement. Discussions are going on with Buzz

Sorge and Marty Engle, the WDNR specialists familiar with Bass Lake. Bye said there was going to be a review of properties that ended up with that the poorest shoreland protection scores in order to provide educational materials. There was then a discussion of the of water quality testing plans for next summer. Chairman Coughlin spoke about the “Clean Boats Clean Waters” project the District is coordinating. We are going to need additional volunteer inspectors for next summer in order to meet our grant matching requirements. The project is intended to help keep the lake as free as possible from zebra mussels, milfoil and other exotics. Tom Spaniol is also actively involved in this program. John Haag then questioned the status of the proposed amendments to the WDNR’s state-wide Shoreland Protection Program regulations,. Dick Allyn said that reports on the status of the rule changes to Chapter NR 115 can be found at the WDNR web site (www.dnr.state.wi.us), and in *Lake Tides*, the Wisconsin Association of Lakes periodic newsletter.

5. Ordinance Enforcement, Landing and Signage

Once again there was a discussion about the Public Boat Landing. As the lake level has receded over the last several years the boat launch driveway slab does not extend into the water as far. (See the September Minutes.) Chairman Coughlin stated that the boat launch area is in the worse shape ever. Ron Laumeyer commented about boulders lying in the deep depression off of the end of the driveway slab. Linda Luckey noted that while the County’s budget was in worse shape she has been pursuing county officials to try to find a solution. Tom Spaniel said the driveway should either be fixed or closed because conditions are getting dangerous to users; axles could break. Ron Laumeyer repeated that low water and power loading by some folks taking their boats out had rendered the landing area almost inoperable.

Chairman Coughlin reported on the status of District’s Water Patrol. The current contract with Chuck Struemke, the Bass Lake Water Patrol Officer, is up for renewal. There are law enforcement qualification issues that have to be resolved for Mr. Struemke. These matters will be taken up at the February meeting. **Motion to end the current Lake Patrol contract at this time** was made by Ron Laumeyer and seconded by Dick Allyn. **Motion passed.** The discussion then continued regarding the extent of the law enforcement powers of the District and how to maximize retention of ticket fine money. John Haag noted that he has witnessed numerous jet ski ordinance violations. Dick Allyn will consult with the District’s attorney, Mike Brose, and report back on enforcement issues at the February meeting. The Chairman has discretion to purchase legal services.

6. County and Town Updates

Linda Luckey spoke about St. Croix County budget problems and that there was going to be a hearing on November 10, 2009 to which the public is invited. Brett Bader noted that the St. Joe Town budget meeting was going to be on November

12, 2009 and that proposals concerning roads, the fire hall and the Town Hall would be on the agenda. Brett then updated on his efforts to get the WDNR to make a decision about the Haase structure. He learned that Carrie Stoltz, Water Management Specialist at WDNR, who had issued a letter to Mr. Haase giving him three options for either removing or repairing the structure, had heard from Mr. Haase that was getting bids from contractors. Lastly, Brett reported that the Town was considering getting wireless service for the town. The service would be faster and fuller than current service. He encouraged residents to make their wishes known.

7. News, Updates and Planning

Ron Laumeyer reported that walleyes the District purchased were planted in October at the south side of the lake. He said there was no firm news yet about a fishing contest. Chairman Coughlin stated that the tax Certificate of Equalization of Value determined that 98.5% of the District value was in the town of St. Joe and 1.5% was in Somerset.

8. Public Comment/Resident Concerns

St. Joe's resident Mike Cowen addressed the meeting about the virtual loss of Ferderer's Pond and the lowering of the water table supplying his well. He blamed it on the removal of the dam on the Willow River within the state park. He wants consideration of restoring a dam on the river. He said the District should think about this situation as Bass Lake will suffer the same fate. Chairman Coughlin invited Mr. Cowen to make a presentation at the Annual Meeting in June, 2010. (Bill Lawson reported to the District that on November 20 the lake level was 880.01 ft., using the benchmark at the District's pump well. This is a decline of 14.4 inches since November, 2008.)

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

There were no matters presented.

10. Adjournment

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

Recorded by:

Dick Allyn, Secretary

NEXT MEETING - FEBRUARY 1, 2010