

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

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, July 8, 2020

St. Joseph Town Hall – 1337 County Road V

Commissioners Present: Bill Holmberg, Chair
Cecil Chally, Treasurer
Fred Young, Secretary
Tim Riemenschneider
Lynnae Thompson-Koats

Commissioners Absent: Shawn Anderson
Rick Colbeth

Residents: John Haag

1. Call to Order

Bill Holmberg called the Board of Commissioners Meeting to order at 6:00 PM. **Roll Call:** All Commissioners present except for Town and County representatives, Shawn Anderson and Rick Colbeth. **A Motion** was made by Riemenschneider to adopt the Agenda, which motion was seconded by Holmberg. **Motion passed.**

2. Secretary's Report

Copies of the unapproved draft minutes of the May 13, 2020 BLRD Commissioner's Meeting, and the Agenda for the July 8, 2020 BLRD Commissioners Meeting were previously distributed and mailing list was again updated. Young noted that the heading "Residents" was inadvertently omitted from the minutes – so the residents that attended the May 13, 2020 Commissioner's Meeting appeared as being listed under the heading "Commissioners Absent" with the County and Town reps not attending. **A Motion** was made by Holmberg to approve last meeting's minutes with the aforementioned correction and to approve Secretary's report, and was seconded by Riemenschneider. **Motion passed.**

3. Treasurer's Report

It was discussed that it makes sense for the BLRD to maintain a PO Box as Holmberg researched and presented, and that mail could be forwarded to a home address of the Treasurer – with one challenge being that grant monies cannot be forwarded from the PO Box. It was discussed that if DNR grant checks are expected in a given month, it would make sense to temporarily stop mail forwarding to the Treasurer for that month, and DNR grant checks could be collected at the PO Box. Haag was asked his opinion on whether size of PO Box being discussed would be adequate for the amount of mail the BLRD gets, and Haag anticipated that it would be sufficient. **A Motion** was made by Chally for the BLRD to acquire and use of PO Box as discussed, Riemenschneider seconded. **Motion passed.**

Chally reported bank balance as of 6/30/2020 is \$10,919.91, but the insurance bill still needs to be paid and there may be some other small payments due. Chally explained itemized spending/income and last year's budget and this coming year's initial draft proposed budget. There was discussion about remaining available funds under the LPT grant as it related to this coming year's proposed budget.

There was discussion that the mechanical status of the patrol boat is presently unknown because it is at a repair shop and the cause of the motor issues have not been identified – the motor may or may not be repairable (a cracked head is possible). There was discussion that a resident made an unsolicited offer of \$2,500 toward purchasing a new patrol boat and another resident had expressed an interest in potentially leading fundraising efforts for a new patrol boat to be donated to the BLRD. There was discussion that some residents have expressed to Riemenschneider that the water patrol officer at the landing may be a better means of enforcement than a patrol boat since it is easier to educate people at the landing. Thompson-Koats expressed that having a patrol officer on the lake may address different boating issues, and there was discussion that there may be a deterrent effect by having the patrol boat on the lake. There was discussion that the topic would be appropriate to address at the BLRD Annual Meeting, and that replacement of the patrol boat was not included in the proposed annual budget.

Holmberg explained his extensive efforts in researching and communicating with other government contacts regarding the water level and ordinary high-water mark. Holmberg explained that we learned from the County that the ordinary high-water mark is actually 886.9. Holmberg recapped that the BLRD has a permit to maintain the water level at 886.0 and a slow/no-wake ordinance that takes effect at 886.1. As previously discussed, Holmberg again reminded all that the hope is that it may be possible to get approval from the DNR to pump when the water level is below 886.0, but the DNR would want a proposal for the DNR folks to take under consideration.

Holmberg also recapped that the DNR still needs to verify that there are no veligers at the location of the intake, and that mature mussels have been observed on the intake pipe at 30' where it was anticipated oxygen levels would be too low to support zebra mussels. Holmberg again noted that the DNR wants the BLRD to take water samples in a different known location of zebra mussels and veligers so that the BLRD can essentially document that the testing methodology being utilized works to detect veligers. Accordingly, the BLRD will continue with veliger sampling at a location away from the pump intake where there is an observed presence of zebra mussels.

Holmberg intends to undertake the preparation of a pumping proposal for the DNR. It was discussed that even if DNR were to provide approval for pumping, as discussed at prior meetings, the pump would still require a retrofit at an expense of \$400k in order to be able to pump into the Willow River. There was discussion that with this information in mind and the uncertain timeline, any discussion of funding a pump retrofit or a more expensive alternative approach would be something to be addressed after more information becomes available (e.g. at a future special meeting or a 2021 Annual Meeting).

There was discussion with attempts to accurately anticipate expenses, and the proposed levy amount in the proposed budget. There was discussion that the proposed budget will be included in the next mailing. **A Motion** was made by Holmberg to accept the Treasurer's Report and proposed budget, Riemenschneider seconded. **Motion passed.**

4. Clean Boats, Clean Water (CBCW)

Holmberg noted that there are three landing inspectors, one of whom still needs to submit expenses, and that things are going fairly well. Holmberg reported the following: the inspectors are trying to work Friday afternoons, Saturdays and Sundays; they have been instructed to inform boaters before 8:00 a.m. and after 8:00p.m. about the slow/no-wake ordinance; Because Commissioners were the only volunteers for the landing blitz and there weren't any other volunteers to support the blitz, potentially and understandably due to residents not wanting to volunteer due to COVID, the landing blitz could not be held (there weren't enough volunteer hours to cobble together). However, the landing inspectors were out over the weekend of the 4th.

Thompson-Koats noted that there will be a stencil to paint the landing to for DNR approved message re: aquatic invasive species (clean-in, clean-out).

Lake Protection Grant

Holmberg noted that Cheryl Clemmons had reached out to a few residents that had expressed interest in projects, including Treasurer Chally. Chally explained the approximate funds potentially available under the Lake Protection Gant, and that there were maybe five property owners left that may have some remaining interest in shoreline restoration projects. It was discussed that John Reiling's intention would be to individually follow up with BLRD residents to see if they had interest in performing a project under this grant.

Thompson-Koats emailed with DNR about possibility of AIS supplemental prevention grant to see if we could obtain a landing cleaning station, and that BLRD would likely be on priority list to receive that grant. There was discussion regarding potentially attempting to seek another extension on the grant due to Covid.

Lake Pumping Feasibility

Holmberg noted that in addition to what was discussed during Agenda Item #3, there had been many different discussions on the water level. Holmberg explained the following: that Bill Lawson, who was at the last BLRD Commissioners Meeting, had expressed he was pretty confident that he was accurate on the lake level within a few inches; given the current water level as it relates to the slow/no-wake ordinance and resident input, Holmberg successfully got a County Representative to measure the water level; the official water level as measured by the County was approximately 2 inches lower than Bill Lawson's latest reported measurement; it is quite impressive that Bill Lawson was able to measure the water level accurate to within a couple of inches over the past years given that Lawson did not have the County's very expensive, precise equipment; it was also confirmed that there is a datum at the landing in the cement slab in front of the east dock that can be used as a reference for the water level; water clarity has been around 12'. It was again repeated that there is an instrument that reports water level every 30 minutes and those readings are available on the BLRD website – again, because a beaver dropped a tree on the equipment, several components are non-functional (e.g. temperature) but the water level is being detected – the date is displaying incorrectly. There was discussion that it was preferable to have water level information through the rest of the summer, rather than removing the instrumentation for repair mid-summer, because the inaccurate date display is rather inconsequential.

5. Consider, Discuss and Take Action Regarding Correspondence sent by Mr. Webster “Bye” Barsness to BLRD Chair, Which Correspondence Requests Removal non-shoreline land from BLRD Owned by Trust of which Mr. Barsness is Trustee.

Holmberg recapped that Bye Barsness presented his information two meetings prior, and it had been discussed that the Board would obtain legal guidance, and that the Board had to wait to receive that guidance, which was very similar to a restatement of the applicable statute. It was discussed the Barsness is not a riparian owner any longer, and that his land meets the criteria for detachment. All Commissioners agreed that Barsness met the criteria for detachment. **A Motion** was made by Chally to approve petition for detachment, and all Commissioners were in favor. **Motion passed.** It was discussed that the BLRD will move forward with any necessary paperwork related to document that detachment.

6. Ordinance Enforcement, Landing, Signage and ILIDS

Riemenschneider explained that the patrol boat officer was willing to work three-hour shifts, rather than 4-hour shifts at the landing, which allows him to be there more frequently. Riemenschneider explained that it was reported to him that the water patrol officer has not observed anyone coming into the landing violating the slow/no-wake 8 p.m. ordinance (including through the weekend of the 4th of July). Riemenschneider explained that he is aware that a resident is looking into getting that landing designated as either a pay-for-use landing or as a part of the County parks so that use would require a County parks permit, with the hope that the parking at the landing could be moderated (as BLRD does not own or lease landing). There was discussion that everyone is entitled to use the lake, and that DNR really discourages payment for landing use, and there was discussion that County parks department individuals also do feel that there is over-use of the lake (too many boats at the same time). There was comment to the effect that that the landing has a specific number of designated parking spaces that represent what the DNR felt was the maximum appropriate number of boats to be added to the lake concurrently with riparian owners. It was recapped that the BLRD has no jurisdiction over the no parking areas or the landing itself, and that folks from the Sheriff’s office have expressed that there are enforcement priorities in the County that supersede enforcement of no-parking around the landing. There was comment that the County felt that if the landing were painted and striped, they would support contacting the sheriff to enforce the no parking, but the roads are town roads, not County roads.

Landing/Signage

There was discussion that it would make sense to discuss at the Annual Meeting whether additional signage should be added to entrances and exits of landing.

7. County Updates, Town Updates

Holmberg noted that a new County rep was appointed and had expected to attend, but did not attend. It was noted that the Town rep has not attended. There was comment that the County was updating its shoreline ordinances to be aligned with the state. The updated ordinances may go into effect in August.

8. News, Updates and Plans

No updates.

9. Public Comment/Resident Concerns.

There was brief comment regarding the lake level that generally reflected what was already discussed, and that it had been maybe approximately 20 years since the lake level was at its current level.

10. Review of Building Plans/Shoreline Restoration and other Plans

No updates.

11. Discussion for Next Meeting Schedule/Finalize Agenda

- **Next Board of Commissioners Meeting: Saturday, August 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Joseph Town Hall**

It was discussed that election of officers will occur after the Annual Meeting.

- **Next Annual Meeting: Saturday, August 15, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. (tentative) St. Joseph Town Hall**

Holmberg noted folks must meet applicable eligibility requirements in order to vote at the Annual Meeting. There will be a sign-in sheet at the Annual Meeting and Holmberg will address highlights of the Lake Management Plan. The Annual Meeting Agenda was discussed. **It is kindly suggested that everyone follow CDC guidelines if attending the Annual Meeting.**

12. Adjournment

A Motion to adjourn was made by Young and seconded by Thompson-Koats. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

**Recorded by:
Fred Young, Secretary**