

**BASS LAKE REHABILITATION DISTRICT**  
**ST. CROIX COUNTY, WISCONSIN**  
[www.blrd.org](http://www.blrd.org)

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

Wednesday, August 09, 2017 7:00pm  
St. Joseph Town Hall – 1337 County Road V

Commissioners Present: Tom Spaniol, Chair and Town of St. Joseph Representative  
Bill Holmberg, Secretary  
John Haag, Treasurer  
Cecil Chally, Commissioner  
Bill Lawson, Commissioner  
Tim Riemenschneider, Commissioner  
Chris Babbitt, St. Croix County Board Representative

Commissioner Absent: None

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Tom Spaniol called the Board of Commissioners Meeting to order at 7:02PM. **Roll Call:** All Commissioners present. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. **Motion** to adopt the Agenda made by Chris Babbitt and seconded by Bill Lawson. **Motion passed.**

**2. Secretary's Report**

Copies of the minutes of the July 12, 2017, Commissioners Meeting were previously mailed. Additional copies were available. A **Motion** to approve the minutes was made by John Haag and seconded by Cecil Chally **Motion passed.** After draft of last month's meeting minutes were distributed, former commissioner Ron Laumeier sent an email stating the draft minutes didn't provide the detail he stated at the meeting regarding his resignation. He requested his email be read into this month's meeting. A **Motion** was made by Tom Spaniol to read his email into the minutes of this meeting. The motion was seconded by Chris Babbitt. **Motion passed.** The following is the email read into the minutes. *"Dear BLRD and members, I was upset when it stated in the minutes that I resigned. There was no explanation, as I gave one at the meeting and why that was not in the minutes as to the years I served on the board. I will give recap just in case you forgot so soon. I started on the BLRD 11 years ago on the assumption that I try and get the SNW lifted on Bass Lake and to help the fishery aspect of Bass Lake. The SNW is still there and just burns me up, as you all know! On the fishery's stand point I started the private stocking of walleye for years, and now the DNR is doing a program for stocking every other year which is great for Bass Lake. Please post this in your next minutes and read at the August 9, 2017 commissioners meeting. This would greatly be appreciated. Regards, Ron Laumeier"*

**3. Resignation of Ron Laumeyer – Action Replacement**

Tom Spaniol had researched and sent out the statue on filling of vacant positions mid-year. The Chairman could appoint someone to fill the vacant position.

**A Motion** to appoint Tim Riemenscheider to take the vacant commissioner position was made by Tom Spaniol and seconded by Chris Babbit. **Motion passed.** Tim was welcomed to the board. Tim did state he is traveling for work and will attend meetings as long as travel does not interfere.

**4. Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer John Haag reported as to current bank balances and the District’s financial condition. Checking Account Balance is **\$-5920.83** and the Savings Account Balance is **\$ 500.37**. The credit balance is at **\$19.50**. The negative balance on the checking account will move to the credit card. John had stated the interest rate is standard credit card rates. John to provide actual rate at next meeting. Delay in receiving funding from grants is reason for negative balance. Need volunteer hours to close 1<sup>st</sup> grant (Small Lake Planning Grant). **John Reiling** was coordinating things on the 1<sup>st</sup> grant but no one has heard updates from him. **Tom Spaniol** volunteered to follow up. Goal is to submit reimbursement request from grant by end of August. Next tax check is due early September which will also help address negative balance.

**A Motion** to accept the Treasure’s Report was made by Bill Lawson and seconded by Cecil Chally. **Motion Passed.**

**5. BLRD Lake Quality Planning and Grants**

• **Update on Grants (CBCW and AIS) – Bill Holmberg**

**CBCW-** The DNR had a cleaning station at the landing the day of the BLRD picnic. Both Tom Spaniol and Bill Holmberg saw the station at the landing when driving to the picnic and stopped and talked with the individual (Russ) running it. It was not scheduled. The cleaning station was one of three the state has. Contact information was exchanged.

**AIS – Grant –** Bill Holmberg presented draft of AIS handout for comments. It has the Bass Lake Map previously created with alerts that Bass Lake has Invasive Species. The back side is a WI DNR handout on AIS prevention. Handout was committed as part of grant approval. Will look to quote 250 & 500 on durable paper. It was suggested to add a note that the map was made when the lake level was 881 and current level is approximately 885. Tom Spaniol stated that the handout could be printed by Minuteman Press and sent out with a future mailing. - Joe Dorsey reported suspected Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) by his place to Tom Spaniol. Joe also found a piece floating near Tim Riemenscheider’s house when arriving for the picnic and brought a piece to the picnic. Others reviewed and believed it may be EWM. Tom Spaniol kept the piece and will show to DNR when meeting with them later in the month.

- **Update on Grants Small Scale Lake Planning and Lake Protection – Tom Spaniol**

Field work on Small Lake Planning grant completed. Target is to submit grant reimbursement by end of August as stated during Treasurer's Report. Lake Protection Grant is well under way. The Dissolved Oxygen (DO) meter has been acquired. This will allow the BLRD, through volunteer monitoring, to closely monitor oxygen levels in the lake at various depths over the course of the year. This provides input as to the "health" of the lake and has been requested by the DNR. Plans for numerous properties have been completed. There are diverse projects including water diversion, native plantings and retention walls. Jason Coyle was in attendance and stated he will be meeting with Willow River Landscaping to discuss his project later in the week.

- **Update on Permit renewal to pump lake.**

The DNR was on Bass Lake at the beginning of August. A dive was made at the inlet of the pipe for the pump. Zebra mussels were found at the inlet. DO values were also taken. Prior to the dive it was thought zebra mussels would not exist due to assumed low DO levels. While the presence of zebra mussels does not mean the pump cannot be operated, it will require additional details to address. The DNR is suggesting to write a grant to investigate what would be needed to allow pumping of the lake water. A meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 29<sup>th</sup> in Eau Claire with various members of the DNR to begin formal discussions on this. Information on filtering systems was passed around by Bill Lawson. These filtering systems have been used in the presence of zebra mussels. Where the water is discharged may have to be changed. An update after the meeting will be presented at the next meeting. (The water level is nearly 2 feet below the level the DNR had allowed pumping. So there is not eminent danger at this time but we want to start the permitting process before it is too late.

## **6. Ordinance Enforcement, Landing and Signage**

- **I-LIDS** – Lens cover for the camera was damaged. Timing was same time as county weed whipped around camera base. But could have been hit with tire iron or something similar. Bill Holmberg picked up replacements lens (\$25). Tom Spaniol and Bill Holmberg replaced after the picnic.
- **Landing** – Bill Holmberg picked up a lake rake for use at the landing. The landing inspector, Katie, is in possession of the rake and will use when working at the landing. It was noted that Justin Townsend, county employee who oversaw the landing, resigned and is working elsewhere. Justin and Ron Laumeyer were the individuals working to address water diversion at the landing. Now both are gone.
- **Signage** – No updates
- **Water Patrol** – Brian Erickson, local State Patrol Officer, has expressed interest in the water patrol position. He is seeking approval from his employer at this time.

7. **Slow-No-Wake Ordinance (SNW) Discussion** – It was felt that a follow up was due to BLRD residents from the annual meeting regarding SNW status. As stated at the annual meeting, if the ordinance were to change, the process to do so would be to have a motion made to change specifics of the ordinance, motion passed, then a public hearing to discuss the proposed changes. Then the process would be to rescind the current ordinance and adopt a new one. At the July meeting a motion was made and seconded. After discussion the motion was withdrawn. With both Town of Somerset and Town of St Joseph having water skiing ordinances stricter than the BLRD SNW ordinance and the recent Bass Lake Management Plan, which has been adopted by the WI DNR, St Croix County and Town of St Joseph, having a section/goal to enforce the SNW ordinance, it was decided that there are many other activities for the BLRD Commission to address at this time.
  
8. **County and Town Updates – Chris Babbitt and Tom Spaniol** – Chris Babbitt reported that there are 2 open positions in the County. One is Justin Townsend’s position. Chris will look into the replacement of this position and report back at next meeting. While not a county update, he reported that the state continues to remove power from the DNR. He stated that 1/3 of wells in the county are contaminated. Mostly due to nitrates and/or phosphorus. Tom Spaniol reported the bridge opened the night of August 2<sup>nd</sup>. There is still 2 years of infrastructure work that will take place. Old portions of Highway 64 and County Road E are now town roads. The county and Town of St Joseph are pursuing grants to support trails, parking, etc.
  
10. **News, Updates, and Plans** – Nothing reported
  
11. **Public Comment/Resident Concerns**  
Nothing discussed
  
12. **Review of Building Plans, Shoreline Restorations and Other Plans** – There were discussions on the Boat House on the east side of the lake that is below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM). The boat house is under disarray. John Haag made a **Motion** to contact the DNR in regards to the boat house being a probable navigational water hazard as more parts of the house float away into the lake. This was seconded by Cecil Chally **Motion passed**. Tom Spaniol will send a letter to the DNR.
  
11. **Discuss Meeting Schedule** – Next meeting will be Wednesday, September 13<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 7:00PM at the Town of St Joseph Town Hall.

**12. Adjournment - Motion** to adjourn was made by Bill Holmberg and seconded by Cecil Chally. Motion Passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:22PM.

**Recorded by:**  
**Bill Holmberg, Secretary**