

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

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Wednesday, November 13, 2019 6:00pm
St. Joseph Town Hall – 1337 County Road V

Commissioners Present: Bill Holmberg, Chair
Cecil Chally, Treasurer
Fred Young, Secretary
Tim Riemenschneider
Lynnae Thompson-Koats
Jim Endle, St. Croix County Board Representative

Commissioners Absent: Rick Colbeth, Town of St. Joseph Representative

Residents in attendance: Tom Spaniol, Penny Chally, Bill Lawson

1. Call to Order

Bill Holmberg called the Board of Commissioners Meeting to order at 6:03 PM. **Roll Call:** All Commissioners present, except for Commissioners Rick Colbeth [Jim Endle attended shortly after meeting was called to order]. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. No changes to the Agenda that was mailed out were deemed necessary.

2. Secretary's Report

Copies of the unapproved draft minutes of the September 11, 2019, Commissioner's Meeting, Agenda for the November 13, 2019 Commissioners Meeting were previously distributed. Young noted that the mailing list was again reviewed for any updates per the process recommended by County office staff, with special thanks to Tom Spaniol for sending along information for a new resident. Bounce-back mail for the regular mailings of minutes and agenda are to be sent c/o the Secretary. **Motion** was made by Riemenschneider to approve last month's minutes and Secretary's Report and seconded by Holmberg. **Motion passed.** There was discussion about record keeping space, and Cecil Chally expressed that he will follow up with Rick Colbeth about additional space at the St. Joseph Town Hall.

3. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Cecil Chally reported that the checking account balance was \$8,944.41. Chally reported that there are a couple of outstanding checks, including one to the printing company. Chally noted that his accounting was approximately within \$150.00, due to an Xcel energy check that he may need to still account for. Chally noted that there was no cash in, and the oak bolts have been paid for and that check has been cleared. Holmberg noted that Tom Spaniol should make arrangements with Cheryl Clemmons to review shoreline restoration work at his property and approve

that work in order to get a potential grant reimbursement of \$395.40 (provided that Clemmons approves that work/cost). Tom Spaniol noted that there would be a bill forthcoming for the BLRD website hosting of approximately \$149. Holmberg noted that he would be working with Chally for the CBCW grant – needs copies of cashed checks for records of what has been spent (ie. checks to interns) – this will help wrap up a CBCW reimbursement grant that is anticipated to be approximately \$2,000.00.

A Motion to accept the Treasurer’s Report was made by Riemenschneider and seconded by Thompson-Koats. **Motion Passed.**

4. Lake Quality Planning Grant

Follow Up Discussion re: Dan Funk’s Presentation

Holmberg noted that it was great that Dan Funk presented. It was discussed that a basic model had been prepared and presented – it was not viewed as a particularly sophisticated or accurate model, and that (setting aside any discrepancy with the end point of the model vs. the actual lake level) there was no correlation for the data in the years between the start point and end point of the model. There was some additional discussion that evaporation may have decreased over the years.

CBCW

Holmberg explained he has circulated a copy of the grant for next year’s CBCW application; that the CBCW grant application no longer requires a formal resolution; that the 2020 CBCW project would be less than \$5,000 total, with the BLRD anticipated share to be \$1,250 and anticipated grant would cover \$3,750; and that he (Holmberg) would be the responsible person on the grant application. A Motion for Holmberg to execute and submit the application as discussed was made by Chally and seconded by Riemenschneider.

LPT Grant

Chally reported that he has not been able to connect with Cheryl Clemmons about any projects. There was discussion that there are no new qualifying projects which anyone is aware of, with exception of a couple of potential candidates on Hidden Oak Trail, but no information has been received from BLRD on those.

Holmberg noted that DNR bought and bent rebar for cribs. There was discussion that oak bolts are anticipated to be delivered in December at the landing. Spaniol will work at coordinating brush cutting from the County landing and staging at the landing. Spaniol noted when he would be out of town. Blocks for the cribs were discussed, and it was noted that Kasey at the DNR had inquired if Tom Spaniol knew anyone that might have a skid steer they’d be willing to volunteer to assist with the crib builds. Spaniol felt that is covered. Tom Spaniol explained that Kasey, from the DNR, and Ryan Brathal, from the County, have been in touch regarding the brush to be cut, and it was noted that volunteers will be needed to move the brush to the landing.

Lake Pumping Feasibility:

Holmberg noted that he and Chally have been gathering data, and that the last samples gathered and sent in were from approximately October 20 (which he had not received lab results for yet regarding phosphorus). Holmberg noted that he was initially alarmed by the phosphorus data from September where sampling has been occurring in approximate location, because of a significant increase in the phosphorus

concentration. However, Holmberg explained he spoke with others who were not as concerned by that, because the data would likely correlate with likely lake turn-over, which is why DNR may want BLRD to be regularly collecting the data – so, that pumping wouldn't occur when during a high phosphorus lake-turnover moment in time. Chally noted that veligers are not present still in any of the samples taken.

Bill Lawson noted that he had attended a seminar where Mark Selig presented that according to his models, things are likely to get more humid and wetter over the next 100 years. It was noted that there still remains a potential alternative of pumping to a different basin, rather than the Willow River. It was discussed that 885.2 is latest lake level – still approximately foot below ordinary high-water mark lake level.

NW Lakes Meeting Recap

Holmberg noted that he and Thompson-Koats were able to attend this meeting, with the 1st half of meeting being about general matters, and 2nd half with more financial information. Holmberg explained that without recapping everything, many lake districts are abandoning bylaws (if they have them) and using Ch 33, including lake districts in Polk County, because Ch 33 is seen as easier to use. There was also discussion about uncertainty of the existence of bylaws. There was mention that mailings of only Annual Meeting Minutes are required, and that BLRD Board of Commissioner's Meeting Minutes are not necessary to mail (although the BLRD currently mails out both). It was discussed that if we want to save some cost on mailings, it could be discussed at the Annual Meeting that we could discontinue mailing minutes for the Board of Commissioner's Meetings (those minutes could continue to be posted on the website and Annual Meeting Minutes could still be mailed). There was further discussion that it would make sense to put that on the Agenda for the next Annual Meeting.

There was discussion about materials and service expenses that should be approved by the BLRD and that there are certain items that can simply be directly paid by the Treasurer. There was discussion about potentially developing partnerships with other lake districts, that St. Croix doesn't have many lakes, and that the Polk County Lakes Group may be willing to work with the BLRD. It was noted that the BLRD does work with several other organizations, including the school fishing clubs. Holmberg explained that there was the 12th Ed. People of the Lakes book that is available for Lake Districts, Lake Associations, and County Representatives that may be helpful. There was discussion that there should be Commissioner meetings a minimum of 4 times per year, and that there should be a County rep and Town rep from area where the majority of lake district owners are located. There was also mention that there had been a follow-up conversation with a lakes district representative on the topic of wake generating activities and that is being actively considered.

There was discussion that the Annual Meeting voting process could be more formalized and that the Commissioners from the Town and County are not permitted to vote at the Annual Meeting simply by virtue of their seats but would have voting rights as property owners. It was noted that residents and property owners are of course entitled to vote at Annual Meetings.

There was discussion that purchases by the BLRD could be tax free, which Chally noted is a housekeeping matter that he is working on.

6. Ordinance Enforcement, Landing/Signage, Fisheries

Nothing new to report on water patrol. John Lehto pulled boat out. Tom Spaniol pulled the lift out.

ILIDS/Landing and Signage:

It was noted that if the water goes up to 886.1 feet, then signage would need to be updated since the existing slow/no wake ordinance would be triggered at that lake level. There was discussion that even with a heavy snow, that lake level may or may not be reached. There was discussion that parking enforcement has been an issue (folks not parking in designated spaces on busy weekends/no overflow), and there were additional concerns that with the new park opening, this concern could grow. Jim Endle indicated he would follow up on that topic.

Holmberg noted that ILIDS camera has been removed for the year. There was discussion as to whether to renew the ILIDS camera service contract, which would require an additional expense to make the ILIDS camera work on the cellular network since the hardware within the camera would no longer work on the cellular network. There was discussion that there have been issues with vandalism, as well as problems with there not being audio. There was discussion about the significant funds that the ILIDS camera consumes, and there was discussion as to whether to potentially use those monies on other endeavors (ie. landing inspection hours), and there was discussion that landing inspection hours already seem adequate so that it may make sense to not spend further. There was discussion that for the years for which the ILIDS camera has been recording footage, there hasn't been any video that has resulted in any formal charge for violating anything, and there was discussion that the ILIDS camera could still be placed as a deterrent (even if it wasn't capturing video). There was a motion by Chally to not renew the ILIDS camera at present, and to instead present the topic at the Annual Meeting, which motion was seconded by Thompson-Koats. Riemenschneider discussed amending the motion to make clearer an intention to not renew the ILIDS camera service at any time prior to the Annual Meeting. There was additional discussion that the audio recording on the ILIDS camera could be changed, and there was discussion about whether there would be any issue with any grant. Holmberg offered to follow up on the grant topic and it was discussed that the motion was not necessary since there was no action that needed to be taken, and therefore, the motion was rescinded, but it was noted that the intention is that the ILIDS camera renewal will not be pursued at this time. It was noted that if there is any grant issue, that the topic of the ILIDS camera may need to be readdressed prior to the Annual Meeting (i.e. in early 2020 at a Board of Commissioners Meeting and that a vote by the Commissioners may be needed as to whether to renew the ILIDS camera service, which would require upgrading the ILIDS camera equipment, depending on whether there is a concern with any grant).

7. County Updates, Town Updates

Jim Endle present for County and reported: zoning is not approved yet; not aware of anything that seemingly directly impacts the BLRD other than perhaps increased funding for parks. Endle noted he would follow up on the slow-no-wake landing signage that would be desirable if the ordinary high water mark is reached, and the parking topic, and would copy Bill Holmberg on his follow up.

8. News, Updates and Plans

Nothing additional.

9. Public Comment/Resident Concerns.

Thompson-Koats noted that a site has been organized by local residents on NextDoor for the local neighborhood, and folks are welcome to join and use that for communicating on topics like floating docks. Holmberg noted that Mary Cudd contacted him about a floating dock with blue carpet/blue barrels that came to her shore. There was discussion that there was a pontoon that got loose, but that was taken care of. Thompson-Koats noted that the high school fishing club from Somerset thru a high school association was going to host a high school fishing tournament on Bass Lake on January 18, 2020 at 8:00 a.m. – 4:00p.m.

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

No update on any building plans/shoreline restoration or other plans. Chally inquired if there was any information regarding Van Dyk property. Holmberg said that all that he was aware of last was that it had been placed on hold. No one had any other updates.

11. Discussion for Next Meeting Schedule/Finalize Agenda

There was discussion that as usual, the next Board of Commissioner’s Meeting would typically be the second Wednesday of in two months, but Chally noted that he would be unavailable on that date, and there was further discussion that the next Board of Commissioner’s Meeting would need to be scheduled before the regular mailing (of the unapproved draft minutes of the November 2019 meeting and the upcoming Agenda) is sent out. There was discussion that Commissioners would try to coordinate their calendars and come up with a meeting date in January for a weekday at 6p.m. and would need to still schedule that meeting to occur in its usual location. There was discussion that if there isn’t a better option after trying to coordinate schedules, the regular meeting cadence of second Wednesday of month of January would not be interrupted.

- **Next Meeting: January 2020 (precise date to be determined) at 6p.m. at St. Joseph Town Hall**

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Chally and seconded by Riemenschneider. **Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 PM.**

Recorded by:

Fred Young, Secretary