

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

**MINUTES OF THE BLRD ANNUAL MEETING**  
Saturday, June 8, 2019 9:30am  
St. Joseph Town Hall – 1337 County Road V

Commissioners Present: Bill Holmberg, Chair  
Cecil Chally, Acting Treasurer  
Fred Young, Secretary  
Jim Endle, St. Croix County Board Representative

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

**1. Call to Order**

Bill Holmberg called the Board of Commissioners Meeting to order at 9:36AM. **Roll Call:** Commissioner Tim Riemenschneider was unable to attend due to a prior engagement. Newly appointed Commissioner Rick Colbeth was also absent. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. **A Motion** was made by Bill Lawson to approve and adopt Agenda, which was seconded by Tom Spaniol. **Motion passed.**

**2. Secretary's Report**

Copies of the unapproved draft minutes of the BLRD June 9, 2018 Annual Meeting, and this year's proposed budget were previously mailed as well as last month's minutes, and this month's BLRD Board of Commissioners Meeting Agenda. Young noted that owner information on mailing list was again updated per process recommended by County staff. **A Motion** was made by Jim Rouleau to approve the minutes and Secretary's Report, and seconded by Paula Edson. **Motion passed.**

**3. Treasurer's Report**

Chally reported current bank balances and the District's financial condition as follows: checking account balance of **\$16,030.03** (approximately \$6,000 more than last year because there were no water patrol expenditures, which was an anticipated approximate \$4,600 budget line item; there was also no annual picnic expenditure; and lower than anticipated insurance expense); line of credit balance of **\$0.00**; all known bills have been paid with exception of a bill of approximately \$100; minimal income (approximately \$20). Chally recapped year of 6/10/18-6/08/19 budget and budget line items were presented. Chally noted that DNR Lake Protection grant (LPT grant) was extended by 1 year with thanks to Tom Spaniol for his efforts in that regard. Holmberg noted that the lake pumping monitoring expense was much lower than anticipated, because it took longer than anticipated to obtain necessary monitoring equipment from DNR than expected, and spending of the LPT grant monies was also slower than anticipated (only \$17,999.52) and resulted in a significant LPT grant balance available for this coming year. It was discussed that the LPT grant covered building of fish cribs,

and weather and ice conditions have not cooperated for allowing those fish cribs to be built (which results in those funds unspent). It was further highlighted that the small-scale planning grant is over; the ILID operation was somewhat less than anticipated; and the CBCW spending line item was less than anticipated. **A Motion** to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Bill Lawson and seconded by Penny Chally. **Motion Passed.**

#### 4. **Election of Commissioners**

Holmberg reported that 2 Commissioner positions are up for election – the vacated position by John Haag and the position occupied by Chally. Chally noted that he would be willing to serve again. After no one expressed interest for a considerable time in filling the other vacant Commissioner seat, Lynnae Thompson-Koats volunteered to serve as Commissioner. After a call for anyone else to express a desire to serve as Commissioner, no one else expressed any interest in serving as Commissioner and so there were no more than two individuals for the two separate seats. **A Motion** to accept the only two people that expressed any interest in serving as Commissioner to be appointed as Commissioners was made by Ron Orf and seconded by John Lehto. **Motion passed.**

#### 5. **BLRD Lake Management**

- **Bass Lake Management Plan Update**

Holmberg explained that it is the intention of the BLRD to engage its residents to become stewards of Bass Lake resource and to work with other agencies on the BLRD's goals. Holmberg explained the BLRD goals as follows:

**Goal 1: Protect and enhance Bass Lake water quality to maintain its designation as a DNR designated Outstanding Resource Water** (there are approximately 100 lakes in the state with this designation; as such, there's increased funding available and the DNR does more work to maintain this designation). Several activities have been identified that are intended to support those goals (appearing underlined):

Reduce stormwater runoff. There is the LPT grant that is in place to help defray the majority of costs for approved shoreline protection projects (to extent fund balance remains); if anyone else is interested in having their site evaluated for a potential shoreline restoration project, please contact the Board of Commissioners; thank you for continuing to share information, educate and discuss this goal with neighbors and friends.

Influence local and county ordinances. Jim Endle explained that the County is to roll out new ordinances soon. Endle explained that with the re-zoning efforts that the County is undergoing, the Town of St. Joseph can accept the County zoning ordinances; and the second option is for the Town of St. Joseph to work with the County to develop its own ordinances. Endle encouraged folks to attend the County and Township meetings to express any concerns regarding new zoning.

Investigate use of pump to remove water during high phosphorus times. Holmberg explained this has been determined to be not feasible/practicable.

Consider wastewater facilities management. Initial study has been completed and information regarding that was presented at last year's Annual Meeting.

Continued Lake monitoring. Holmberg explained the following: **additional volunteers are needed to monitor water quality**, as he will not be able to continue to do this with the frequency he has in the past; Limnotech, one of the firms that bid on the lake pumping feasibility study, has developed a remote station, that should have the capability of remotely monitoring lake water levels; it is anticipated that the remote station will be in place by the end of June. It was discussed that the current lake elevation is currently read by Bill Lawson at 884.7 feet, and that there is a BLRD ordinance already in place that when lake level exceeds 886.1 feet, there is a 24-hour slow/no-wake restriction that will automatically go into effect. Holmberg explained that if that were to occur, notices regarding the slow/no-wake restriction would be posted; folks would endeavor to communicate via email; and boat landing inspectors would endeavor to advise boaters.

Holmberg noted that it is very important that baseline phosphorus level data be obtained in order to seek the DNR's approval to pump into the Willow River, particularly in the event that phosphorus levels increase. There was discussion that efforts are ongoing to determine if lake pumping is feasible (which includes acceptable phosphorus levels and the absence of zebra veligers). An individual expressed concern regarding the current lake level, the shoreline condition and wake-surfing activities, and what might be done about lowering the ordinary high-water mark. It was discussed that the ordinary high-water mark has changed over the decades and has been both lower and higher (more recently higher in the 1980s), but that the DNR's subsequent lower designation of the ordinary high-water mark at 886.1' feet (which is the present ordinary high-water mark) was based on the DNR's study, which included the evaluation of transition in soil types. There was discussion that any effort to seek to change the ordinary high-water mark designated by the DNR would likely be impracticable, would be an inherent challenge to the conclusion drawn by the DNR that was based on an evaluation of soil transitions, would include significant waiting periods, that there is a detailed process, and that there would be an opportunity for the County or Township to address a County or Township-wide ordinance. Holmberg explained that in reaching out for more information on the topic, he was informed that a local lake organization generally should not be implementing regulations specific to one type of activity or type of vessel.

There was discussion that there is a significant expense to attempting to pump water onto grass or alfalfa fields (as discussed at last year's Annual Meeting) to attempt to reduce the lake level. There was inquiry as to what depth zebra mussel veligers have been found, and there was discussion that while there were zebra mussels on the pump intake pipe, it is not believed that veligers would only be present near the intake seasonally, due to depleted oxygen levels, and that initial monitoring has not detected a presence of veligers, which is why year-round monitoring needs to take place. There was also discussion that there is data suggesting that phosphorus levels coming into the lake are extremely low.

Following a renewed expression of concern regarding the lake level and shoreline by a resident, Holmberg re-summarized the earlier discussion the ordinary high-water mark and noted that while changing a slow/no-wake ordinance would be a different matter, there would still be a considerable amount of investigation to go into that, noting that there are some things that inherently conflict with each other. There

was a suggestion that it may be possible to circulate an email merely asking residents to consider limiting wake production at the current water level.

There was public comment that there is data suggesting that placing iron filings in a lake can effectively and significantly reduce phosphorus levels, but that the DNR does not permit the introduction of iron filings.

Holmberg explained that the bottom line was that **the BLRD does need to perform more monitoring of water quality and additional volunteers are needed.** Holmberg reviewed water quality data and lake level data, noting that water quality has fluctuated but remains generally consistent with historical water quality data. There was public comment that the removal of the dam in Burkhardt correlated to the drop in the water level of Bass Lake – so significantly, that it was lower than even the DNR desired, and that an individual from the Army Corp of Engineers had opined that the original lake pump was not worth the expenditure. There was discussion that the original lake pump was only ever run for an approximate 2-month period if at all.

Chally noted that he thought there may be some data that suggested that it takes perhaps a year for precipitation and run-off to affect the lake level (with exception of immediate run-off). There was an inquiry that if the lake level were to remain stable at 884.7, what is the maximum output of the lake pump would be. Tom Spaniol explained his understanding that the maximum output of the lake pump is 1,000,000 gallons a day, but that it is anticipated that it would take 30-45 days to get the lake to drop 1,” and that 330,000,000 million gallons of water is equivalent to one inch of rainfall on Bass Lake.

There was discussion as to whether data could be obtained as to whether there is any correlation between phosphorous and lake levels, but that phosphorus readings would likely vary significantly throughout the lake in different areas and depths and at different times of year, making it impractical to attempt to obtain such data – the main concern is that phosphorus levels be monitored at the pump inlet.

## **Goal 2: Protect and improve the diverse aquatic life of Bass Lake including a self-sustaining fishery and diverse aquatic plant community.**

Holmberg summarized the following activities that may support this goal as follows:

Maintain shoreline vegetation. Again, the LPT grant has been obtained and shoreline restorative native plantings are intended to help with this. If anyone else is interested in having their site evaluated for a potential shoreline restoration project, please contact the Board of Commissioners.

Continue installing up to 100 fish cribs. Planned crib builds have not been successful with weather and ice conditions. However, the LPT grant has been extended for a year, which allows another potential opportunity to continue the crib build with LPT fund (to the extent a balance remains available following approved shoreline restoration projects).

Consider fish sticks and root wads. “Fish sticks” involve dropping trees into the lake, but individual landowners must obtain a permit to do so and individual permit fee was \$500 when Holmberg looked into it; and root wads similarly require permits. So, perhaps with DNR participation with the BLRD, tree drops could be performed.

### **Goal 3: Protect and restore healthy shoreland habitats**

Holmberg summarized the following activities that are intended to support this goal as follows:

Complete baseline WI shoreland habitat assessment methodology on Bass Lake. Holmberg noted this has been completed.

Encourage owners to restore shoreland buffers. Again, the LPT grant was obtained to fund approved projects for shoreline restoration and native plantings. If anyone else is interested in having their site evaluated for a potential shoreline restoration project, please contact the Board of Commissioners.

### **Goal 4: Prevent the introduction of and control and contain existing (aquatic and shoreland) invasive species.**

Holmberg reviewed that the following activities may support this goal: Continue CBCW program; Continue ILIDS surveillance camera; Work with sheriff Dept to enforce violations; Continue distribution of a lake map with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) messages, particularly by boat inspectors; Distribute additional AIS outreach material; Consider boat washing station and bait/plant disposal (there is no place to dispose of bait that has been placed in the lake, and County leases the landing from the DNR); Train (St. Croix County) and coordinate volunteer monitors; continue to be familiar with rapid response strategy for AIS that has been developed; Consider professional monitoring for AIS (it is understood that DNR is performing this monitoring); Complete intercept survey (it is understood that WDNR is doing this every three years); Protect the over-wintering habitat of the milfoil weevil by restoring and maintaining natural shorelines (Included with Goal I and III implementation); Monitor effectiveness of milfoil weevils and northern water milfoil populations (it is understood that DNR is doing this); Consider additional EWM control measures if needed; riparian landowners are encouraged to leave native aquatic vegetation which serves as competition for invasive species; continue to learn about other zebra mussel control operations; Consider control methods when/if available.

### **Goal 5: Ensure safe and multifaceted recreational opportunities.**

Holmberg reviewed that the following activities may support this goal:

Address excess parking on 153<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Holmberg noted that there has been excessive parking on the road, and the landing was designed for 17 spaces, and have been observed that there have been over 50 vehicles at the landing at a given time. Town of Somerset has not agreed to monitor the parking. There was discussion whether Sheriff could be contracted with to enforce the no-parking, and that it may make sense to revisit issue with Town of Somerset, and to consider encouraging or even paying for enforcement. Holmberg reviewed that the following activities may also support this goal:

Maintain the boat landing (County must renew lease); Encourage lake residents to comply with limits for number configuration of slips/docks as allowed by state regulations (See Chapter 30 NR326); Encourage lake residents to complete boater safety courses; Encourage boating regulation enforcement; Continue to enforce the 8-8 slow-no-wake rules per BLRD ordinance; Place slow-no-wake buoys according to the BLRD ordinance; Maintain signage at the landing; Support the development of

low-impact recreation at the new county park adjacent to the boat landing; if lights are used on property, encourage lights that reduce glare in the shoreland area; Support WDNR extended growth walleye stocking on an alternate year basis

- **Clean Boats Clean Water (CBCW)**

DNR grant was obtained. The members in attendance welcomed the two interns at the landing this summer: Chad Kienholz and Nathan Gillett, who are scheduled to be working primarily Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Landing Blitz**

Anticipated that this will take place over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend as in years past.

- **Lake Protection Grant**

Holmberg noted that Tom Spaniol has been leading efforts to help fish habitat, and that communication with John Reiling who had been leading shoreline restoration site evaluations has been a bit challenging due to his limited availability, but that 18 owners have participated in having their sites assessed for a potential shoreline restoration project (a total of 21 sites were assessed), 4 additional sites are pending to be assessed, 6 site projects completed, and 2 are underway.

- **Lake Pumping Feasibility Update**

Holmberg explained that: as previously discussed, testing is required to ensure that veligers are not present at the pump inlet - at least during season(s) when pumping might be performed, and that phosphorus levels are acceptable to the DNR; even if DNR approval were to be obtained, a \$400,000+ modification to the pump would be necessary; and that initial tests were negative for veligers.

6. **Ordinance Enforcement, Landing/Signage, Fisheries**

- **Ordinance Enforcement** – Guy Gillitzer, who previously served in the US Coast Guard, is serving to enforce the no-wake ordinance. It was discussed that he has given warnings. There was discussion that the fine for violation for slow-no-wake ordinance is \$180, and that 100 hours have been budgeted for water patrol. Tom Spaniol reported he was willing to continue assisting with managing Guy's schedule and continue to keep the water patrol boat lift on his property. There was discussion that there were residents that expressed that 100 hours of enforcement may not be sufficient, and reported that a boater that had been driving around 10:00pm or 11:00pm the night before. There was discussion as to what might be done in this type of scenario. Holmberg noted that if there is interest in taking the water patrol boat out simply to establish a presence for folks to please indicate their interest on the sign-in sheet. It was discussed that due to concern for the safety of all, the water patrol boat should not be used to pull folks over (excepting BLRD water patrol officer, Guy Gullitzer), but that the very presence of the patrol boat can serve as an effective deterrent.
- **Landing/Signage/ILIDS** – Holmberg explained that the ILIDS camera is installed in a location that is intended to have a more deterrent effect, and is operational. Holmberg also noted that it has been reported that stormwater run-off at the landing is anticipated to be improved by the County.
- **Fisheries** – Holmberg noted that Kasey Yallaly DNR Fisheries biologist presented at last month's Commissioner's Meeting.

**7. County Updates**

Jim Engel was appointed the new County representative. No updates beyond the aforementioned zoning.

**Town Updates**

Rick Colbeth was appointed the new Town of St. Joseph representative to the BLRD Board of Commissioners. No further updates, as Rick Colbeth was not in attendance.

**8. News, Updates and Plan**

- **Annual Picnic** – It was discussed that a Bass Lake resident has offered to host the annual picnic. It was noted that if that resident were unable to host, that anyone else is interested in hosting the annual picnic, please get in touch with the Commissioners.
- Pam Fricke reported that she has been very interested in obtaining goat grazing services to remove noxious weeds, and that there is an operation that she was able to contact that does provide that service, which uses a temporary solar powered electric fence to contain the goats, and wraps trees to endeavor to prevent damage to tree bark. There was discussion that there is another goat grazing operation providing the same services to a couple of different owners near the south end of Bass Lake if anyone is interested.

**9. Action on Treasurer's Proposed Annual Budget**

There was renewed discussion about increasing the number of hours of enforcement, and thus, the line item for no-wake ordinance enforcement. Motion by Tom Spaniol to increase the \$3,000 line item for ordinance enforcement to \$6,000 and therefore increase the levy line item to \$15,000, seconded by Doug Elert. **Motion passed.** A **Motion** by Chally seconded by Len Fricke to approve the budget with those changes. **Motion passed.**

**10. Public Comment/Resident Concerns.**

There was discussion that a new website may be nice. Lynnae Thompson-Koats expressed interest in assisting with that. Thanks was expressed to the Board for their service.

**11. Review of Building Plans/Shoreline Restoration and other Plans**

Tom Spaniol noted that currently Engleharts are working on their property which includes a stormwater run-off pond. Van Dyks are also considering plans that include a stormwater run-off pond.

**12. Discussion for Next Meeting Schedule/Finalize Agenda**

- **The 2020 Annual Meeting set for Saturday, June 13, 2020 at 9:30a.m., St. Joseph Town Hall**
- **Commissioners Meetings** – Intending to continue on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 6PM. Looking to reduce from monthly. A minimum of 4 per year are required.

**13. Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn was made by Ron Orf and seconded by Randi Low. **Motion passed.**  
**Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:50 AM.**

**Recorded by:**  
**Fred Young, Secretary**

ATTENDANCE:

**Residents**

Pam Fricke  
Leu Fricke  
Regina Rippel  
Wally Laumeyer  
Jim Rouleau  
Rita Montibrand  
Randi Low  
Heidi Eckstrom  
Lisa Arrigoni  
Colleen Gray  
Melinda Hanson  
Tom Spaniol  
Bill Lawson  
Ron Orf  
Sandy Orf  
Doug Elert  
Penny Chally  
Jim Boche  
Larry Condon  
Joe Keating  
Renee Keating  
Kathy Conway  
Lynnae Thompson-Koats  
Richard Koats  
John Lehto  
Jan Orf  
Jim Orf  
Connie Stoy

**Non-Residents**

Ron Golberg  
Timothy Olson  
Bert Hollinshead  
Chad Kienholz  
Nathan Gillett  
Guy Gillitzer