

## Minutes for April 16, 2011, Meeting Town of Dakota Town Hall

Note: Board Member Gordie Loehr was absent, but all other Board Members were present. There were enough attendees to form a quorum.

President Geier added one item to the agenda – the new tax assessments will be discussed after burning regulations. Dick Meidam made a motion to accept the agenda, Walt Braun seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Fran Geier read the minutes from the September 21, 2010, meeting. Margaret Heschke motioned to accept the minutes as read, Jim Herzog seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill Van Dongen then read the minutes from the previous three Board of Commissioners meetings.

Next, Fran Geier read the treasurer's report. Walt Braun motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Helen Williams seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill Van Dongen did a presentation on the new website for the District ([whiteriverflowage.org](http://whiteriverflowage.org)) on an overhead projector demonstrating all the features on the current five-page site. A sixth page may be added for Association news if the cost is reasonable. Only Bill and Fran Geier will have the ability to edit and add information, but members can submit items via gmail ([wrlmd@gmail.com](mailto:wrlmd@gmail.com)), subject to approval, to be placed on the site, provided the materials are relevant to the District. No political or personal information will be accepted.

President Geier discussed the post-treatment report from Bonestroo. According to the report, there was 5.5 acres of CLP and 4.4 acres of EWM remaining after last year's treatment. Based on these results, the Board asked for and received a one-year extension and additional funds (approx. \$6800) to again treat in 2011. Mike stated that a contract with Bonestroo has been signed and the permit has been completed and paid for. The main target will be the beds north of the White River Trail landing. The CLP has been especially difficult to kill because the current at the north end washes away much of the Aquathol before it can work. The plan is increase the treatment to 200# per acre in hopes of eliminating it.

Bill Van Dongen stated that the Audit Committee found the books to be in good financial order.

Regarding the harvester operation, Geier reported that both the cutter and the harvester went down in August. The cutter had a clutch problem while the harvester suffered major damage to the lower track system. As a result, the flowage looked especially weedy in late summer, proving that there is a definite need to have these units working. Cory Wagner was contracted for \$850 to sandblast and prime the harvester since some rust was starting to appear. New replacement belting and teflon strips were purchased for \$1600 and will be installed when the harvester comes out of storage and is re-assembled. Mike noted that the 1989 harvester was purchased in 2003 for \$14,000 and has average about \$1,000/year for maintenance.

Because of the age of the harvester and the ongoing maintenance costs, the Board decided to have Mike write a grant in December of 2010 to buy a new harvester, fully expecting to be on a waiting list for 2-3 years since Governor Doyle had frozen \$500,000 in grant monies last fall. Chris Halbur of the DNR suggested writing the grant for \$145,000 because the District could always reduce the grant later, if necessary. However, on March 28, 2011, Mike was notified that the District's grant application would be considered if the amount requested was lowered. The Board approved lowering the grant request to \$100,000. Geier then traveled to Eau Claire on April 4, 2011, to present the grant application to the

Waterways Committee. The Committee decided to award the District with a 40% grant of \$35,000 (based on an adjusted grant request of \$89,000), with \$5,000 held back because the landings do not have launch fees. Geier then went before the Dakota Town Board to ask that an ordinance be passed within 90 days that would require launch fees at both landings. At this point, Bill Van Dongen passed around financial reports that broke down the cost of purchasing a new harvester from Aquamarine in Auburn, New York at a price of 88,970 delivered. It included the sale of the existing harvester for \$20,000-\$25,000 and taking out a bank loan. The cost per member would be approx. \$540 for a one-time payment or \$70.86/year over 10 years. Bill explained that this would be separate from the annual District fee. A discussion ensued with many questions, such as: Who gets the launch fees? The fees would go to the Town of Dakota. Will the new unit be the same as the current one? Yes, the same size except the paddles and fenders swing up on top instead being removed and it will be quieter. Will it work in shallower water? No, the same depth of 6", What happens if we turn down this grant? We would likely have to wait 3-5 years. **Brian Soldner made a motion for the District to purchase the new harvester (Bill Van Dongen added the proviso that the price should be very close to what was quoted and the harvester must be as presented in the quote by Aquamarine), Kathy Neuman seconded the motion, and the motion carried with a solid majority of those in attendance, with three attendees not voting.** Bill Van Dongen noted that by voting to purchase a new harvester, the members were approving a change to the previously approved 2011 budget.

Rob Trzecinski circulated the upcoming schedules for the "Clean Boats/Clean Water" program. He asked that volunteers sign up on the sheets and fill out a reminder card for themselves. Any volunteers needing training should put their phone numbers on the schedule.

President Geier stated that he had Newcomer Packets available to anyone new to waterfront property ownership. The packets contain 44 different items pertaining to rules and regulations that apply to waterfront properties. He handed out four packets to members in attendance.

Regarding the issue of sewer contamination at the Utica (formerly FS Cooperative) site, Mike reported that he never heard from the DNR but did see that the manhole and cover have been removed, so the problem should be resolved.

With the departure of the Obenbergers, there is no longer a fire marshall in the District. However, the permits can be obtained online at the DNR website (the link is on the District's website). The burning restrictions run from January 1 to May 31 and the DNR must be contacted at toll-free 888-936-7463 for permission any day that burning is to be done. Burning permits can still be obtained at Skupe's and Wautoma Rental, if necessary.

President Geier mentioned that John Blader had conducted a re-assessment for the Town of Dakota and noted that the assessments went up, but explained that the mill rate would go down accordingly, so there should not be a big tax increase. Joe Piechowski suggested that those who are unsatisfied with their re-assessment should go to the Open Book hearing. Joe also complemented the members on how involved and organized the District was.

President Geier asked if the fall meeting could be moved from the September 17<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> due to a scheduling conflict. **An amended motion to set September 24<sup>th</sup> as the primary meeting date (unless the Town Hall is unable), with September 10<sup>th</sup> as the secondary meeting date was made by Robert Neuman with Laura Soldner seconding, and the motion carried.**

Laura Soldner, President of the White River Flowage Association, announced that the date of the brat fry at Stone Ridge had been changed from June to July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Regarding Mike & Fran Geier stepping down from their positions as President and Secretary/Treasurer

respectively in 2012, Mike stated that they would be willing to help in the transition for another year or two. Bill Van Dongen indicated that he would be willing to take over the Secretary/Treasure position. However, Joe Piechowski suggested splitting the positions so it would not be so much work for one person.

President Geier asked for suggestions for the fall meeting. Joe Piechowski suggested inviting Terri Dopp- Paukstat, the new Zoning Department director, as a guest speaker.

Geier announced that the next Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council will be on Saturday, May 21, at 9 am in the County Boardroom.

Al Williams motioned to adjourn at 11:30 am, Brian Soldner seconded, and the motion carried. Breakfast snacks and lunch were provided by the White River Flowage Association

The Board of Commissioners met immediately after the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Geier