

## **Minutes for September 24, 2011, Meeting Town of Dakota Town Hall**

### 9:00 a.m. - Budget Hearing:

All District members had previously received a copy of the current 2011 budget and projected 2012 budget on the back of their Annual Meeting notice. No questions were asked or comments made at the budget hearing.

### 9:30 a.m. - Annual Meeting:

President Geier called the meeting to order. Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier read the minutes from the April 18, 2011, spring meeting. Carol Koester made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Brian Soldner seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Bill Van Dongen then read the minutes from the previous two Board of Commissioners meetings. He noted that the Board decided to decline the State grant for the purchase of new harvester after determining that the proposed new harvester did not meet the specified requirements and was, in fact, smaller than the District's present unit. Next, Fran Geier read the treasurer's report. Sylvia Hartwig motioned to accept the treasurer's report, Carol Koester seconded, and the motion carried.

Bill Van Dongen and Mike Geier praised Mike Blija for all the hours of work he donated working on the harvester and cutter and noted that Blija saved the District several hundreds of dollars by fabricating a new cutting arm for the cutter.

Ed Hernandez of the County Land Conservation Department was unable to do his presentation, so Bill Van Dongen briefly summarized that the Land Conservation, working under a Lakes Classification Grant, will be doing a study on 33 lakes in Waushara County to include water quality, plants present, sediment, photos of shorelines, etc. which will be valuable in providing a report on the current condition of these lakes, including the flowage. The photos could be used for grandfathering in projects. This 2-year project will be posted on the County's website when complete. NR-115 has been delayed for at least 2 more years (2014) and could even change. Bill stated that pier regulations can be found at the State DNR's website. The Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council is looking at groundwater throughout the state, studying water quality, lake levels, etc. The results will be posted on the DNR's website. Bill suggested members have their well water tested periodically. Kits are available at the UW-Extension Office at the courthouse.

Mike Geier mentioned that FEMA is going to be redoing the flood plain maps. A meeting about this issue is scheduled for October at the County Courthouse. He will send notices to members affected.

Mike Geier announced that the post-treatment survey and final report had not been received from Bonestroo yet (at a cost of \$1850), but he did not anticipate the need for treatment in 2012. Judy Hughes said that the flowage looked good this year, but was concerned about waiting two years to treat again. Bill Van Dongen explained that it should not be a problem and it was better to wait until we had to treat at least 5 acres to make it cost effective. Mike Geier said he was more concerned about controlling the wild rice.

Mike Geier and Bill Van Dongen discussed the Board's decision to decline the harvester grant. They explained that there were problems with the purchase contract: 1) no way to test the unit beforehand; 2) 100 cu. ft. smaller storage capacity, and 3) payment in full upfront. The District will have to wait 2-3 years before applying again for a grant, but the current harvester is running great and has been sandblasted, primed, and new track and teflon strips installed. However, it will be only a matter of time before the unit will have to be replaced. The members were asked if they would consider setting up a

harvester purchase fund to buy a new unit in the future? Van Dongen circulated a proposed savings plan whereby each District payment unit would contribute between \$70 to \$113 per year into a harvester fund to be used as part of the down payment on a new unit. This fee would be included on tax bills as a separate item. The District would still continue to collect the annual district fees to cover the ongoing district operations (harvesting, weed treatments, etc.) A discussion took place among the members. Ken Alsted stated that the current harvester will have to be replaced at some time and will continue to lose value. Brian Soldner was concerned about making a decision that will affect all the members with many members not present, but Bill Van Dongen stated that the decision to purchase a new harvester was approved at the spring meeting when attendance was good. **Ken Alstedt made a motion to establish a harvester purchase fund and to set an amount of \$70/year per District payment unit starting with the 2011 property tax bill, and to continue to collect this fee annually until a new harvester is purchased at which time the fee will be discontinued. Robert Hughes seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Reviewing the projected budget for 2012, Bill Van Dongen noted that it will be possible to pay an additional \$3,000 towards the District's current loan with Citizens Bank, thus lowering the amount to be rolled over when the five-year balloon comes due in 2012. **Carol Koester made a motion to approve the proposed 2012 budget and District fees, Robert Hughes seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.**

Mike Geier reported that the harvester and cutter operations were down in 2011, partially due to the weed treatment. Both machines received some maintenance repairs this past summer. The harvester had large sections of track and teflon strips replaced and the cutter's blade was rebuilt. The clutch on the cutter will be repaired next spring and the harvester will have some hoses replaced as well.

Mike Geier reported that the the hours were down this year on "Clean Boats/Clean Water" Program, partially due to the wind storm on Labor Day weekend. However, the program must be maintained to protect the flowage.

Mike Geier asked if the District should again make a \$50 donation to the Tri-County A.I.S. Grant. (now a four-county consortium) The consensus was to continue to support the program with a \$50 donation.

Laura Soldner, President of the White River Flowage Association, briefly informed the District members of the Association's activities, including the brat fry in July that raised \$435.00.

Elections to the Board of Commissioners were held for two positions. Rob Treczinski indicated that he was willing to serve another 3-year term. Gordie Loehr indicated that he would be unable to continue on the Board, so the Board recommended Robert Hughes to fill his 3-year position. With no nominations from the floor, Bill Van Dongen made a motion to re-elect Rob Treczinski and elect Robert Hughes to the Board, Joe Piechowski seconded the motion. Both were elected unanimously.

Suggestion for a future agenda: Have Teri Dopp-Paukstat, new Director of the County Zoning Dept. as a guest speaker.

Brian Soldner motioned to adjourn at 11:35 am, Robert Hughes 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