

## Minutes for April 21, 2012, Meeting Town of Dakota Town Hall

President Geier called the meeting to order at 9:05 am. **Jim Herzog made a motion to accept the agenda, Mike Blija seconded, and the motion carried.** Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier read the minutes from the September 24, 2011, meeting. **Gordie Loehr made a motion to accept the minutes as read, Marty Koslucher seconded, and the motion carried.** Next, Bill Van Dongen read the minutes from the previous three Board of Commissioners meetings. Among the key items discussed: changes to the Bylaws, a gift certificate for Mike Blija for all his work on the harvester and cutter, extending the current loan for another two years, and the interest expressed by the Friends of the White River (Neshkoro) in our harvester. Mike Geier noted that the harvester is still in storage, but it might be possible to do a demonstration in Neshkoro before putting it in the Flowage as long as they agree to carry the necessary insurance and are willing to pay \$130/hr (\$90/hr for the harvester and \$20/hr for two operators). The Friends of the White River indicated they are interested in purchasing the harvester, but the District would only be willing to grant a "right of first refusal" to them for a \$500 fee when the time comes for the District to replace it. **Carol Koester made a motion to accept the Board of Commissioners minutes, Clarence Koester seconded, and the motion carried.** Finally, Fran Geier gave the treasurer's report.

President Geier introduced two new members, Kirk and Beth Moon of Onalaska.

Guest speaker, Ed Hernandez of the Waushara County Land Conservation Department, gave a video presentation on the results of a Lakes Classification Grant two-year study. The study entailed mapping and photographing the shorelines of 32 lakes in Waushara County and ranking them according to the condition of the shorelines, water quality, etc. The White River Flowage was ranked number one for its natural shoreline. A complete report is available on the County's website, [www.co.waushara.wi.us](http://www.co.waushara.wi.us).

Mike Geier announced that the District had received 100% of its A.I.S. Grant which ended on 12/31/11. There are no grants at present, so the planned bi-yearly treatments will be self-funded. The plan is to have Stantec (formerly Bonestroo) concentrate on treating the Curlyleaf Pond Weed prevalent at the north end and closely monitor the Eurasian Watermilfoil. Mike Geier noted that the DNR wanted the District to pay \$500 to build a berm around the CLP weedbed. He would like the DNR to use this as a test site so there would not be fee. Mike plans to write a grant next year for a new harvester.

Mike Geier and Bill Van Dongen discussed the current loan with Citizens Bank. The \$40,000 loan was taken out five years ago and because the District made extra payments, the District could pay off all but \$5,000 in May when the final balloon payment is due. The total May payment would be \$12,735.61.

The remaining \$5,000 would be extended into a 2-year note at 3% interest. That would leave the District debt-free when purchasing a new harvester in three years (2015)

Next, Mike Geier discussed the harvester savings fund which is set at \$70/payment unit. Currently, there is \$4,900 set aside from 2011 and he projected that in three years there will be approximately \$15,000 in the account plus another \$22,000 for the sale of the existing harvester to be used as a down payment on the new unit. He estimated that a new unit could be \$145,000-\$150,000. He and Bill Van Dongen have been invited to tour Aquarius Systems by Waukesha on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Regarding the harvester operation for this summer, Mike Blija will not be available due to his job. However, Dick Meidam stated that he would be available to run the harvester except for the month of August.

Bill Van Dongen reviewed the suggested changes to the District's Bylaws. The major change would be allowing a property owner (elector) to appoint a representative (Article I, Section 1) by filling out an

appointment form available on the District's website ([www.whiteriverflowage.org](http://www.whiteriverflowage.org)) under Bylaws. The same form would have a space on the bottom to cancel the appointment at a future date. The only other changes were minor editorial corrections. **Gordie Loehr motioned to approve the changes to the Bylaws, Marty Koslucher seconded, and the motion carried.**

Mike Geier reported that the millpond in Wautoma will be drawn down for two to three years. He stated that although he initially had concerns about the silt making its way into the Flowage, he now feels that the silt will dissipate into the upper White River and should not impact the Flowage. He asked the DNR to monitor the situation, but they may not have the manpower to do it. The water level of the Flowage is controlled by the dam, so that should not be affected either.

Burning permits can be obtained online. The DNR is phasing out fire marshals, but there are still some businesses that will issue them. Permits are required from January through May and burning is only allowed after 6 pm.

Regarding the "Clean Boats/Clean Water" Program, Mike stressed that we still need to continue with the landing inspections. It will reflect well when we apply for a harvester grant. Signup sheets were distributed to the members in attendance. Rob Trzcieski (Pine View) and Robert Hughes (White River Trail) are in charge of recruiting inspectors.

The decision on whether to donate \$50 towards the A.I.S. Quad-County program was tabled until the September meeting.

After a brief recess while the White River Flowage Association met and refreshments were served, the meeting resumed. Laura Soldner, President of the White River Flowage Association, presented Mike and Fran Geier with gift cards for their years of service with the Association and District. Mike Geier announced that although he had stated that he and Fran would step down this year, they were persuaded by the Board of Commissioners to remain for another three years. Mike stated that he wanted to help the District get a new harvester and was experienced in writing grants.

There were no outstanding bills except for the loan payment in May. Mike Geier and Bill Van Dongen will meet with Citizens Bank on May 8<sup>th</sup> to pay down the loan and sign the two-year loan extension for the \$5,000 balance. **Sylvia Hartwig made a motion to approve the loan extension, Mike DeHaven seconded, and the motion carried.**

Under future agenda items, Gordie Loehr asked if the DNR would consider stocking fish in the Flowage. Joe Piechowski suggested requesting having the DNR conduct a fish survey done first to find out what fish are present in the Flowage.

Mike Geier noted that there are now otters and beavers present in the Flowage. He stated that Gary Leitner (who currently traps muskrats on the Flowage) might do it, but there is a very short trapping season – only 2-3 weeks.

**Mike Blija made a motion to adjourn at 11:20 am, Gordie Loehr seconded, and the meeting adjourned.**

The Board of Commissioners met immediately after the spring meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Fran Geier