

## White River Flowage Lake Management District Minutes of Saturday, April 20, 2013

Chairman Geier called the meeting to order at 9:10 am. Before the formal start of the meeting, Benjamin Mott introduced himself as the local DNR Warden. He briefly described his professional background and stated that he could be reached at (920) 896-3383 or by e-mail at [benjamin.mott@wisconsin.gov](mailto:benjamin.mott@wisconsin.gov) if anyone had concerns or questions.

Jim Herzog motioned to approve the agenda, Gordie Loehr seconded, and the motion carried. Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier read the minutes from the September 15, 2012, meeting. Mike Blija motioned to accept the minutes as read, Mike DeHaven seconded, and the motion carried. Next, Bill Van Dongen summarized the minutes from the three previous Board of Commissioners meetings. Among the highlights: the harvester grant was submitted, cutter repairs will be completed this spring, Stantec will do a weed treatment this summer with Golden Sands doing the post-treatment survey, the Town of Dakota plans to put in three 10' x 10' cement slabs at White River Trail landing this spring, a drawdown is unlikely since the dam can't lower the water more than 3', and four outside contracts for the harvester operation are scheduled for this summer. Following that, Fran did the treasurer's report. She stated that there is currently \$9,256 in checking, \$8,104.50 in the Money market account, and \$14,490 in the Harvester Savings Account.

Chemical Treatment: Chairman Geier stated that treatments are done bi-yearly now and the plan is to treat up to 8 acres (4 acres of CLP and 4 acres of EWM). The \$220 DNR permit has already been submitted and paid for. Stantec has been hired as the contractor again and should be on the Flowage next week to conduct the pre-treatment survey. Mike stated that a new product "Clearcast" will be used on the CLP. We may not notice much change this year, but next year should show a big improvement. Golden Sands will be doing the post-treatment survey and the District will donate \$200 to them. Joe Piechowski said that having someone else do the post-treatment survey would provide a good comparison. Carol Van Dongen asked if the cold weather would affect the weeds, but both Joe and Benjamin Mott stated that the weeds are already coming up.

Harvester Operation: Chairman Geier stated that the District has contracts for four harvester operations this summer – two with Silver Springs Lake and two with the Neshkoro Millpond. On June 24 and 25, the harvester will be at Silver Springs Lake and immediately afterward will go to the Millpond. Since Silver Springs is not infected with invasive plants, there is no danger of cross-contamination into the Millpond. A second round will take place in August. Projected earnings of \$7,040 will be added to the Harvester Savings Account. These contracted jobs will not interfere with the ongoing harvester operation on the Flowage.

Harvester Grant: Chairman Geier reported that he submitted a new harvester grant application on December 1, 2012, fully expecting not to be considered this year. However, in March, he was notified by Chris Halbur of the Green Bay DNR Office that the grant would be considered by the Waterways Commission on April 2, 2013, in Fitchburg. After Mike's presentation, he was informed that the Waterways Commission had approved \$75,041 (50%) for the harvester grant. There was a \$5,000 penalty because there are no pay stations at the landings, but that is the responsibility of the Town of Dakota since the landings are the property of the Town. Laura Soldner commented that the pay stations should be put in as soon as possible, but Bill Van Dongen remarked that any fees would go to the Town of Dakota, not the District. A letter of confirmation arrived shortly after, but there were some mistakes – the recipient was called the "White River Flowage Association", not the District, and the deadline for completion was June 30, 2014. Mike called Chris Halbur and pointed out the errors and a subsequent letter was sent that indicated the grant would go to the District and the completion date was moved to June 30, 2015. Mike and Bill Van Dongen had visited the Aquarius Systems company earlier and obtained some prices and options. The model that seems to fit the District's needs best is the HM-220 which has a 6' cutting width, 256 cu. ft. of storage, hydraulic paddle lifts, and remote control for the trailer at a price of \$150,081. Copies of the proposed harvester/trailer unit were circulated to the members. Aquarius Systems is willing to accept \$37,520.50 (1/2 the grant) as a down payment, with the balance of \$112,560.50 upon delivery. The Friends of the White River of Neshkoro are interested in purchasing the District's current harvester for \$20,000, but may have trouble with the financing. The District will not transfer ownership until after the new harvester has been delivered and accepted. After some further discussion, the consensus among the members was to accept the DNR grant, request 50% of the grant immediately, and order the new harvester sometime this summer. The Friends of the White River will be given the first opportunity to buy the current harvester, but if they can't get the money, then Aquarius Systems or Aquarmarine will sell it on consignment. Bill Van Dongen noted that although the \$70 Harvester Savings Account fee will stop in 2014, there will be a need to be a special fee (around \$58/District household) for the \$28,611 ten-year loan needed to pay off the balance of the harvester. Fran Geier proposed a formal resolution authorizing Mike Geier to accept the DNR grant, purchase a new harvester from Aquarius Systems, sell the existing harvester, and obtain a long-term loan estimated at \$28,611, plus a possible short-term loan of \$37,520.50 (to cover the second half of the DNR grant until payment is received), Jim Herzog seconded the resolution, and the resolution passed with a vote of 19 yeas and 1 nay.

Bill Van Dongen made a motion to amend the 2013 budget to include the receipt of the \$37,520.50 DNR grant advance and the \$37,520.50 down payment to Aquarius Systems, Mike Blija seconded, and the motion carried.

Bylaws Amendment: Bill Van Dongen asked that the Bylaws be amended to reduce the number of public notices of the annual budget meeting from two to one which would save the District about \$130/year. Dick Meidam motion to approve the request, Carol Koester seconded, and the motion carried.

Wautoma Millpond Drawdown: Chairman Geier reported that we must wait until June to meet with the DNR regarding the silt problem at the north end of the Flowage caused by the Wautoma Millpond drawdown. The influx of silt initially caused some of the trout population to divert to the west branch, but they are back now. However, the depth of the river by Van Dongens is still a problem, but will be addressed. There will be no drawdown and no dredging due to the cost. The DNR suggested dropping trees to create a berm to channel the water, but want to charge \$500 for a permit. Mike stated that he will not pay to correct a problem created by the DNR. Carol Van Dongen stated that there is now a layer of sand on top of the muck and it is even shallower.

Workers' Comp for Board Members: Mike Geier indicated that the District has purchased Workers' Comp insurance for the Board members through Martz Insurance at a cost of \$269.

Clean Boats/Clean Water: Robert Hughes (White River Trail) and Rob Trzecinski (Pine View Landing) asked for volunteers to sign up for 2-hour shifts during four weekends this spring and summer. They stressed that it is important to protect the Flowage after so much effort and money has been spent to restore the Flowage.

White River Landing: District Chair Mike Geier announced that work will commence soon on the White River Trail landing. He will meet with Town Chairman Bobby Bandt next week to discuss the placing of three 10' x10' cement slabs and blacktop to the road.

Waushara County Lake Fair: Mike Geier, President of the Waushara County Watershed Lakes Council, announced that a lake fair will be held at Camp LuWiSoMo on August 10, 2013, and urged interested parties to attend. The Watershed Council will hold its annual meeting at the Chapel during the fair.

Flood Plain Survey Maps: Chairman Geier reported that there are new FEMA flood plain maps posted on the County's website, [www.co.waushara.wi.us](http://www.co.waushara.wi.us) (there is a link on the District's website, [www.whiteriverflowage.org](http://www.whiteriverflowage.org)) He urged members to check their properties for changes.

Date Change for Annual Meeting: Bill Van Dongen asked if the annual meeting could be moved from the third Saturday of September (21st) to the second Saturday of September (14th) due to a schedule conflict for the Geiers. He suggested making this a permanent change. Carol Van Dongen motioned to permanently change the annual meeting to the second Saturday in September, Carol Koester seconded, and the motion carried.

Other: Joe Piechowski brought a sample document of a list of rules that the Pearl Lake District had created to give to all their residents, both owners and tenants. He suggested that the District may be interested in doing the same. The Board will consider this at a future date.

White River Flowage Association: President Laura Soldner announced that the Association will again be holding a brat fry at Stone Ridge on Saturday, July 13. She asked for volunteers to sign up to help.

Adjournment: At 11:20 am, Gail Herzog made a motion to adjourn, Carol Koester seconded, and the meeting adjourned.

A lunch was provided by the White River Flowage Association. After a 15 minute break, the Board of Commissioners convened their meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Geier  
Secretary/Treasurer