

White River Flowage Lake Management District
Budget/Annual Meeting
Saturday, September 14, 2013 - Town of Dakota Town Hall

Budget Hearing (9-9:30 am): Chairman Geier called the Budget Hearing to order and asked if there were any questions or concerns about the proposed 2014 budget. Louise Koslucher asked about the \$11,000 district fees. Chairman Mike Geier replied that these fees cover the normal operational expenses of the District. Tom Dahlke asked about the \$22,650 Harvester Savings Acct. Vice-Chair Van Dongen explained that \$4,970/year came from the \$70/unit special fees, \$2,000 was from the down payment on the sale of the old harvester, and the balance was from contracted harvester operations with Silver Springs and Neshkoro. Marty Koslucher mentioned that there were less harvester operation hours in 2013. Chairman Geier agreed, stating that there was an unusual aquatic plant die-off in July so less harvesting was necessary. However, the north end of the flowage still is a problem. Marty also posed a question about the status of the White River Trail landing. Geier stated that although the Town of Dakota had agreed to install three 10'x10' concrete slabs, there was a problem with the depth and a significant hole. The Town offered to fill the hole with rocks. Mike offered to write a grant for the Waterways Commission to help with the costs. Brian Soldner suggested closing the landings since the Town does nothing. Mike suggested that Brian attend one of the Town Board meetings and tell them. The budget hearing ended without any further questions.

Annual Meeting (9:30 am): Chairman Geier called the Annual Meeting to order. Secretary Fran Geier read the minutes from the April 20, 2013, meeting. ***Mike Blija motioned to accept the minutes as read, Carol Koester seconded, and the motion carried.*** Next, Bill Van Dongen reviewed the minutes from the previous two Board of Directors' meetings. Then Fran did the treasurer's report, stating that there was \$22,650 in the Money Market designated for the new harvester plus another \$3,084.47 in the general checking account. Among the highlights: 1) the District had received \$37,520.50 from the DNR as the first half payment of the harvester grant; 2) \$2,473 was used to purchase a tow vehicle (1988 GMC duelly); 3) \$9,534.60 had been paid to Stantec for chemical treatments; 4) \$1,827 was spent on the harvester operation for fuel and repairs to the harvester, trailer, and tow vehicle; and 5) insurance payments totaling \$1,204 now includes workers' comp and coverage for the new tow vehicle.

Guest Speaker: Terri Dopp-Paukstat, Director, Waushara County Zoning Dept., discussed the new FEMA flood zone maps and NR-115. She explained that the new FEMA map overlays are nicer looking, but not more accurate. Waushara County has new digitized maps online on the County's website (www.co.waushara.wi.us). Mortgage companies require flood insurance on floodplain properties unless a LOMA (letter of map amendment) is on file with the County Zoning Dept. proving that the buildings are not in the flood plain area. She said getting an elevation survey will be valuable if a LOMA is needed to avoid getting flood insurance. Even if current owners do not have a mortgage, future buyers may need a mortgage, so it would be wise to have the issue resolved. Costs may vary, but three property owners on Pine View Drive are current sharing the costs of an elevation study and LOMA. There is an elevation point at the dam on County YY. Terri mentioned that some of the restrictions of the NR-115 are being relaxed, particularly with regard to impervious surfaces (now only lots on shore, used to be within 300' of water). Permits are no longer required to cut trees and branches, just restore the area. For erosion problems, contact Land Conservation at (920) 787-0443. The DNR does not allow riprap, but there are some funds available for natural water retention. For any more questions, visit or call the Zoning Dept. at (920) 787-0443.

Millpond Drawdown: Chairman Geier reported that in May Stantec employees conducting the pre-treatment survey discovered that over 1000 yards of channel had been lost due to silt and muck flowing into the flowage from the drawdown of the Wautoma millpond. Members of the WRFLMD Board met with the DNR, City of Wautoma officials, and the owners of the dam by County YY. Geier stated that although the City of Wautoma is primarily to blame, the City is only willing to help with the cost of a permit. Bill Van Dongen said that the City is free to lower the dam whenever they want since there is no minimum limit on that dam. North American Hydro initially admitted that they routinely lower the dam about 1' in November, but the new owners now state that if the District requests a drawdown, it will charge \$6,000 for a 1' drawdown, \$12,000 for a 2' drawdown, etc. to make up for lost revenue. Mike said the District should not have to pay for a drawdown.

Discussion moved to the dam on County YY. Steve Dahlke mentioned that the dam used to cycle daily (run during peak hours, then off at night) and felt that this might help increase the flow. Geier said the plan is to wait until next year to see if the channel can come back on its own. The District will revisit this issue next year. Mike also stated that the City of Wautoma wants to regenerate the millpond next year now that there has been 3-4' of compaction; however, others want to keep it as it is.

New Harvester: Geier announced that a new harvester has been ordered from Aquarius Systems for \$148,675. A down payment of \$37,520 (the first half of the DNR grant) was paid at the time of the initial order in July with a projected delivery date of June 1, 2014. It will have a bigger storage capacity, a 6' cutting width, and hydraulic paddle lifts. In January or February of 2014, the Board will begin the process of securing a long-term loan for the estimated balance of \$28,717.50. Mike & Bill will investigate obtaining a low-interest (3.25%) loan through the Board of Commissioners (a low-interest municipal lending program). It may be necessary to take out a second short-term loan for \$37,520 until the second half of the DNR grant is received, since the District must pay the entire balance to Aquarius Systems upon delivery.

New Tow Vehicle: Chairman Geier reported that the District Board approved replacing the old tow vehicle (1989 Suburban) with a 1988 GMC 454 duelly w/98,000 miles from Reilly Motors. He stated that the old harvester weighs 6700# and the old trailer weighs 3100#, while the new harvester weighs 9300# and the new trailer weighs 4200#. The Suburban could not handle the additional weight, but the GMC can. The new tow vehicle was purchased for \$2473. The Suburban (valued at \$400 for scrap) was sold to Wrenching Weasel for \$1 in exchange for a towing bill (the cutter) and repair work (emergency brake and power steering pump for tow vehicle).

Harvester Contracts: Geier reported that eight days of harvester operation were contracted for this summer. In June, the harvester operation worked two days each for Silver Springs Lake and the Neshkoro Millpond. The same arrangement was supposed to take place in August, but Neshkoro backed out due to financial difficulties. However, Silver Springs added one more day so there was only \$880 less in projected earnings. Mike asked if the District should continue with outside contracts next summer with the new harvester. Mike Wortek asked about any related costs and time. Geier stated that he has to powerwash the unit each time. Brian Soldner stated that the harvester should be used only for the Flowage. However, Tom Dahlke inquired about how much the District could earn by contracting out – about \$8,000 (for 8 days' work). Mike Geier asked if the rate should be raised to maybe \$175-\$180/hr. Wenninger bought the old harvester from the White River Millpond and is competing with the District now. Dick Meidam is in favor of contracting again with Silver Springs since there are no stumps or invasive plants so no need to wait 5 days. Joe Piechowski commented that even \$5-6,000/year would help pay off the loan. ***Tom Dahlke made a motion to give first priority to the harvesting needs of the Flowage, but allow the Board of Directors to contract out the new harvester to generate the most possible revenue to ease the financial burden of the District, Jerry Genson seconded, and the motion carried – 18 yeas, 8 nos.*** Tom Dahlke volunteered to use help calculate an appropriate hourly rate using a computer program he has. Brian Soldner asked whether the contracts will continue once the loan is paid off. Bill Van Dongen replied that it was up to the District. Mike Geier announced that the old harvester has been sold to Goose Lake Watershed District (GLWD) of Adams County for \$20,000. The GLWD has already made a \$2,000 down payment. The District will store it for the GLWD at the Waushara County Fairgrounds at the District's expense until next spring. The new harvester and tow vehicle will be stored at the Fairgrounds next year. Both will be covered by insurance, but the tow truck insurance will drop while being stored.

2014 Budget: Chairman Geier stated that everyone should have received a copy of the projected 2014 budget and asked for a motion. ***Marty Koslucher motioned to approve the proposed 2014 budget and fees, Brian Soldner seconded, and the motion carried. The vote on the 2014 Budget was 39 yeas, 0 nos.***

White River Trail Landing: Geier reported that there is a problem loading and unloading the harvester at the landing. According to Tom Dahlke (Cty. Highway Dept.), it's not deep enough to put in concrete slabs. Mike told him there is a 6' wide by 4' deep hole where people gun their motors while loading boats onto trailers. The harvester trailer wheels slip into the hole and tilt the trailer. Pine View is deeper, but steeper, so that is not an option. Tom replied that he was unaware of the hole and will look into getting it filled.

Weed Treatments: Per Bill Van Dongen, no treatments are planned for 2014 and possibly not 2015.

Election of Officers: Bill Van Dongen's position was up for re-election and he indicated that he would be willing to serve another three-year term. No other District member indicated an interest in running for the position. ***Tom Dahlke motioned to re-elect Bill Van Dongen, Carol Koester seconded, and Bill Van Dongen was re-elected to another three-year term.***

White River Flowage Association: President Laura Soldner reported that the Association netted a profit of \$297 on the brat fry at Stone Ridge. The Association uses the money to pay for the District's website and hall rental.

Adjournment: ***Gordie Loehr made a motion to adjourn, Jerry Genson seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.***

The Board of Commissioners met immediately after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Refreshments were provided by the White River Flowage Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Geier, Secretary/Treasurer