

White River Flowage Lake Management District  
Spring Meeting  
Saturday, April 26, 2014 - Town of Dakota Town Hall

Chairman Geier called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Geier asked to amend the agenda to include discussion of a large harvester loan payment in August and recommendation of a designated member fee for said loan. ***Jerry Genson motioned to approve the amended agenda, Brian Soldner seconded, and the motion carried.*** Secretary Fran Geier read the minutes from the September 14, 2013, meeting. ***Jim Herzog motioned to accept the minutes as read, Marty Koslucher seconded, and the motion carried.***

Guest Speaker: Newly appointed Sheriff Jeff Nett was the guest speaker. He noted that he was appointed to replace Dave Peterson who retired before the end of his term. Sheriff Nett talked about the numerous programs going on in the department including the canine unit, boat patrol, snowmobile patrol, "Click It or Ticket", the MEG Unit, Code Red, and Emergency Medical Dispatch.

Next, Bill Van Dongen reviewed the minutes from the previous three Board of Directors' meetings. He also noted that the audit committee found the District's financial records were in good order. Then Fran did the treasurer's report, stating that there was \$28,120 in the Money Market designated for the new harvester with another \$18,000 expected from the sale of the old harvester on May 1<sup>st</sup>. There is \$10,636.30 in the general checking account. Among the highlights: 1) the District will make its final loan payment of \$2650.00 to First Merit Bank in early May; and 2) the final grant payment of \$36,817 from the DNR will be received sometime in July after Aquarius Systems is paid for the new harvester.

Sale of Existing Harvester: Chairman Geier reported that the existing harvester will be taken out of storage on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> and ownership will transfer to Goose Lake upon receipt of the \$18,000 balance which will be deposited into the harvester savings account.

Harvester Contracts: Chairman Geier reported that Silver Springs Lake of Neshkoro has again agreed to hire the District for two harvesting jobs – one in June and one in August. Each harvesting operation will be for three 8-hour days at \$3,000 per operation for a total of \$6,000 earned by the District. The harvester operators will be paid separately at \$20/hr.

Cutter Repairs: Geier noted that the 1967 cutter's hull is falling apart. Estimates to repair the hull range from \$1750-\$2250. He would like to wait and see how far north the new harvester will be able to go before committing to repairing the cutter.

New Harvester Loan: Chairman Geier announced that the District was able to secure a low interest (3.5%) loan from the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) for \$65,034.50 which will enable the District to pay Aquarius Systems the remaining \$111,154.50 balance for the new harvester. The District would like to make a payment of \$40,139.15 (\$36,917 from the grant and \$3,000 from the June harvest operation at Silver Springs, plus interest) in August to reduce the balance to around \$25,000. The \$3,000 from the August harvest operation would be used towards the 2015 payment which will be due in March. Chairman Geier stated that a motion to amend the previously approved 2014 budget was necessary. Jerry Genson motioned to amend the 2014 budget to include a loan payment of \$40,139.15 to BCPL in August, Gordie Loehr seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. BCPL would re-amortize the balance over 10 years. BCPL requires that the District set up a separate fee adequate to cover the yearly payment. Bill Van Dongen calculated the minimum fee at \$43/year per unit, assuming \$6,000.00 per year from off-flowage harvesting, but said that if the fee was \$70/year per unit, the loan would be paid off in three years and a fee of \$50/year per unit would take four years. Without the off-flowage harvesting, the timeline goes out to 2020 and 2022, respectively. After some discussion among the members in attendance, a show of hands vote unanimously approved recommending a \$70 fee/year for the next three years at the budget hearing in September.

Clean Boats/Clean Water Program: Sign-up sheets for the two landings were circulated so volunteers could write in the days and times they will man the landings. Joe Piechowski noted that Golden Sands has a grant program available

whereby they supply the inspectors and do all the paperwork if the District either pays or donates in-kind. Amy from Golden Sands will be doing a presentation at Big Silver Lake on May 24 at 9 a.m. to explain how the program works. The District would have to indicate their willingness to participate by December of 2014 to take part in 2015. Joe stated that it may be possible to share inspectors with other lakes to reduce the number of hours of in-kind required (currently about 350-400 hours/landing). More information will be presented at the September meeting.

White River Trail Landing: Geier reported that in August of 2013, Hartwig Excavating dumped about 5 yards of stone to fill the 6' x 4' hole at the White River Trail landing. He would like to be informed if it works before launching the new harvester. He noted that the Pine View Landing is deeper, but too steep. The Waterways Commission has grants available to improve public landings, but the Town of Dakota has not applied for one.

Northern Channel: According to Carol Van Dongen, the channel looks better. Geier noted that Dave Bartz, Sean Eisch, and Sullivan from the DNR will be inspecting the area next week. Jerry Genson asked what action is being done. Geier suggested waiting to see what the DNR determines the situation is first. Heidi Johnson asked who makes the decision – the DNR or the District. Chairman Geier replied that the City of Wautoma offered to pay for a permit (up to \$500), but doesn't think the District should shoulder any of the cost. Dredging and drawdowns will be too expensive. North American Hydro wanted to charge the District \$6,000 to lower the flowage by 1' even though they've done it before on their own at no cost and no loss of revenue.

Post-Treatment Report: A copy of the post-treatment report from Golden Sands was circulated. The pre-treatment survey performed by Stantec cost \$1,400, but the District only paid Golden Sands a \$200 donation. Chairman Geier was very pleased with the quality of the report.

White River Flowage Association: President Laura Soldner announced that the Association will again have the brat stand at Stone Ridge this summer and is looking for volunteers to work on Saturday, July 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment: Carol Van Dongen made a motion to adjourn, Margaret Heschke seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 11:10 am.**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Geier, Secretary/Treasurer