

White River Flowage Lake Management District
Spring Meeting Minutes
Saturday, April 18, 2015 - Town of Dakota Town Hall

Chairman Geier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Barry Masticola motioned to approve the agenda, Jim Herzog seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. All members had received a copy of the minutes from the September 13, 2014 meeting along with their meeting notification. Marty Koslucher made a motion to forego the reading of the September meeting minutes and approve them as written, Brian Soldner seconded, and the minutes were approved by all members in attendance. Next, Bill Van Dongen summarized the minutes from the last three Board of Commissioners meetings (September and November of 2014 and March of 2015) which included the harvester loan payment including an additional \$3370 principal payment, declining to participate in the Golden Sands CB/CW grant due to the volunteer hours required, gift certificates to the harvester operators, and the proposed 2016 aquatic plants treatment plan. Then Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier gave the treasurer's report, reviewing all major expenditures and deposits from September of 2014 through April 2015. Among the highlights: received a \$820 donation (\$500 towards the new harvester, \$200 for the Town Hall rent, and \$120 for the District's website) from the White River Flowage Association and \$14,616 for 2014 District fees and paid out \$6,400 to BCPL for the new harvester which included an additional \$3370.85 towards the principal, \$1629 to Auto Owners Insurance for the new harvester and workers compensation, \$300 to the DNR for a new 5-year harvesting permit, and \$1200 in gift certificates for the harvester operators.

Two new District members, Dean & Lynn Bockenbauer of St. Cloud, MN, were introduced. They recently purchased a cottage down by the dam.

Guest Speaker Donna Kalata failed to make the meeting, so Chairman Geier moved to the next item on the agenda. He reported that Joe Piechowski, the District's County Board representative, passed away on December 5, 2014. Geier then introduced Barry Masticola as the newly appointed County Board representative to replace Joe on the District's Board of Commissioners.

Bill Van Dongen reported that the Audit Committee which conducted an audit of the District's financial records in January of 2015 found the books to be in good order.

Chairman Geier stated that a new 5-year harvesting permit has been obtained for the District and passed around the permit application to show how much work was involved. A copy of the permit must stay with the harvester at all times. The permit cost \$300. He noted that approx. 340,000 pounds of aquatic plants were removed from the Flowage in 2014 and dumped on Dick Geller's property. The harvester will be coming out of storage the end of April. Geier expects the new harvester will require minimal maintenance, but does use about 1/3 more diesel fuel. A discussion ensued as to whether or not it would pay to invest in a fuel storage tank and purchase less expensive off-road #2 diesel fuel. Dean Bockenbauer stated that he owns a salvage yard and could possibly locate a used tank. Buying hydraulic fluid in bulk could also save the District some money, but it could be difficult to get rid of the old oil. Barry Masticola stated that he might be willing to dispose of the used oil at his restaurant, the County Inn. Geier stated that he will look into this further.

Next, Chairman Geier opened up a discussion on the status of the cutter which was purchased in 2000 for \$2,000. He stated that the hull is totally rusting away. Rob Lehman (Wrenching Weasel) is willing give the District a line of credit to be used for future repairs in exchange for the salvage value of the cutter. Geier said he would like to investigate the possibility of using the two motors which are in good condition to create a mini dredger like the DNR got from Ducks Unlimited.

Chairman Geier noted that some of the residents on Pine View Drive had to deal with flood plain issues and got elevation studies done as a group. He reminded the members that mortgage companies will require flood insurance if structures on the property are in a flood plain. Bob Hughes reported that he investigated Second Look.Com and a few other companies that claim to help with flood plain issues. They all charge fees for their services and property owners would still have to pay

for an elevation study anyway. He suggested going to the courthouse and looking at the FEMA flood plain maps to see if their properties might be affected. This would only impact property owners with a mortgage or those planning to sell.

Chairman Geier reported that Golden Sands did not get a "Clean Boats/Clean Water" grant. He stated that even though the District does not presently have an AIS Grant, it's important to continue with the program to protect the Flowage from invasive plants. Bob Hughes passed out a signup sheet for volunteers for the upcoming season.

Geier said that Sean Sullivan of the DNR is working on the channel on the north end of the flowage. The project is designed to close the various smaller tributaries created by the Wautoma Millpond drawdown and create one main channel with more current. Bill Van Dongen and Mike Geier will closely monitor the progress.

Regarding the proposed 2016 treatment plan, Geier stated that no more than 9.9 acres of EWM and CLP are slated for treatment at an estimated cost of \$12,000. Stantec will be contracted to do the pre-treatment survey and application. Golden Sands will again be asked to do the post-treatment survey. Geier would like to increase the donation to Golden Sands from \$200 to \$500 based on the quality of their last report. Since Stantec charges \$1,400 for a post-treatment survey, it would still save the District \$900.

Chairman Geier noted that the District made two donations in 2014 - \$50 to Golden Sands and \$50 to the Conservation Field Day held at Lake Lucerne.

White River Flowage Association: President Laura Soldner announced that the 2014 brat stand at Stone Ridge made over \$600 allowing the Association to donate \$820 to the District. The Association is scheduled to again work the Stone Ridge brat stand on July 11, 2015. A volunteer signup sheet was distributed.

Laura Soldner made a motion to adjourn, Judy Hughes seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 10:45 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