

White River Flowage Lake Management District  
Budget Hearing, Annual Meeting Minutes  
Saturday, September 12, 2015 - Town of Dakota Town Hall

Note: The Board of Commissioners held a special meeting at 8:30 am to discuss potential treatment options for a newly discovered invasive plant, Flowering Rush, in order to reach a consensus on a recommendation to present to the full membership. Two Board of Commissioners members were absent: Michael Woreck and Robert Hughes.

Budget Hearing: The Budget Hearing commenced at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Mike Geier and Treasurer Fran Geier pointed out some changes that were made to the 2015 budget (previously approved at the Fall Meeting in 2014).

Annual Meeting: Chairman Geier called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. **Marty Koslucher motioned to approve the agenda, Carol Van Dongen seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.** All members received a copy of the minutes from the April 18, 2015, meeting along with their Fall Meeting notification. **Steve Ripple made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Jim Herzog seconded, and the minutes were approved by all members in attendance.** Next, Bill Van Dongen summarized the minutes from the last Board of Commissioners meetings which included reviewing options for the cutter, revising the 2015 budget, setting the 2016 budget and fees, reviewing the contract with Stantec for treating EWM and CLP in 2016, and several discussions regarding the presence of a new invasive plant, Flowering Rush. Then Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier gave the treasurer's report, reviewing all major expenditures and deposits since the spring meeting. Chairman Geier reported that the new harvester will need food grade hydraulic fluid which is quite expensive. Aquarius Systems' subsidiary DND Distributing quoted \$2800 for a 55 gallon barrel. The cheapest food grade hydraulic fluid Geier could find was \$78 for 5 gallons. The harvester is done for the season and will go into storage the end of the month. Chairman Geier remarked on the low attendance for this Fall Meeting and stated that it may be necessary to move the date to Labor Day weekend when more seasonal property owners are around. This will be discussed further at the April 2016 meeting.

Guest Speaker: Shawn Sullivan of the DNR did a 30-minute slide presentation on the White River restoration project to update the members on the progress being made. He stated that there is already a significant increase (300%) in the current and that both brown and rainbow trout numbers are up which is a good sign that the project is working. The project must stop at the southern end of the trout stream because their funding comes from the sale of trout permits, not the DNR general fund.

Aquatic Plants Treatment Plans: Chairman Geier reported that Stantec is under contract to treat 9.9 acres of EWM and CLP in 2016. However, Stantec's pre-treatment survey in early July 2015 discovered about 22 acres of EWM and CLP plus a new invasive plant, Flowering Rush. The plan is to have Stantec chemically treat 9.9 acres of EWM & CLP in 2016 without a grant. Then the District will apply for an AIS Grant in late 2016 to have Stantec chemically treat the remaining EWM and CLP from 2017 through 2019. The DNR requires an updated Lake Management Plan every five years. In 2003, Aron & Associates wrote a Lake Management Plan for the White River Flowage. The County is currently working on updating all lake management plans in Waushara County and in November or December of 2015, the White River Flowage's Lake Management Plan will be reviewed/updated. This updated Lake Management Plan will be needed when the District applies for the AIS Grant in late 2016.

Approximately 2½ to 3 acres of Flowering Rush were identified on the Flowage in Stantec's July survey. Stantec submitted a proposal to chemically treat the Flowering Rush at a cost of \$29,519 (includes permits, surveys, final report, and \$500 to write the grant application). Bill Van Dongen and Robert Hughes researched chemical treatment on Flowering Rush and found no evidence that chemical treatment would eradicate this aquatic plant. Amy Thorstenson of Golden Sands was invited to inspect the Flowage in mid-August and she confirmed the presence of Flowering Rush. She initially felt that there was too much Flowering Rush to hand pull, but later submitted a proposal to have Golden Sands hand pull these plants. According to Ted Johnson of the DNR, an emergency Early Detection AIS Grant (75%/25%) with a maximum DNR share of \$20,000 would be granted to the Flowage to help combat this invasive plant. Amy offered to write the grant application for

\$100 and have Golden Sands staff start hand pulling some of the Flowering Rush already this September at a cost at \$3,467.40 (labor & travel only). According to Ted Johnson of the DNR, no permit will be required for hand pulling Flowering Rush this fall. Then a 3-year AIS Early Detection Grant (75%/25%) would be used to fund hand pulling Flowering Rush from the Flowage in 2016-2018 followed by three more years (2019-2021) of a "search and destroy" method by Golden Sands to eliminate any remaining Flowering Rush plants. The final three years would be paid by the District without grant assistance. No hard figures are available at this time since it will be hard to estimate how much Flowering Rush would remain after 2018.

Bill Van Dongen stated that with or without a grant, hand pulling would be less expensive and preferred by the DNR. Using a grant would require the District to have a Plant Inventory (PI) survey done each year. Chairman Geier noted that the Weyauwega Millpond is totally infested (80%) with Flowering Rush and is completely overrun now. He reported that Ted Johnson of the DNR wants an investigation to trace the origin of the Flowering Rush in the Flowage and is willing to pay Golden Sands to do the work. Van Dongen added that the District will need to obtain a \$10,000 loan (five years at approx. 3.5% interest) from First Merit Bank to prevent the District from going into the red in 2019. ***Jon Wilcox made a motion to contract with Golden Sands to hand pull the Flowering Rush, Brian Soldner seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.*** Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier read a resolution for the District to pursue an AIS Early Detection Grant. ***Carol Van Dongen motioned to approve the resolution, Gordie Loehr seconded, and the motion carried 22 yeas, 0 nays.*** Next, Fran Geier read a resolution authorizing the Board of Commissioners to obtain a \$10,000 loan from First Merit Bank. ***Charles Dahlke motioned to approve the resolution, Jon Wilcox seconded, and the motion carried 22 yeas, 0 nays.***

Budget: Amendments to the 2015 budget included adding a \$10,000 loan, \$400 loan origination fee, and \$3,467.40 to Golden Sands for Flowering Rush hand pulling this fall. The 2016 budget was reviewed during the Budget Hearing earlier in the meeting. There will be no change in District fees. ***Jerry Genson motioned to accept the amended 2015 budget and the 2016 budget as presented, Gordie Loehr seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.***

NR-115 Changes: Bill Van Dongen reviewed some changes that have been to the rules regarding impervious surfaces, native vegetation is no longer required to be planted at the water's edge, a viewing corridor of 30' for every 100' of frontage can now be contiguous, and trout stream setbacks have been changed from 150' to 100' from the water. He suggested contacting the Waushara County Zoning Department for more information.

Elections: ***Jon Wilcox nominated Michael Geier and Fran Geier to remain on the Board of Commissioners, Jerry Genson seconded the nomination. Carol Van Dongen motioned to close the nominations, Mary Ann Genson seconded, and the motion carried.*** Michael and Fran Geier were unanimously re-elected to three-year terms.

Future Agenda Item: Possible date change for Fall Meeting.

Adjournment: Gordie Loehr made a motion to adjourn Forest Wilcox seconded, and the meeting ended at 12:00 pm.

White River Flowage Association: The Association met at the conclusion of the District's Annual Meeting.

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