

White River Flowage Lake Management District
Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting Minutes
Saturday, September 2, 2017 - Town of Dakota Town Hall

Budget Hearing:

Chairman Geier opened the Budget Hearing at 9:00 am. He noted that the 2018 budget was the best estimate of income and expenses for the upcoming year and subject to change. Geier mentioned, for example, that the storage fee for the harvester/trailer and tow vehicle at the County Fairgrounds went from \$300 to \$315 for 2017-18. There were no questions from those in attendance. The Budget Hearing closed at 9:15 am.

Annual Meeting:

Chairman Geier called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:15 am. **Eric Prigge motioned to accept the agenda as presented, Steve Rippl seconded, and the motion carried.** All District Members received a copy of the minutes from the April 22nd Spring Meeting as well as the proposed 2018 budget with their Annual Meeting notice. **Steve Dahlke motioned to accept the minutes as written, Marty Koslucher seconded, and the motion carried.** Bill Van Dongen summarized the minutes from the last Board of Commissioners meeting on April 22nd. The Board discussed possible chemical treatment of the Flowering Rush bed after the hand pull operations in July and August and another chemical treatment in 2018, if needed. Fran Geier presented the treasurer's report on the financial activities that have occurred since April. Among the highlights: \$50 donations to Golden Sands and Waushara County Land Conservation; \$25 dues to WCWLC; \$315 for storage; and \$2,186.66 to the Huntington Bank 5-year \$10,000 loan (payment #2).

Chairman Geier and Lynn Bockenbauer discussed the two Flowering Rush (FR) hand pull operations that took place in July and August. Geier brought samples of FR and wild rice plants. He noted that while FR is currently a problem, wild rice is the bigger threat to the Flowage. He asked all members who own waterfront properties to remove any and all wild rice plants in front of their properties as well as any stray wild rice plants they may find elsewhere. Geier indicated that he was very concerned with the rapid growth of the wild rice beds. Steve Dahlke commented that the second large wild rice bed in the brickyard area south of the original wild rice bed didn't exist three years ago. Bill Van Dongen stated that any stray wild rice can be removed as long as it is not part of an established bed. Lynn reported that the FR hand pull operations worked well in removing all stray FR that was not part of the "ground zero" bed. Golden Sands will be returning the next three years to monitor, hand pull, and map the Flowage for FR (budgeted at \$800/year). Geier announced that a chemical treatment using Habitat (a systemic chemical) will be applied to the main bed next week by Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource. This chemical treatment is not covered by the Rapid Response Grant, so the District will be paying the \$2,276 charge.

Chairman Geier stated that a Plant Inventory (PI) survey will be conducted by Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource in June or July of 2018 to determine how much Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM), Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP), and Flowering Rush (FR) is present in the Flowage. The cost of the PI Survey is estimated to be around \$1,800 and will be used to determine if the District should apply for an A.I.S. Grant for 2019-2021. He noted that there is very little EWM visible, possibly due to the Diquat that used in 2016 & 2017 to treat the FR bed. However, CLP is quite abundant.

Geier reported that the harvester operation for 2017 was about half the previous year, again possibly due to the Diquat application. The tow vehicle needed a new clutch at a cost of about \$750, but is operating fine now. It became necessary to obtain a new dump site for the harvested plants due to the death of Richard Geller who previously allowed the District to use his land for dumping. The Geller property will be put up for sale and the heirs requested that no more plants be dumped there. District member Sharon Brown offered the use of some property on County YY and Dave Favel requested harvested plants for his property on Chicago Rd, so the District now has two locations to dump the weeds. The harvester's startup food-grade hydraulic fluid, which is good for the first 180 hours, needs to be replaced. Fran Geier researched the cost of food-grade hydraulic fluid online and found prices for a 55 gallon barrel ranged from \$800 to \$1100. Dean Bockenbauer donated 7.5 gallons of food-grade hydraulic fluid and offered to supply more food-grade hydraulic fluid at about \$8/gallon (\$440/barrel). Geier stated that he would prefer to get an additional 25 gallons so that he wouldn't have to store the barrel. Dean is willing to take the discarded hydraulic fluid.

Fran Geier reported that she will be updating the 5-year Lake Management Plan on the hand pull and chemical treatment activities for 2017.

Chairman Geier announced that there are five new property owners in the District since last year. Geier also informed the District that it is illegal to ATVs or golf carts on public roads as the DNR could ticket them. Geier learned this when our local DNR warden warned one resident on White River Trail that he could not ride his ATV on the street.

Geier asked if there were any questions or concerns regarding the proposed 2018 budget and District Fees, including the \$70/property harvester fund. ***Eric Prigge motioned to approve the proposed 2018 budget and fees, Lynn Bockenbauer seconded, the motion carried unanimously.***

Two Board of Commissioners 3-year terms expired for Mike Woreck and Robert Hughes (temporarily covered by Brian Soldner when the Hughes's sold their vacation home in July). Mike Woreck indicated that he was willing to serve another term. Steve Rippl nominated Woreck to serve another 3-year term, Marty Koslucher seconded, and Woreck was re-elected unanimously. Brian Soldner declined to seek Hughes's vacant seat, so Dean Bockenbauer nominated Lynn Bockenbauer to fill that vacancy, Laura Soldner seconded, and Lynn was unanimously elected to a 3-year term.

Fran Geier reported that Lynn Bockenbauer mentioned the possibility of using Americorps volunteers next year to help hand pull any FR left after the September chemical treatment. Fran talked to Ed Hernandez of Waushara County Land Conservation & Zoning about using Americorps volunteers for this project and stated that Mr. Hernandez has put the District's request at the top of the list. The Americorps volunteers would need a place to set up their campsite, access to showers and bathrooms, and have some meals provided (something the Association might want to arrange). The White River Campgrounds could provide the volunteers with camping space, showers, and bathrooms. Permission would be needed from the campgrounds owners. More information on this will be provided at the Spring Meeting.

Bill Van Dongen noted that the river is now open all the way from County YY to the bridge at Cottonville Lane, due in large part to the efforts of the DNR reconstructing the riverbed from Wautoma south to the Flowage.

Adjournment: At 10:50 am, Eric Prigge made a motion to adjourn, Lynn Bockenbauer seconded, and the motion carried.

WRFA President Laura Soldner announced that the Association would meet for 5-10 minutes at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. The WRFA presented \$50 gift cards to three Board members (Mike Geier, Fran Geier, and Bill Van Dongen) in appreciation of their dedication hard work on behalf of the District.

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