

White River Flowage Lake Management District
Spring Meeting Minutes
Saturday, April 21, 2018 - Town of Dakota Town Hall

Chairman Geier called the meeting to order at 9:00 am. Geier stated that a modification to the agenda was necessary for those members who received a hard copy in the mail, but not for those who received their meeting notice by e-mail. One item was added to the agenda, *Americorps Volunteers*, to be addressed after *Water Clarity & Water Quality Collection/Reporting*. **Jon Wilcox motioned to accept the amended agenda, Eric Prigge seconded, and the motion carried.** All District Members received a copy of the minutes from the September 2, 2017, Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting. **Jon Wilcox motioned to accept the minutes as written, Eric Prigge seconded, and the motion carried.**

Bill Van Dongen summarized the minutes from the last Board of Commissioners meetings in September and November of 2017 as well as March 2018. The Board discussed the chemical treatment of the Flowering Rush bed in late September, the P.I. survey to be conducted in June 2018 by Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource, the receipt of hydraulic fluid from Dean Bockenhauer, potential harvesting contracts with Silver Springs, creation of a contingency fund, the use of Americorps volunteers to help with the Flowering Rush hand pull operation this summer, and that an audit of the District's books was conducted in March and found the financial records to be in good order.

Fran Geier presented the treasurer's report on the financial activities that have occurred since April. Among the highlights: Income - \$635 donation from the WRFA, \$973 from the Town of Dakota for District fees from 2014 & 2016, \$6,122.81 from the DNR for the final reimbursement of the Rapid Response Grant, and \$14,894 from the Town of Dakota for fees and harvester fund contributions from 2017. Expenses - \$300 paid for 2018 hall rent, \$97.90 to the Argus for public notice of the fall meeting, \$56.40 for printing & postage for the fall meeting notices, \$300 to Dean Bockenhauer to reimburse for hydraulic fluid for the harvester, \$1,373.36 to Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource for chemical treatment of Habitat on the FR bed in September of 2017, \$4557.81 to Golden Sands for the remaining Rapid Response Grant expenses, \$4,970 to BCPL for the harvester loan, \$131.99 for the annual website fee, and \$1,597 to Auto Owners Insurance for the harvester and worker comp policies. She noted that although the current balance is over \$25,000, there will be some large expenses coming up this year including approx. \$1,800 for the P.I. survey in June, a \$2,186 loan payment to Huntington Bank in September, and tow vehicle insurance.

Dave Bartz, DNR Fish Biologist, gave a presentation on fish shocking and stocking. He noted that the most recent fish survey on the Flowage was conducted in 2013 and would not be done again until 2021 as they work on an 8 year cycle. Bartz distributed copies of the results of the 2013 survey to the members in attendance. He stated that the last time the Flowage was stocked was back in the 90's and that they no longer stocked lakes. However, the Flowage could purchase stock from Trout Unlimited, but should expect only 10% to survive to adulthood, and it could be very expensive.

Chairman Geier reported that Tony Maniero of Silver Springs had contacted him about again contracting with the District to conduct one or two 3-day harvest operations (June and August) on their body of water. Geier noted that the last time the District worked there in 2014, Silver Springs expressed dissatisfaction and it ended on a bad note. However, apparently they are not happy with using chemicals and are willing to pay more this time (\$3,750 plus \$960 for 2 operators). Geier noted that these contracts would allow the District to completely pay off the remainder of the BCPL loan in 2018 rather than 2020. However, that would mean that the harvester would not be available on the Flowage for at least 10-13 days each time. **Jon Wilcox motioned to approve both contracts (June and August) and use the proceeds to pay off the BCPL loan, Dean Bockenhauer seconded the motion, and the motion carried.** Geier will present the June contract to Silver Springs with an option to return in August for second harvester operation.

Chairman Geier noted that if the harvester is paid off this year, the \$70 harvester fund will end. He asked for feedback on the possibility of creating a "rainy day" contingency fund in its place so the District would not have to borrow money every time an unexpected expense occurred. Laura Soldner mentioned that some members were against continuing the harvester fund after it's paid off. She suggested doing more off-site harvesting. Charlotte Hecht asked about collecting

launch fees as a way of raising money, but Gary Grenier and Chairman Geier stated that this was discussed and rejected years ago by the Town of Dakota Town Board as unfeasible. Jon Wilcox suggested reducing the amount as a good faith gesture. Bill Van Dongen stated that the District could set a target amount and then discontinue it afterwards. This could be voted on each year at the Annual Meeting. Chairman Geier stated that he will add it the agenda for the September Annual Meeting for further consideration.

Chairman Geier said that any discussion of an A.I.S. Grant application will have to be postponed until after the results of the P.I. survey by Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource in June are revealed. He also noted that Golden Sands will be back to conduct a survey of the FR population.

Water clarity tests were performed by Mike & Fran Geier during the summer of 2017. Fran stated that she would like someone to volunteer to conduct the clarity tests down by the dam every couple of weeks and log the results on a simple form. Fran will continue to report the results online on the Citizens Lake Monitoring Network. Kathy Fischer volunteered to conduct the water clarity tests using the secchi disk. Fran & Mike will train Kathy on the proper way to use the disk and record the results. Fran noted that water quality test kits are not available at this time.

Lynn Bockenbauer and Fran Geier presented information on the District's use of Americorps volunteers to help with the FR hand pull operation this summer. Lynn stated that the volunteers are college students or recent graduates with an interest in the environment who are willing to work on projects such as this. The District has submitted a formal request to use the volunteers for two days and is first on the list for Waushara County. Ed Hernandez, Waushara County Land Conservation & Zoning, is coordinating their schedule. The volunteers will be working in Waushara County from mid-July to August so the actual dates when they will work on the Flowage have not been set yet. Mike & Fran Geier have offered to provide a noon meal at their home to the volunteers and Lynn & Dean Bockenbauer have offered to host an evening cookout for them at their home. Laura Soldner stated that if they come after the brat fry, the Association will donate any leftovers to the cookout. District members will be asked to donate canoes/kayaks and life jackets for the Americorps volunteers. An e-mail will be sent out once the dates have been determined.

Laura Soldner, President of the White River Flowage Association (WRFA), made some brief announcements. The brat fry at Stone Ridge will be on July 14th and asked for volunteers. She also noted that the Association Bylaws have been updated and copies were available. The WRFA provided refreshments to the attendees.

Chairman Geier announced that the Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 1, 2018.

Adjournment: At 11:10 am, Jon Wilcox made a motion to adjourn, Mike Blija seconded, and the motion carried.

The WRFA met immediately at the conclusion of the Spring Meeting.

The Board of Commissioners convened after a 10 minute break at the conclusion of the Spring Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Geier, Secretary/Treasurer