

# White River Flowage Lake Management District

## Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting Minutes

August 31, 2019, Dakota Town Hall

Budget Hearing: The Budget Hearing was called to order at 9 am. Members were given time to review the 2020 projected budget. Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier noted a couple of corrections to the budget that occurred after the initial mailing. Under Income: 1) Contingency Fund – Number of Members changed from 73 to 72 @ \$50 each = \$3600, not \$3650; and 2) Silver Spring Lake Association decided not to contract with the District for \$3,750. Under Expenses: Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource LLC (WLPR) will not be chemically treating Flowering Rush in September for \$950, but a DNR chemical treatment permit (\$45 fee) was still submitted in case one was needed after all. There were no questions from those in attendance so the Budget Hearing ended at 9:10 a.m.

### Annual Meeting:

- Chairman Mike Geier called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.
- Town of Dakota Representative Gary Grenier made two announcements: 1) Town Clerk Denise Blader resigned in August and Melanie Stake was appointed as her replacement; and 2) The bump on White River Trail will be repaired soon. It should only be necessary to close the road for an hour or so.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was performed by those in attendance.
- Agenda – Mike Blija motioned to approve the agenda, Dean Bockenbauer seconded, motion carried.
- District Minutes – Gordie Loehr motioned to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2019, meeting as written, Mike Blija seconded, motion carried.
- Board Minutes – Bill Van Dongen briefly summarized the minutes from the May 4, 2019, Board meeting. Among the items discussed were the chemical treatment of 7 acres of EWM, the hand pull operation of Flowering Rush (no Americorps volunteers were used), and the Silver Spring Lake Assoc. contract (which was subsequently voided).
- Treasurer's Report – Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier reported on the income/expense activities of the District since the May 4, 2019, meeting. Highlights include: Current balance of \$17,983.30; payment of \$661.12 to D&D Products for repair parts for the harvester; payment of \$8,300.38 to WLPR for treating 7 acres of EWM; payment of \$315 to Waushara County Parks for the harvester storage; and the 4<sup>th</sup> loan payment of \$2,186.66 to Huntington National Bank (final payment in 2020).
- Flowering Rush Update – Chairman Geier and Lynn Bockenbauer reported that thanks to the hard work of the volunteers (including 2 from Bughs Lake) and Golden Sands staff, Flowering Rush has finally been eliminated from the Flowage except for a few strays. The District had again applied for Americorps volunteers, but did not get them this year. The volunteers worked July 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Bockenbauers hand pulled the rest a few weeks later with the help of Gordie Loehr and Marty Koslucher operating the harvester. Chairman Geier presented a Certificate of Appreciation to the Bockenbauers for their dedicated service to the District. Geier remarked that 200 manhours were donated to this project in 2019 with 1,645 gallons of FR removed. Because of the success of the hand pulling, the Board decided to forego chemically treating in September. However, Golden Sands RC&D will be contracted to return in 2020 and 2021 at approx. \$800/year to monitor the Flowage for any future outbreaks.

- Jim Kleinmann inquired about the wild rice situation on the north end of the Flowage. Chairman Geier stated that wild rice is protected in the main bed, but strays may be removed and the channel can be cleared. He also said the duck hunters contribute to the spread. Lynn Bockenbauer commented that the wild rice had jumped the channel and suggested attacking the wild rice next spring before it gets too hard to pull and before it produces seeds.
- Chairman Geier stated that no chemical treatments are planned for 2020, but expects that the harvester will be used more than it was in 2019. He also reiterated that Golden Sands will be back to monitor the Flowering Rush next year. Geier also stated that regarding the harvester operation, a set of guidelines will be established with the channel system clearly mapped. Those guidelines will be reviewed by the Board and presented at the spring meeting. He stated that anyone wishing to be an operator must first read the owner's manual and be thoroughly trained to ensure the safe operation of the equipment. When the harvester was taken out of storage this past spring, a hydraulic leak was discovered. Geier and Marty Koslucher replaced the leaking motor at a cost of \$661 for parts. The harvester will be removed from the Flowage next week, cleaned up, and put into storage in early October at a cost of \$315. The tow vehicle developed a gas tank leak and is currently at Lund's Northwoods Auto for repairs, but should be available by the end of next week.
- Fran Geier reported on the water clarity and quality testing performed this summer. Three water samples (one in June, one in July, and one in August) were submitted to the State Lab to be tested for Phosphorus and Chlorophyll. Water clarity tests with a Secchi disk as well as water temperatures were taken every two weeks throughout the summer with the results posted online on the CLMN website. Fran stated that the CLMN site is only accessible to registered users, but Tom Giencke suggested trying Lakefinder.com to see if any of this information is available for the general public.
- Pat Kleinmann asked about the muskrats and beavers on the Flowage. Mike Geier stated that beavers can be shot anytime (no trapping out of season), but muskrats need a permit to trap them (November thru February). He will call Gary Leider to see if he plans to trap muskrats on the Flowage this winter. Mike Woreck said the owner of the Trapline Bar in Richford also may be interested in trapping muskrats. Geier knows of two beaver dens - one down by the campgrounds and another near the Bockenbauers.
- Chairman Geier announced that there are Newcomer Packets available and four were handed out to new District members at the meeting.
- Bill Van Dongen reported that since there was no off-lake harvesting contract with Silver Springs Lake, the contingency will likely continue for the next couple of years. The fund stops when the balance reaches \$20,000 and resumes when the balance drops below \$15,000.
- Chairman Geier asked if there were any questions regarding the 2020 budget and if not, asked that a motion be made to accept the budget as presented. Marty Koslucher motioned to approve the budget, Eric Prigge seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Bill Van Dongen was up for re-election to another 3-year term as a member of the Board of Commissioners. He indicated that he was willing to serve another term. Chairman Geier asked if there were any other persons interested in the position, but no one responded. Dean Bockenbauer motioned to re-elect Bill Van Dongen to another 3-year term on the Board of Commissioners, Gordie Loehr seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Chairman Geier and County Board Member Mike Kapp gave a brief presentation on the current high water situation in Waushara County. They both attribute the high water to the normal 7-10 year water level cycle and that there was nothing that can be done about it.

- Jim Kleinmann asked Town Representative Gary Grenier about the overgrown brush and poison ivy present at the Pine View Drive landing. He noted that there were trees overhanging the boat launch area. Gary said that he would bring the information to the next Town Board meeting.
- Suggestions for the next meeting scheduled for April 18, 2020:
  - 1) Wild rice problem at the north end of the Flowage
  - 2) Muskrats and beavers on the Flowage
- Motion to adjourn at 10:30 am by Dean Bockenbauer, seconded by Pat Kleinmann, motion carried.

The Board of Commissioners met immediately after the Annual Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Geier, Secretary/Treasurer