

White River Flowage Lake Management District

Spring Meeting Minutes

April 17, 2021, Dakota Town Hall

Spring Meeting:

- Chairman Mike Geier called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Note: Mike Kapp (County Board Rep) and Gary Grenier (Town Board Rep) were absent. All District Board Members were in attendance.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was performed by those in attendance.
- **Agenda** – Eric Prigge motioned to approve the agenda, Dean Bockenbauer seconded, motion carried.
- **Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting Minutes** – Dean Bockenbauer motioned to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2020, meeting as written, Eric Prigge seconded, motion carried.
- **Board Minutes** – Bill Van Dongen briefly summarized the minutes from the September 2020, November 2020, and March 2021 Board meetings. Among the items discussed were the budget for 2021, financial audit, gift certificates for the harvester operators (both declined to accept), treatment plans for EWM and CLP, plant surveys for 2021 for EWM, CLP, and FR.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier reported on the income/expense activities of the District since the September 5, 2020, meeting. Highlights include: Current balance of \$37,376.15; website payment of \$131.99; payment of \$453 to Waushara County Parks for the harvester storage; \$245 to D&D Products for teflon strips for the harvester; and \$1715 to Auto-Owners Insurance for the harvester and workers comp. The District received \$15,204 for District & contingency fees and \$100 from the WRFA. Bill Van Dongen noted that the contingency fee will be suspended in 2021 since the maximum of \$20,000 will have been reached. Contingency fees will resume only when the balance falls below \$15,000.
- **Guest Speaker** - Anna Cisar from Golden Sands RC&D did a presentation on the current status of the Flowering Rush present in the Flowage. She noted that substantial progress has been made in reducing the infestation thanks to the efforts of the volunteers, especially Lynn & Dean Bockenbauer. Golden Sands has been involved in the effort since the discovery of Flowering Rush in 2015. Anna has been working on the project since 2017. Golden Sands had a five-year contract which expired in 2019, but another two-year contract (2020-2021) was added. Hand pulling has been the preferred method of removal, but chemical treatment could be an option for the deeper plants. Bill Van Dongen mentioned that all the Golden Sands progress reports are available on the District's website. Anna Cisar's contact information is: (715) 343-6215 Ext. 705, e-mail anna.cisar@goldensandsrccd.org.
- **EWM/CLP Treatment** - Chairman Geier reported that Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource, LLC, will be conducting a P.I. survey in late August/early September to determine how much EWM and CLP is present in preparation of a chemical treatment in 2022. He estimated that 5-6 acres at the southern end of the Flowage will need to be treated. The survey will cost \$1,800, while the chemical treatment is estimated at over \$8,000.
- **Fish Shocking** – Chairman Geier stated that when Dave Bartz of the DNR was a guest speaker at a District meeting back in 2019, Bartz announced that instead of doing a fish shocking in 2019, it would now take place in 2021. However, Dave Bartz has now retired and his replacement, Scott Bundy, told Geier that due to the virus, fish shocking on the Flowage is now postponed until 2022. Geier stated that there seems to be plenty of fish present in the Flowage, so any thoughts on fish stocking can be put on hold for now. A discussion on draw downs ensued with the

consensus being that it would be too expensive and not really effective. Dean Bockenbauer asked about dredging around personal docks and Bill Van Dongen suggested checking with the DNR regarding their regulations on personal dredging.

- **Muskrats/Beavers** – Chairman Geier noted that muskrats and beavers pose a problem to the Flowage. There was a sizable family of beaver trapped a couple of years ago by Gary Leider, a local trapper who also used to trap muskrats. However, the market for pelts has dried up and he will no longer do it unless paid a bounty (\$50/beaver and \$5/muskrat). Mike Woreck stated that each property owner should be responsible for taking care of their own nuisance pests and not involve the District. This topic will be revisited at a future District meeting if the problem worsens.
- **Harvester Operation** – Chairman Geier reported that the harvester operation was very productive in 2020. Geier stated that even though the storage fee went from \$315 to \$453, it was still a good deal. However, the storage fee will increase to \$511 in 2021. Geier stated that he plans to train two more operators this spring and may send someone to Aquarius Systems on May 21st to attend a one-day training session since he will be stepping down from the Board in September.
- **Water Quality/Clarity Testing** – Fran Geier reported that the District will again be participating in the CLMN program and collecting water samples and doing clarity testing. She reported that new testing kit supplies have been received and testing will start in May. She will contact Paul Skawinski of UW-Stevens Point to find out how to access the water quality test results for the Flowage.
- **Lake Management Plan Updates** – Fran Geier stated that Lake Management Plan updates on the activities of the District for 2020 were sent to Ted Johnson of the DNR who approved them. After receiving Ted’s approval, the updates were forwarded by e-mail to Ed Hernandez of Waushara County Land Conservation and Zoning and Melanie Stake, Town of Dakota Clerk.
- **New Landing Signs** – Lynn Bockenbauer designed two new landing signs to replace the old signs which were in bad shape. Mike Woreck helped her install them on the signposts at each landing. It was suggested that “No Wake” be added to each sign and Lynn said she would add them to the signs
- **Zoom Meetings** – Claire Walsh asked whether District meetings could be conducted as a Zoom meeting, but Fran Geier noted that the majority of the District members still get their notices by mail and may not even have computer capability. It was decided to table this item for the future.
- **Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn at 11:00 am by Joy Woreck, seconded by Brian Soldner, motion carried.

The White River Flowage Association held a brief meeting at the conclusion of the District meeting.

The Board of Commissioners met immediately after the Spring Meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Geier, Secretary/Treasurer