

White River Flowage Lake Management District

Spring Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2023, Dakota Town Hall

Spring Meeting:

- District Chair Lynn Bockenbauer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Note: Robert Wedell, County Board Representative, was absent. All other District Board Members were in attendance.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was performed by those in attendance.
- **Agenda** –Joy Woreck motioned to approve the agenda, Randy Weinberger seconded, motion carried.
- **Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting Minutes** – John Marcoe motioned to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2022, meeting as written, Terry Loehr seconded, motion carried.
- **Board Minutes** – Bill Van Dongen briefly summarized the minutes from the September 2022, November 2022, and March 2023 Board meetings. Among the items discussed were the budget for 2023, EWM/CLP/FR treatment plans and P.I. survey, and gift certificates for the harvester operators (there were none last year). Lynn Bockenbauer defined the different invasive weeds that the District has been dealing with to the meeting newcomers (i.e., EWM is Eurasian Watermilfoil, CLP is Curlyleaf Pondweed, and FR is Flowering Rush).
- **Treasurer's Report** – Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier reported on the income/expense activities of the District since the September 3, 2022 meeting. Highlights included a current balance of \$39,331. Expenses included website payment of \$153, payment of \$567 to Waushara County Parks for the harvester storage, \$1,800 to Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource for a post-treatment survey, \$300 for the Town Hall rent for 2023, and \$1,700 to Auto-Owners Insurance for the harvester and workers comp. Deposits included \$11,235 for District fees, \$275 for insurance refunds, and \$902 donation from the WRFA.
- **Audit Committee Report** - Bill Van Dongen reported that an audit of the District's finances conducted in February of 2023 found all the financial records in good order.
- **Guest Speaker** – Ben Mott, DNR Conservation Warden, did a presentation on trapping on the Flowage. He stated that he has been trapping for a few years on his personal time and reported that he trapped 5-6 juvenile beavers on a lodge by Lynn & Dean Bockenbauer's bay and took out a total of 11 beavers. He also trapped one otter which he noted can eat a lot of fish. Jason Franke stated that he personally trapped 7 beavers. Ben said that property owners are allowed to trap or shoot beavers as they are considered a nuisance. Joy Woreck asked whether he could trap muskrats too and Ben said he would. Fran Geier asked about protecting shoreline trees from beavers and Jason Franke said to put a wire fence around the trees, paint the trunk with water-based paint mixed with fine sand, or spray with a chemical repellent. Beaver trapping season starts in late fall and ends on March 31st. Fran Geier asked about trees damaged by beavers that fell into the water and whether property owners could remove them and Ben stated that in most cases the owners can remove the trees. He stated that he will provide the official guidelines to the District.
- **Town Hall Rent Update** – Lynn Bockenbauer announced that the Town Hall Rent increased to \$250/meeting plus a refundable \$100 security deposit (currently \$100/meeting plus a refundable \$50 security deposit) if food and beverages are served. If no food or beverages are served, the rent is \$100/meeting plus a refundable \$100 security deposit. According to Gary Grenier, Town Rep., the reason for the increase is that a lot of groups decided to forfeit their deposits and not clean the hall after use. He will check with the Town Board for clarification on what constitutes food and beverages. Laura Soldner stated that the District always left the hall cleaner after the meeting than before. The new rental rates will go into effect for the District in 2024 since we prepaid our rent for 2023.

- **EWM Treatment** – Lynn Bockenbauer reported that Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource, LLC, treated Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) in 2022 with good results according to the post-treatment report. A point intercept (P.I.) survey is planned for 2024 from either Golden Sands or Wisconsin Lake & Pond and the results of this report will determine when the District treats again. She stated she was concerned about the amount of CLP on the north end of the Flowage.
- **Harvester Operation** – Gordy Loehr and Steve Dahlke expressed the need for additional volunteers to help with the harvester operation. A sign-up sheet was made available for anyone interested in being trained to operate the harvester and/or tow vehicle. Steve reported that the harvester and tow vehicle will be taken out of storage at the County Fairgrounds next week and parked next to the public landing on White River Trail. Steve said that he will be doing routine maintenance and had stocked up on fluids and parts. Harvesting will now take place on weekends as well as weekdays.
- **New Business** – **1)** Patty Kleinmann asked about any updates on the dam situation. Lynn Bockenbauer stated that she was meeting with Eagle Creek in July as part of the Emergency Planning Committee. According to Lynn, the dam is still viable – providing power to about 60 properties and structurally sound. She will try to get a local Eagle Creek representative as a guest speaker for a future District meeting. Mike Woreck stated that Roy from Eagle Creek in Neshkoro would be willing to do this. Steve Dahlke noted that the dam will be 100 years old in 2024. His grandfather built the dam. **2)** Bill Kehl suggested a bird expert as a good choice for a guest speaker for a future meeting. **3)** A discussion of the condition of the Pine View Drive landing took place. Laura Soldner and Patty Kleinmann asked Gary Grenier when the landing would be blacktopped. Gary thought all work was completed already, but Laura and Patty said the landing was supposed to be blacktopped last year, but was postponed. Gary said he will check with the Town Board on this. **4)** Jason Franke suggested giving a gift card to Ben Mott to help offset his expenses related to trapping beavers on the Flowage. Lynn stated that the Board will consider his suggestion. **5)** Bill Van Dongen stated that the County building codes have been updated and to check with Zoning for the new codes.
- **Adjournment** - Motion to adjourn at 10:45 am by Mike Geier, seconded by Patty Kleinmann, 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