

Minutes for April 17, 2010, Meeting Town of Dakota Town Hall

Spring Meeting :

The spring meeting of the White River Flowage Lake Management District was held on Saturday, April 17, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. in the Town of Dakota Town Hall. Carol Koester made a motion to accept the agenda, seconded by Dick Meidam, and the motion carried. The minutes of the September 19, 2009, meeting were then read. Carol Van Dongen made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Laura Soldner, and the motion carried.

Next, Bill Van Dongen read the minutes of the Board of Commissioners' last two meetings. Chuck Dahlke made a motion a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Bob Obenberger, and the motion carried.

Next, Fran Geier read the treasurer's report. Laura Soldner asked about the shortage of fees collected and was told that when those parties paid their property taxes, the District would be the first to receive their fees. Carol Koester made a motion, seconded by Bob Obenberger to accept the treasurer's report. The motion carried.

A guest speaker, Pat Nehring, Director of the UW-Extension Office for Waushara County, gave a presentation on the "Clean Boats/Clean Water" Program. He explained that the program was started by two young boys in 2004 as a way to curb the transporting of aquatic invasive species. In 2004, 6000 inspections were conducted and 2000 volunteer hours logged. By 2009, there were 50,000 inspections conducted and over 100,000 volunteer hours logged. Pat noted that 40% of the boaters found out about the program through direct contact and 20% learned through signs. The DNR or Paul Skawinski of Golden Sands will identify unknown species if brought in. Supplies may be ordered online at no cost. Carol Koester asked about fines and Mike Geier informed her that the fines escalate from \$200 for a first violation, \$400 for a second violation, to seizure of the boat and trailer for a third violation.

Chairman Geier reported on the AIS treatment plan for 2010. He asked Carol Van Dongen if she would accompany Bonestroo when they do the pre-treatment survey to point out areas of concern. The District will pay \$1,000 for an in-depth post-treatment survey similar to the one performed by Aron & Associates in 2004 for the Lake Management Planning Grant. This will give the District a blueprint of the entire flowage and what has been accomplished since 2004. Chuck Dahlke asked whether grants will be harder to get given the current economic climate and Mike replied "Yes". Bill Van Dongen stated that it may not be necessary to apply for any more grants. He stated that the District will budget \$2,000-\$2,500/year for maintenance. Chuck Dahlke asked when the District fees could be lowered and Bill predicted that could happen in 2013 if the final treatment is successful. He noted that the \$40,000 loan needs to be paid off first.

Chairman Geier said that this is the second year of a three-year commitment to donate \$50 to the Tri-County AIS Coordinator. He noted that Paul Skawinski of Golden Sands is always willing to provide assistance when asked. Joe Piechowski mentioned that the workshops are very worthwhile and

encouraged members to participate.

Mike Geier and Bill Van Dongen reviewed the latest news on Bill NR-115 (Shoreline Protection) which goes into effect January 1, 2012. He circulated copies of a handout from the Waushara County Zoning Dept. who are charged with enforcing this new law. Basically, the setbacks remain the same, but 0'-35' back from the highwater mark, no new structures will be allowed and only maintenance will be allowed on existing structures. Structures 75' from the highwater mark will only allow vertical construction. Terri Loehr asked about piers. Mike replied that piers are covered in another new bill. Both Mike and Bill said to call Zoning (787-0443) before putting up any structures. Bill stated that he will continue to update the members on this issue.

At 10:15 am, the District meeting was suspended to allow the White River Flowage Association to hold a brief meeting. At 10:35, the Association meeting ended and the District meeting resumed.

Mike Geier reported on the upcoming harvester operation. The District paid a \$300.00 fee to the DNR for a five-year permit. The permit required the District to track the number and weight of loads of weeds removed and where they are dumped. The harvester will be coming out of storage next week and operations will start in June. Ted Johnson of the DNR may be checking for compliance to the permit so Clarence was asked to record the loads on the calendar in the tow vehicle.

With the absence of Walt Braun at this meeting, Mike Geier discussed the "Clean Boats, Clean Water" program. No official signup sheet was circulated since people did not want to commit to working the landings on the holiday weekends. Gordie Loehr stated that he would be willing to call or e-mail interested parties and set up a schedule. He sent around a sheet of paper for people interested in volunteering to sign up. Because Walt Braun may not be able to oversee the Pine View landing, Sylvia Hartwig, Gail Groth, Laura Soldner, and Margaret Heschke volunteered to take it over. Sylvia volunteered to store the CB/CW supplies at her house. Mike Geier said he would store the White River Trail CB/CW supplies at his house.

Mike Geier talked about the upcoming second and final golf outing for the WCWLC scholarship fund to be held on June 19th at Two Oaks Golf Course. The District is again sponsoring a hole at a cost of \$50. Members were encouraged to participate in this event.

Chairman Geier provided an update on the contamination situation occurring in the north branch of the White River. The DNR was supposed to report test results to the District every two or three weeks, but no reports have been received so far. It is the DNR's responsibility to enforce groundwater contamination violations. The District wants FS Cooperative, the fertilizer manufacturer in Wautoma, to seal up their sewer drain which is suspected of causing the contamination. Mike vowed to keep up the pressure and maybe involve Ducks Unlimited and Trout Unlimited. Joe Piechowski suggested going to Joan Ballweg and/or Luther Olsen.

Mike Geier talked about the proposed new groundwater law and how it affects the Central Sands area (Adams, Portage, Waupaca, Waushara, and Marquette County) of the state. He noted that many lakes have already dried up or are shrinking. Mike and George Kraft of UW-Stevens Point will be giving a presentation to the County Board on May 11th to apprise them of the situation. According

to Bill Van Dongen, the Assembly bill is already dead and the amended Senate version (which includes designating the Central Sands area as a groundwater management area), while still under consideration, may not pass either.

Future agenda items: Terri Loehr asked about the possibility of fish stocking. Mike suggested going to the "We Really Care" fishing club.

Dewey Stelter made a motion to adjourn, Greg Parnau seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Geier