

# White River Flowage Lake Management District

## Budget Hearing/Annual Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2022, Dakota Town Hall

### Budget Hearing:

- Chair Lynn Bockenbauer called the Budget Hearing to order at 9:00 a.m. All District Board Members were in attendance. Robert (Bob) Wedell was introduced as the new County Rep. to replace Mike Kapp on the Board. Lynn stated that each District member should have received a copy of the proposed 2023 budget with their meeting notice and asked if there were any questions or comments. For the benefit of new members, Bill Van Dongen briefly explained how the District fees were calculated. He also noted that the Bylaws were amended last year to raise the limit from \$5,000 to \$10,000 for the Board to approve any necessary expenditures. The budget remained unchanged at \$11,000 with no contingency funds to be collected for 2023 since there was a minimum surplus (beyond the normal yearly operating expenses) in excess of \$15,000 already. There were no other questions or comments.

### Annual Meeting:

- Chair Bockenbauer called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.
- The Pledge of Allegiance was performed by those in attendance.
- **Agenda** – Steve Dahlke motioned to accept the agenda as written, Gordy Loehr seconded and the agenda was approved.
- **Spring Meeting Minutes** – Dean Bockenbauer motioned to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2022, meeting as written, Eric Prigge seconded, and the motion carried.
- **Board Minutes** – Bill Van Dongen briefly summarized the minutes from the April 2022 Board meetings. Among the items discussed were the 2022 budget, the EWM treatment by Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource planned for early summer, fish shocking by the DNR this summer, and a review of the proposed budget for 2023.
- **Treasurer's Report** – Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier reported on the income/expense activities of the District since the April 23 2022, meeting. Highlights include: Current balance of \$31,592.87; \$1,184.37 for harvester expenses; \$261.81 for office expenses; \$2,146.17 for insurance; \$10,200 to Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource for the EWM treatment, permit, and notices; and \$567 for harvester & tow vehicle storage.
- **Proposed Budget for 2023** – Steve Dahlke motioned to approve the 2023 proposed budget as submitted, Brian Soldner seconded, and the budget was passed unanimously by those in attendance.
- **EWM Treatment** - Lynn Bockenbauer reported that Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource, LLC, conducted a chemical treatment on Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) on May 27<sup>th</sup> and performed a P.I. survey on August 29<sup>th</sup> as a follow-up to the earlier treatment. Per Jim Scharl of Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource, there was a 90% kill rate in the treatment area. However, there is some EWM present south of the White River Trail landing which will need to be treated in the future. A full report is expected later this fall. Bill Van Dongen noted that the District is on a 3-year plan for chemical treatments. Lynn Bockenbauer commented that there is quite a bit of curlyleaf pondweed which will need to be treated. Patty Wendtland asked if the wild rice is spreading and Steve Dahlke stated that actually the wild rice was only about 40% of its normal growth for this year.
- **Fish Shocking** – Gordy Loehr stated that DNR conducted a fish shocking in May. He noted that he tried to reach Scott Bundy of the DNR so he and Steve Dahlke could be there for the fish shocking, but the DNR actually did it a day earlier than planned so he and Steve Dahlke were not able to observe them. Bob Wedell said he is meeting with Adam from the DNR (a co-worker of Scott Bundy) soon and will let him know that we were disappointed at not being informed of the schedule change. Patty Wendtland suggested the District write a letter to the DNR expressing our disappointment. Lynn Bockenbauer stated that she would draft a brief letter for Bob to give to Adam. Gordy said that the DNR told him that they would be too busy to write any reports on their findings until maybe this fall. He hopes to have the results for the Spring 2023 meeting.
- **Harvester Operation** – According to Gordy Loehr, the District needs more volunteers to help with the harvester operation, especially with the loss of Marty Koslucher who is moving to Alabama. However, they were able to remove about 20 loads this year from the Flowage. Steve Dahlke and Marty Koslucher ran the harvester with Gordy dumping the weeds. Storage of the harvester/trailer and tow vehicle will cost \$567 this year (up from \$511 in 2021) and he expects to put the harvester and tow vehicle into storage at the Waushara County Fairgrounds on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Gordy stated that the tow vehicle is currently at Wenninger's for repairs, but

doesn't know what the repairs will cost yet. A discussion was held about possibly needing to replace the tow vehicle in the future. Also, since Marty will no longer be on the Flowage, a new place to park the harvester next summer will have to be addressed. Lynn Bockenbauer volunteered to have it parked by her dock, if necessary.

- **Proposed 5-Year Harvesting Permit Fee Increase** – Lynn reported that the DNR was proposing a huge increase (900%) in the 5-year harvester permit and chemical application fees, but she then talked to Jim Scharl of Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resource who said that this rule change to the Aquatic Plant Management Program was removed from last month's agenda and would probably need to be rewritten. This issue will be tabled for now.
- **Water Quality/Clarity Testing** – Fran Geier reported that after 3 years, the District will no longer be collecting water quality samples, but will continue to conduct temperature and clarity testing. The clarity and water temperature testing were performed in June, July, and August and posted on the CLMN website. The results from the water samples indicated that the water quality was in the normal range.
- **Board Member Elections** – Bill Van Dongen's term expired in September of 2022, but he indicated that he was willing to serve another 3-year term on the Board of Commissioners. Fran Geier nominated Bill to be re-elected, Dean Bockenbauer seconded the motion. No other candidates expressed interest in joining the Board, so the nominations were closed. Bill was re-elected unanimously and will serve until September of 2025.
- **Comments** – Gary Grenier announced that the dead-end road parallel to the Flowage on Pine View Drive will be repaired this fall. There were compliments on the improvement to the Pine View landing, but there is drop off on the ramp that needs to be fixed because it's hard to pull boats out. Laura Soldner asked about removing a tree that went down near the landing during the June wind storm. Gary stated that he will look into it. Patty Wendtland asked about the dam operation. Steve Dahlke mentioned that when he worked on the dam years ago, the dam was run only during the day at full bore and shut down at night, so there was a much stronger current. However, Eagle Creek (the current owners) prefer to run it 24/7 at a much slower speed. Lynn Bockenbauer said that she tried to get someone from Eagle Creek to be a guest speaker for this meeting, but was unsuccessful. However, she plans to attend a virtual meeting with them next week and will report on it at the next meeting.
- **Future Agenda Suggestions** – Fran Geier suggested scheduling a training day next spring for any persons interested in learning to operate the harvester and/or tow vehicle. A sign-up sheet could be circulated at the April meeting.
- **Adjournment** – At 10:15 am, Eric Prigge motioned to adjourn, seconded by Gail Groth, and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote.

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