



LAC LA BELLE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

www.llbmd.org

Commissioners Meeting
THURSDAY, October 17, 2019 – 7:00 P.M.

Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall

6812 Brown Street
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

“The LLBMD seeks to promote environmentally conscious and fiscally responsible decisions by providing education, enhancing a healthy lake ecosystem and ensuring safe use of Lac La Belle for today and tomorrow.”

Minutes

1. Call to Order

D. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present

Dan Bauer
Jeff Bode
Ernie Bollinger
Karen Carr (arrived 7:03 P.M.)
Jim Groose
Terry Largent
Dave Zimmermann

Absent

3. Comments from the Floor

None.

4. Correspondence

Emails

Various emails from Brooke Donovan, City of Oconomowoc, regarding Lake Level Reports (7/25, 8/2, 8/16, 9/5, 10/4, 10/11 and 10/17)

July 22, 2019 - Wisconsin Lakes – Reminder, Water Quality Hearings Head North!

July 24, 2019 - Aquatic Invasive Species Update –July 2019

July 29, 2019 – Lisa Conley – Healthy Lakes Conference Wrap-Up and September CWA Roundtable Meeting

July 31, 2019- WIDNR Rock River Recovery –August Newsletter

July 31, 2019 – Dave Love re: Lac La Belle Weeds From Fowler Lake

August 6, 2019 – Wisconsin Lakes – Action Alert: This Time, Milwaukee...

August 28, 2019 - WIDNR Rock River Recovery –September Newsletter

August 29, 2019 - Aquatic Invasive Species Update –August 2019

September 1, 2019 - Wisconsin Lakes – Action Alert: The Final Two

September 5, 2019 – Lisa Conley - Reminder: Next Clean Water Association's Lake Country Lakes Roundtable Is Thursday, September 19
September 11, 2019- Cassie Taplin – Starry Stonewort Found
September 12, 2019 – Kelly Smith- Open Records Request
September 19, 2019 – Cassie Taplin – Special Announcement
September 19, 2019 – Kelly Smith- Open Records Request
September 19, 2019 – Ben Heussner – Lac La Belle Roughfish Contract
September 20, 2019 – Mike Findley – Algae This Week
September 23, 2019 – Ben Heussner – Lac La Belle
September 24, 2019 – Cassie Taplin – Algae
September 30, 2019 – Dave Love – Lac La Belle Weeds From Fowler Lake
September 30, 2019 - WIDNR Rock River Recovery –October Newsletter
September 30, 2019 – Lisa Conley - WIDNR Rock River Recovery –October Newsletter
October 7, 2019 – Jocelyn Good – DNR Project on Lac La Belle
October 11, 2019 – Dave Love – LLBMD Mtg. 10-17-19 - Lac La Belle Weeds From Fowler Lake
October 14, 2019- Tall Pines Conservancy - First Edition of Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program Newsletter - Streamings
October 15, 2019 - Ben Heussner – Lac La Belle Roughfish Contract

5. Approval of July 18, 2019 Regular Meeting & August 15, 2019 Organizational Meeting Minutes

D. Zimmermann moved to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2019 Regular Meeting as presented. J. Groose seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Zimmermann moved to approve the minutes from the August 15, 2019 Organizational Meeting as presented. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's Report and Payment Authorizations were reviewed by the Treasurer. Clarification was provided regarding a deposit item.

D. Zimmermann moved to approve the October 2019 Treasurer's Report and moved to approve the payment authorizations as presented. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

a. Discuss & Act On Payment Authorizations Until Next LLBMD Meeting

The next meeting of the LLBMD was anticipated to take place in spring of 2020. The 2019 Shoreland Restoration program would require final payment authorizations over the winter.

E. Bollinger moved to authorize the Treasurer to pay the usual and customary bills of the LLBMD until the next Commissioner meeting anticipated for spring of 2020. K. Carr seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion

carried.

b. Discuss & Act On 2020 Spring Newsletter

A variety of newsletter topics for the 2020 LLBMD Spring Newsletter were suggested.

J. Bode moved to proceed with the 2020 Spring LLBMD newsletter and to direct Accurate Business Communications, Inc., to author the newsletter. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7. Update On Clean Water Association (CWA) Lake Country Lakes Roundtable Meeting

E. Bollinger attended the Clean Water Association (CWA) Lake Country Lakes Roundtable Meeting held in September, 2019. There were approximately 50 people in attendance from lake districts in the area. Commonality of issues was noted and discussion took place regarding the eradication and control of aquatic invasive species, Starry Stonewort. Samples of Starry Stonewort were shared at the meeting so that attendees could see and feel what it was like in order to be better prepared to identify it. Ben Heussner, DNR Fisheries Biologist, had also attended the CWA meeting, noting the use of the citizen water quality monitoring program data helped to justify carp removal and to monitor the effects of carp removal. E. Bollinger volunteered to attend the quarterly CWA meetings as LLBMD representative.

8. Update On CWA Lake Country Lakes October 12, 2019 Public Meeting Regarding Starry Stonewort

D. Bauer and D. Zimmermann had attended the October 12, 2019 public information meeting hosted by the CWA in Delafield, Wisconsin regarding Starry Stonewort. Starry Stonewort had recently been found in Okauchee Lake, Lower Nemahbin and Pewaukee Lake. It had likely been transported from lake to lake by boat. AIS interns had been out on Lac La Belle earlier in the week and to date, Starry Stonewort had not been found in Lac La Belle. Control of this aquatic invasive species had not yet been consistently successful. Various attempts at removal including the use of Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH), dredging and chemical treatments had been tried in other areas with known stands of Starry Stonewort in the past. No single method had worked consistently to control or eradicate the plant. DNR representatives were questioned about other available successful treatment methods in Indiana and Michigan that had Starry Stonewort in their waters for a longer period of time. The DNR representatives advised monitoring Lac La Belle aggressively to keep watch for the introduction of Starry Stonewort into the lake. Pike Lake was being used as a control lake where they decided to leave it alone and see what happened. Other lakes had tried other methods of control and eradication including DASH, chemical treatments and even a drawdown on Little Muskego Lake that did not work. The DNR would continue to study what worked and what didn't in order to provide empirical analysis of the situation. A point intercept survey was discussed in order to continue to monitor for the presence of Starry Stonewort, particularly near the boat launch. The cost of point intercept study was anticipated to be close to \$15,000. Discussion further ensued regarding expanding the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network and testing the waters along with water quality monitoring. J. Bode noted the Clean Boats Clean Waters boat inspector training was offered each year. D.

Bauer explained Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator, Cassie Taplin would be present at a future LLBMD meeting to discuss information about Lac La Belle and Starry Stonewort.

9. Update On Algae In Lac La Belle

Algae had been noted in heavy abundance on Lac La Belle since the last meeting. AIS Coordinator C. Taplin had been contacted. She was aware of the algae on the lake and it was generated by water temperatures and high heat. She had monitored the algae growth on the lake since the last meeting.

10. Discuss & Act On Lac La Belle Creek & Surrounding Areas

J. Bode and E. Bollinger met with Village of Lac La Belle and The Club at Lac La Belle (“Club”) representatives since the last LLBMD meeting regarding an existing conservation easement agreement for Lac La Belle creek that ran through the golf course. No changes were made to the easement. The goal remained to work with all parties involved to develop short-term and long-term plans for the creek. In September, Club representatives met with LLBMD representatives and DNR staff regarding the creek and work that remained for completion. The DNR continued to have open enforcement action regarding the creek. Boulders to be removed to allow stabilization of the creek banks still remained in the creek. Until the DNR enforcement measures were lifted, efforts would continue to monitor the creek after high flows. J. Bode walked the creek late this summer and found little had changed since early in the season even with high water. Any erosion issues noted on that walk were resolved the next day by Club staff. The water coming down the creek was mostly clear with some substrate and alluvial sediments settling into silt across the entire bottom of the creek. Some areas of the creek were unsafe to walk due to high water; however, some other areas had been seeded and seemed to be growing. A few concerns remained and should be addressed in future short-term and long-term plans. Plants along the creek were non-native. Also, in times of high water, the water coming through the creek was prone to be turbid. In addition, there was a ditch tributary to the creek area. The Club had an individual permit to do some meandering of the formerly straightened creek. That meandered stream project was finished; however, it had been constructed from the bottom to top meaning the stream was constructed first and then the upper watershed area second. Not many forbs were growing along the meandered stream and the stream was unhealthy with filamentous blue-green algae covering it due to stagnation from sandbagging. Discussion ensued regarding the impacts from the conservation easement agreement activity relative to notification from the Club of activity in this creek area. Additional discussion ensued regarding future communications with the Club related to the creek. A letter would be sent to the Club regarding future creek construction activity as well as cooperative efforts to enhance water quality in that area.

a. Discuss & Act On Lac La Belle Creek Watershed

No action was necessary at this time.

b. Discuss & Act On Rosenow Creek Project

Information would be provided on the Rosenow Creek project at a future meeting. An

agreement had been reached to allow aerial seeding in that area and future discussions would take place regarding streambank stabilization measures. Information provided by the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program regarding LLBMD contributions to support the work of the OWPP was shared. Monies were available in the budget to support the OWPP efforts. D. Bauer moved it Item 12.

11. Discuss & Act On Lake Planning Grant & AIS Control Grant Opportunities

Information was provided regarding the Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) grant and other grants related to water quality and aquatic invasive species projects. The CBCW grant would potentially provide approximately \$3,000-\$5,000 in funding to monitor aquatic invasive species at the boat launch in 2020. A point intercept survey and enhanced water quality study would be helpful in monitoring the lake to support the efforts underway regarding the DNR Experimental Roughfish contract. J. Bode offered to work with DNR staff to apply for grant funding for these surveys.

J. Goose moved to authorize Jeff Bode to proceed with application to the Clean Boats, Clean Waters project, as well as grants for a point intercept study and enhanced water quality study for Lac La Belle as part of the DNR Lake Management Planning grant program to complement the DNR Experimental Roughfish Fisheries project. K. Carr seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

12. Update On 2019-2020 Commercial Carp Fisherman Contract

Ben Heussner, DNR Fisheries Biologist, was present. Current commercial roughfish contracts had been under review statewide recently due to issues with private contracts that were not focused on environmental issues. The program was being restructured to focus on the positive impacts of commercial harvesting contracts and improved water quality. An experimental roughfish contract was allowed for use by LLBMD. A point intercept survey would be helpful in noting an increase/decrease in native plants. The LLBMD contract included a mark and recapture component. The commercial fisherman would be required to mark and release 2000 buffalo carp and 1000 common carp. Time would be allowed for mixing and then the commercial fisherman would be allowed to recapture carp in the harvest. This would allow an estimate of the total biomass to take place. A 10% minimum recapture rate was desired. The catch would be monitored by DNR staff to determine recapture rates. The marking phase of the contract led to an increased cost estimate of \$11,000 due to time, travel and expenses related to making the trip from Cambridge, MN with a crew and equipment twice to allow mixing to occur. The project was desired in order to allow determination of status of a carp problem and how past carp removals have impacted the overall population. The optimal removal time was fall before the fish went dormant. Discussion ensued regarding the requirements of the proposed contract.

J. Goose moved to authorize LLBMD Chair to negotiate a contract with Riedemann Fisheries, not to exceed \$11,000 for the marking, release and recapture of carp with payment provided upon completion of the contract. K. Carr seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

J. Bode questioned whether a water quality study and aquatic plant point intercept study should

be conducted at this same time. The aquatic plant point intercept study could be completed with support through a lake planning grant. J. Bode volunteered to work with DNR staff to complete grants to complement the fisheries efforts being undertaken at this time.

D. Bauer moved to Item 13.

13. Discuss & Act On Cut Weeds Coming From Fowler Lake Flume

Mark Frye, City of Oconomowoc Director of Public Works, was present to discuss the lake weeds coming through the Fowler Lake flume into Lac La Belle. He explained an Aquatic Plant Management Plan was updated every five years regarding removal of plant materials from Fowler Lake. Operators worked hard to collect the majority of weed materials from Fowler Lake daily. Many weeds in Fowler Lake were eelgrass. Eelgrass had a tendency to uproot itself and float along either over the dam or into the flume. Also boat motors typically cut eelgrass to add to the cut material on the upstream side of the flume. The flume was flushed each Monday through the summer to clean out the material. While efforts were being made to collect as much material as possible on the upstream side, material did come through the flume and over the Peacock Dam from Fowler Lake into Lac La Belle. In the past the flume was left open approximately one inch at the bottom and this had helped with a reduction in plant material entering Lac La Belle. Gates were kept at a fixed height that matched the Peacock Dam. The purpose of the flume was to drop the lake levels to be able to manage a drawdown on Fowler Lake for dam inspections, etc. Discussion ensued noting photos were taken from nearby residences that showed a great deal of plant material coming through the flume. While it was unsafe for City personnel to go in the flume by foot, materials were safely collected by City staff after learning of the concern. Discussion ensued regarding collecting the plant material on the Lac La Belle side and on the Fowler Lake side of the flume when large amounts of material were sent through the flume due to prevailing winds. It was noted that allowing the flume to remain open one inch all year long could assist in mitigating the problem. K. Carr suggested raking the materials with collection by City staff at City Beach in the future. Discussions would take place with City staff in order to determine options for material collection in the future.

D. Bauer returned to Item 11 and the remainder of the agenda at this time.

14. Discuss & Act On 2019 Shoreland Restoration Program

Contractual obligation information pertaining to the 2019 Shoreland Restoration Program consultant, Kier Peckham, was shared at this time. The anticipated cost for the 2019 plantings was \$3,500. According to the project contract, the LLBMD would provide \$2,000 toward the project to fulfill the cost sharing reimbursement noted in the contract.

15. Update On LLBMD Website

Updated lake levels, agendas, minutes and information pertaining to the recent high water and website technical issues had been added to the website since the last meeting.

a. Discuss & Act On Website Issue

Information was provided regarding the technical issue that negatively impacted the LLBMD website's "Agendas/ Minutes" page. An estimate had been provided for repair or upgrade of the website. Discussion ensued. Research would be conducted regarding other options available for the website at this time. In the meantime, agendas and minutes would be posted to the "Reports" page with notification of this change on the "Home" page of the website.

16. Next Meeting Date

a. Discuss & Act On 2020 Meeting Schedule

Commissioners discussed future meetings of the LLBMD Board of Commissioners. The following meeting dates were selected for 2020:

- March 19
- May 21
- July 16
- August 20 (Annual Meeting)
- October 15

E. Bollinger moved to approve the 2020 LLBMD Meeting Schedule as presented. J. Groose seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

17. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The following items were suggested for the March 20, 2019 LLBMD meeting agenda:

- Update on Lac La Belle Creek Watershed
- Update on 2019-2020 Commercial Carp Fisherman Contract
- Update On 2020 Clean Boats, Clean Water Grant Project & Other Grant Applications
- Update on 2020 Newsletter
- Discuss & Act on 2020 Goose Round-Up
- Discuss & Act on 2020 Shoreland Restoration Program
- Presentation – Cassie Taplin, Waukesha/Washington County AIS Coordinator

18. Adjournment

E. Bollinger moved to adjourn the October 17, 2019 Lac La Belle Management District meeting at 9:03 P.M. T. Largent seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.