



ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING OF LAC LA BELLE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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August 23, 2018 - 7:00 P.M.

Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall

W359 N6812 Brown Street | Oconomowoc | Wisconsin | 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 LaBelle for today and tomorrow.”

Minutes

1. Call to Order

Vice - Chairperson Dave Zimmermann called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Introduction of Commissioners

D. Zimmermann welcomed all present to the 2018 Lac La Belle Management District (LLBMD) Annual Meeting. Dave Zimmermann, Waukesha County Representative/District 2 Supervisor and Vice Chairperson; Karen Carr, Secretary; and Commissioners Karen Trepton and Terry Largent, Town of Oconomowoc Representative were present. Dan Bauer, Chairperson and Lou Morgan, Treasurer were absent. D. Zimmermann explained as County Representative Terry Largent and he were unable to vote on motions made at this Annual Meeting due to the voting requirements.

D. Zimmermann noted many were present to learn about the Prestwick development at the LaBelle Golf Course. He explained the LLBMD remained aware of the activities and concerns associated with run-off from the golf course recently. There were ongoing discussions with the Village of Lac La Belle and Prestwick regarding these matters. While it was not on the Annual Meeting agenda due to timing of distribution a special meeting could be called before the next regular LLBMD meeting, scheduled for October 18, 2018, if necessary.

3. Lake District Mission

D. Zimmermann reviewed the Lac La Belle Management District mission statement, noting past projects and initiatives included continued efforts with the Shoreland Restoration program featuring one project this year, a cancelled Goose Round-Up because there were no geese, a change in Citizen Lake Monitoring volunteers, participation in the Carp Telemetry Study with DNR staff monitoring carp movement in area waterways in a multi-year study, placement of Clean Boats, Clean Waters signage and tools at the boat launch with support from the Aquatic Invasive Species County staff. In addition the Board

worked with other municipalities in support of the Tag Lane Dairy CAFO permit and resolution. D. Zimmermann thanked Mark Thurow and Lisa Conley on behalf of the District for working on the Citizen Lake Monitoring efforts. Future projects included the Labelle Golf Course development plans, continuation of the Carp Telemetry Study, a possible Muskrat Control Program, continued Shoreland Restoration support and other projects also highlighted in the proposed budget.

4. Presentation by Arnold Groehler, Animal Damage Control Trapper

Arnold Groehler, Animal Damage Control Trapper, explained his past work experience, noting he trapped animals his entire life and had trapped muskrats on most lakes in the area. He had worked with the Okauchee Lake Management District recently in a Muskrat Control Program where he was authorized to set traps underwater near muskrat burrow entrances, access individual properties to trap muskrats and repair the lakeshore property damage caused by the muskrats. By trapping the entire lake at one time, he was able to get ahead of the muskrat population cycle. Muskrat populations were cyclic every ten years. With warmer and wetter weather cycles, the muskrats instinctively produced a third litter annually. He had trapped approximately ten properties on Lac La Belle this year. Fowler Lake was currently overrun with muskrats. Muskrats would likely enter Lac La Belle by coming over the dam or via Rosenow Creek or the Oconomowoc River. Muskrats favored small quiet bays with shallow water and weed growth for food and shelter. Property owners in those areas typically had a vested interest in seeing the muskrats removed because they did damage to the shoreline or ventured under a concrete seawall that would allow water to enter cracks in the wall. With the freeze/thaw cycle of the seasons, the wall and shoreline would then begin to falter and need repair. The best time to trap the muskrats was early spring when the ice was just out. There was the least amount of people on the lake and this was the primary mating season so muskrats were very active at that time. Few piers and little boat traffic allowed him to trap with least disturbance prior to weed growth and interference with fishermen near shorelines.

If the District would like him to trap the lake, he would trap for approximately seven to ten days when the ice was out in spring to try to get as many muskrats out at that time to make them more manageable. The cost would be \$1,000 in the spring and \$1,000 in the fall. He recommended one time in the spring should be enough to get an idea of the population and the most effective way to trap the lake. Colony traps were used because they were kid and pet friendly and could be set along the shoreline, underwater at the burrow entrance. He demonstrated the trapping mechanism. After setting the traps, he would revisit the burrow and remove them. There were a number of people that ate muskrats and majority of the trapped muskrats were provided to groups for food. A. Groehler then explained the process that would be used to grant authorization for him to trap on properties around Lac La Belle.

Karen Jenk, N59W38115 Mainland Drive, questioned the muskrat's natural predators. A. Groehler noted hawks and owls were some muskrat predators.

Steve Smith, W398N6102 Mary Lane, questioned how a property owner would know if they have muskrat burrows in or near their property. A. Groehler explained flowers and/or vegetation would be gone in the lawn or along the lakeshore. Shoreline might be caving in due to a burrow system beneath the surface. The feeding chamber would be about three feet into the shoreline and about ten feet further in a nesting chamber would be located with about 15 muskrats living in that chamber. Usually he was called in spring when a lawnmower fell into a chamber. The soil would be spongy and might have a small hole coming to one spot at the burrow entrance. Muskrats also made a “V” in the water when they swam along the water’s surface.

Bill King, N56W39214 Lakeview Lane, had worked with A. Groehler earlier in the year to trap the channel behind his property. A. Groehler collected six to eight muskrats in a ten day period. None had been seen since. It would make a great deal of sense to trap the entire lake; however, it Fowler Lake Management District was not going to hire Groehler to trap Fowler Lake it did not make sense to trap Lac La Belle. He would like to see coordination between the two entities in this matter.

5. Update on 2018 Shoreland Restoration Program

K. Carr reviewed the objectives and benefits of the annual Shoreland Restoration program. The LLBMD Shoreland Restoration program offered district residents a reimbursement program that included a 75% cost share with the District, up to \$2,000. She then distributed a map of Shoreland Restoration properties around Lac La Belle since 2009. This year, there was one participant at 1146 West Wisconsin Avenue. At the end of 2018, approximately 15 properties would have a Shoreland Restoration project on Lac La Belle.

Mark Molson, 500 Lac La Belle Drive, clarified the location of the Flick’s Shoreland Restoration property.

John Saucen, 616 North Lake Road, questioned the value range of reimbursements for the properties. K. Carr explained it was a broad range with some smaller projects under a thousand dollars and some to the \$2,000 maximum reimbursement depending on the shoreline size and plantings chosen by the property owner.

6. Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes

Lisa Conley, 516 Lac La Belle Drive, moved to approve the 2017 Annual Meeting minutes as presented. P. Carpenter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

7. Approval of the Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer’s Report for August, 2018 was reviewed and balances noted. One item in

the amount of \$616.09 was requested for payment for printing and mailing of the Annual Meeting Agenda. There were no questions.

K. Trepton moved to approve the August, 2018 Treasurer's Report and to approve payment of the bills as presented. K. Carr seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

8. Report Results of Annual Audit

The Annual Audit was conducted since the last Annual Meeting. Everything was in order and appropriate with some minor housekeeping recommendations provided regarding documentation. There were no questions.

9. Review & Approval of 2019 Budget

The proposed 2019 Budget and detailed budget were presented at this meeting, noting the various uses for each of the funds in the budget. A tax levy of \$38,100 was proposed. Discussion ensued regarding the carp in the lake. S. Smith noted increased carp populations within Lac La Belle. He had spoken to D. Bauer about this in the past. It would be helpful to have a commercial fisherman "clean out" the carp in the lake; however, that might not be possible this year.

Larry Rickert, 480 Lac La Belle Drive, had been a lake resident since 2013. He fished fairly often throughout the past five years and this year he bow-fished off his dock for carp. In that short time, he noticed more carp. He was concerned about the water quality of the lake because carp accelerated the decline of water quality and with more carp, additional decline would follow.

Jim Groose, 306 N. Lake Road, had fished Lac La Belle recently and noticed three schools of carp with more than one hundred carp in each. The carp would shrink weed beds and recycle nutrients. Early in the year, the carp would use the weed beds for feeding and disrupt the native fish spawning cycle. Carp removal should be a priority.

J. Saucen requested the budget should reflect an increased amount for fish management in the next year. He also provided a historical approach to a past carp removal activity undertaken by lake residents. **Lisa and Bob Conley, 516 Lac La Belle Drive**, provided additional information that the past carp removal activity had included the use of rotenone in 1976. Carp used to spawn in Kohl's Bay in the spring. Rotenone was used and the DNR assisted in harvesting the carp to get them out of the lake. At that time, 68,000 pounds of carp was removed from the lake, brought to City Beach and then dispatched to farmer's fields. That activity seemed to make a significant impact on the water quality and carp population.

Paul Carpenter, 412 W. Wisconsin Avenue, explained a muskrat control program should

be included in the budget also. The line item should be increased and the changed to read “Wildlife Management” to include the carp and muskrat control programs if desired.

S. Smith noted the water quality had changed over the past 19 years. The commercial fisherman had harvested in the last few years and this was helpful as well. This past year Smith had put out his swim rafts and found it difficult to use them due to the increased carp population. This would affect property values on the lake due to decreased desirability because of the carp. Action should be considered.

Discussion ensued regarding the impacts to the budget if fish management would be increased. **Ernie Bollinger, N59W38483 Kohl Lane**, noted that every year there were unused funds that accumulated with an increased budget and increased levy. It was important to use some of the fund balance in times like this where it was needed.

E. Bollinger moved to amend the proposed 2019 budget to include revenues in the amount of \$5,000 from the fund balance and to also add \$5,000 to Item 11 (Fish Management) on the proposed Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing Notice. L. Rickert seconded the motion. J. Saucen moved to amend the motion to include “that the monies in the rest of the budget items be spent and to change the name of Item 11, Fish Management to Wildlife Management.” Bollinger and Rickert agreed. Bollinger seconded the amendment. There was no further discussion. All were in favor of the amendment. All were in favor of the amended motion. Motion carried.

P. Carpenter explained that in the past the fund balances had purposely been collected for account savings that would be used for larger projects. The retention pond in the Village of Lac La Belle was made possible due to the fund. There were preliminary proposals that were shared with the Board in the past including working with the City on renovation of the boat launch. Funds collected had purpose in the savings account. K. Carr agreed, noting the Prestwick development or work on the creek could also require funding in the near future. If a piece of land became available that would be of benefit for LLBMD control, it was important to have the funding available. Without it, no such opportunity could take place.

P. Carpenter moved to approve the 2019 budget as amended to include \$5,000 from the fund balance to be added to Item 11, Wildlife Management (previously Fish Management) on the August 23, 2018 Annual Meeting & Budget Hearing Notice so that it would now total \$11,000. J. Groose seconded the motion. It was clarified that the levy amount would remain unchanged. It was also clarified that the \$11,000 in Item 11 Wildlife Management was also to include approval of the 2019 Muskrat Control Program. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

10. Presentation & Approval of Tax Levy

L. Conley moved to approve the tax levy as proposed in the amount of \$38,100. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Zimmermann explained the LLBMD Board of Commissioners was aware of the Prestwick development going on at the Labelle Golf Course; however no Board discussion would take place on the matter. The Board was aware recent rainfall had caused runoff issues from the Golf Course into the lake as evidenced by pictures presented to the Board. The Village of Lac La Belle staff and Prestwick representatives had taken steps to mitigate the runoff. The breached silt fence had been repaired. DNR staff was aware of the run-off situation. Additional residential information could be provided to the DNR and Village of Lac La Belle staff in addition to the LLBMD.

Concerns were heard from various District residents at this time. Cooperation between all municipalities should be taking place to monitor rainfall events and runoff into the lake with a sense of urgency. All lake residents were being impacted by the development on the Golf Course and the relationship to water quality of the lake. This was not the first time that golf course runoff impacted the lake; however, it was the first time that a comprehensive look was being given to the overall course and runoff problem. Silt continued to come from north of Lang Road and into the stream that ran through the golf course. D. Zimmermann reiterated no discussion by the Board could take place but this topic would be discussed at the next regular LLBMD meeting.

D. Zimmermann recessed the meeting at 8:22 P.M. and reconvened the meeting at 8:30 P.M.

11. Nomination & Election of Commissioners

D. Zimmermann explained the nomination and election process to be used in determining the Commissioners for the Lac La Belle Management District. Two seats belonging to Karen Trepton and Dan Bauer were open this year. Karen Trepton had decided not to return as a Commissioner. Prior to this meeting, Dan Bauer had agreed to continue to serve as Commissioner if nominated and re-elected. Lou Morgan had indicated an interest in continuing to serve as Commissioner if needed. One vacant seat remained open since the 2017 Annual Meeting.

Bob Carr, 286 Lac La Belle Drive, nominated Dan Bauer for the position of LLBMD Commissioner. P. Carpenter seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

L. Conley nominated Ernie Bollinger, for the position of LLBMD Commissioner. G.

Pease seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Conley nominated Jeff Bode for the position of LLBMD Commissioner. B. King seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

J. Saucen nominated Jim Groose for the position of LLBMD Commissioner. L. Conley seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

B. Conley moved to close all nominations. J. Pease seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Each nominee provided their background and qualifications to be a Commissioner. The least number of votes would fill the Vacant Board position. Elections took place. Votes were publicly opened and tallied. Zimmermann announced Dan Bauer had been reelected to another term ending in 2021 with 19 votes, Jim Groose had been elected to fill the term that also ended in 2021 with 18 votes and Ernie Bollinger and Jeff Bode had tied with 17 votes each to fulfill the two positions with terms ending in 2020.

D. Zimmermann welcomed the 2018- 2019 LLBMD Board of Commissioners, noting an organizational meeting would take place immediately after the adjournment of the Annual Meeting. He thanked Karen Trepton and Lou Morgan for serving on the LLBMD Board of Commissioners and appreciated their hours of service to the District.

12. Adjournment

P. Carpenter moved to adjourn from the August 23, 2018 LLBMD Annual Meeting. K. Trepton seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:48 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.