



ANNUAL MEETING & BUDGET HEARING OF LAC LA BELLE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

www.llbmd.org

Thursday

August 27, 2015 - 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

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

2. Introduction of Commissioners

D. Bauer welcomed all present to the 2015 Lac La Belle Management District (LLBMD) Annual Meeting. Dan Bauer, Chairperson; Karen Carr, Secretary; Ryan Myhre, Treasurer; and Commissioner Paul Carpenter were present. Terry Largent, Town of Oconomowoc Representative, and Commissioner Lou Morgan were absent. Dave Zimmermann, County Representative /District 2 Supervisor and Vice Chairperson, was also present. D. Zimmermann explained as County Representative, he was unable to vote on any motions made at this Annual Meeting due to the voting requirements.

3. Lake District Accomplishments

Paul Carpenter reviewed the activities and accomplishments of the LLBMD in 2015 to date. They included:

- Completion of the Cooperative Streambank Restoration Project
- Completion of 2014 Shoreland Restoration project
- Completion of 2015 Shoreland Restoration Program
- Supported DNR efforts regarding Commercial Fishing for Carp on LLB
- Cooperated with the Town and City of Oconomowoc regarding buoy placement
- Coordinated a 2015 Goose Round-Up
- Investigated Carp Telemetry Study
- Reviewed the Water Quality Management Plan for LLB
- Supported Oconomowoc River Watershed Protection Program through

various in kind services

4. Report on Cooperative Streambank Restoration Project

Tim Clark, Village of Lac La Belle Board President, explained the Cooperative Streambank Restoration Project came in under budget with all participants pleased with the results. Recently he met with the new golf course owners. There were areas where the stream crossed the fairway. A request was made to scale back the twelve foot setback requirements on either side of the stream as it made it difficult to play the fairway with a twelve-foot easement running through it in this manner. More information would be shared with the Commission about this matter once specific modifications were requested.

D. Zimmermann suggested a press release be sent out regarding the successful completion of this project as it demonstrated cooperation between many governmental agencies and many people were unaware that the project had taken place. T. Clark agreed, noting a recent inspection of the entire project showed it working well.

5. Presentation by Ben Heussner, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist – Carp Telemetry Study

Ben Heussner, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist, explained the recent fisheries activity on Lac La Belle included fyke netting and electrofishing which demonstrated that the lake continued to show promising fish of good size. Large fish were crucial to the health of the lake. Walleye, Pike and Musky continued to be stocked in Lac La Belle. Good numbers of walleye were evident on the lake and natural reproduction was being seen. Size and bag limit for walleye had changed recently to include a size of 28 inches and a daily bag limit of 1 beginning in 2016. Signage would be posted at the public boat launch notifying anglers of this change once formally approved. This change would allow continued natural reproduction to take place. Female walleye grew faster than males and were often selected as a result. With the change in regulation, older females would be allowed to remain and this would avoid overharvesting of females. He further explained that slot sizes were intended for lakes with high levels of natural reproduction. While Lac La Belle was considered one of the best in Waukesha County for walleye, it was not near the levels demonstrated in northern Wisconsin lake flowage. The lake was still stocked successfully with 1.5 inch fingerlings and that combined with natural reproduction would get to numbers shown in the flowage. Fingerlings would grow similarly until approximately 15 inches in length. At that length, a female was going to be about three to four years old and a male would be younger. Lac La Belle also continued to have good panfish, yellow bass, suckers and other fish that comprised a healthy fish population. The goal of the fisheries was to continue this trend. Carp were also found in Lac La Belle in numbers. Originally considered an invasive species introduced from Europe, carp caused nutrients to be added into the water column making the water turbid. It was important to put fishing regulations in place on lakes like Lac La Belle in order to promote biomanipulation of fish species. The nutrients stirred in the water column, keeping the water turbidity high, would not allow for other desirable fish to feed or spawn in areas. Biomanipulation worked in a “top down”

management style. Larger predatory fish would consume smaller fish, such as carp, which would then allow more desirable fish to thrive. There were also several other tools that could be used to reduce the number of carp. Continued promotion of healthy habitat, protection and enhancement of habitat areas along with maintenance of healthy gamefish were helpful. Angler removal and commercial fishing had been successful in the past. A commercial harvest was considered crucial in some areas. A total of 36,400 pounds of carp had been removed through commercial fishing endeavors in the past year. An electrical barrier to prevent immigration had also been used in the Rock River and at Ixonia to prevent carp migration upstream. There were 11.5 river miles from Lac La Belle to the electrical barrier in Ixonia. A study was being initiated that included telemetry work similar to a study done on the Mississippi River whereby approximately 20 carp would be fitted with acoustic tags and placed downstream, instream and in the lake. Receivers would be used to track the movements of the carp to determine the immigration patterns of the carp. This information would be used to enhance removal efforts.

It was noted that all lakes upstream from Lac La Belle had carp that naturally reproduced. If the carp population could be controlled with biomanipulation, commercial removal and prevention of upstream immigration, a three pronged approach could be utilized to reduce populations. One goal of the study was also to increase the effectiveness of the electrical barrier and to see how it worked. Carp spawned at 14 inches of length and were very prolific. The temperature of water necessary to spawning varied widely in degree unlike other fish species, making it a tough fish that tolerated a variety of habitats. Discussion ensued regarding whether there was any ability to block the carp coming upstream into the lake through the new dam built in Oconomowoc. The new dam was built to accept the old grates but the grates were not put in the dam upon completion. The grates could be put back into the dam if desired. Discussion further ensued regarding putting a gate in the grate so that when the carp stacked up above the grate, they could be released downstream. The telemetry study would assist in learning when the carp migrated relative to the conductivity of the water and the effectiveness of the barrier erected in 1980. Concern was expressed for releasing the carp downstream making populations increase elsewhere. B. Heussner noted the system would not be affected by this type of activity because the fish were already in the system. Potential partners in the telemetry study were shared. D. Bauer thanked B. Heussner for sharing this information.

6. Update on Starry Stonewort

D. Bauer provided an update on a recent DNR informational meeting about Starry Stonewort, a new invasive algae species infecting some lakes in Wisconsin. To date, Lac La Belle did not have Starry Stonewort. This fast growing algae was introduced to the Great Lakes in 1978 through the ballast of a ship. Once established it could overtake other desirable lake plants and was almost impossible to control in established lake habitats. Thus far over 200 lakes were infected in Michigan, Indiana and New York. Eradication efforts had included biological, chemical and physical removal through Diver Assisting Suction Harvesting (DASH) methods with little success and great expense. Starry Stonewort had recently been found in four lakes in Wisconsin, including Big Muskego and

Little Muskego, Long Lake in Washington County and another lake near Racine. It was determined that the best action for residents to take was to educate self and others to prevent it from becoming established. Oftentimes the Starry Stonewort plant's stars (bulbils) or fragments became trapped in watercraft or trailers and then were unknowingly transported to other lakes in the area where it rapidly re-established a new population. For this reason, it was important to remain vigilant in monitoring and cleaning boats, live wells, watercraft trailers, etc. to keep it out of the lakes. The presentation used by the DNR to inform residents was posted on the LLBMD website.

7. Update on 2014 & 2015 Shoreland Restoration Program

K. Carr shared the objectives and benefits of the Shoreland Restoration Program, noting the first projects took place in 2009 and remained quite beautiful. She went on to explain that last year the Funke's project had to be delayed due to poor weather conditions. Two other projects were approved for this year. All three projects had recently been planted with the assistance of consultant, Lisa Reas. Participation forms would be available in the spring newsletter or online beginning in April, 2016 for anyone interested in participating in the program next year.

8. Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes

Tim Clark, 270 Lac La Belle Drive, moved to approve the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes as presented. Joe Collins, 500 Beggs Isle Dr., seconded the motion. Ryan Myhre noted an address was incorrect on Page 4, Item 8, in the motion for the Treasurer's Report. The correct address should have been shown as 230 Monastery Hill Drive. The maker and seconder of the motion agreed to the amended motion of the minutes. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

9. Treasurer's Report

R. Myhre explained efforts to consolidate current accounts shown in the Treasurer's Report were underway due to a better interest rate. He explained the various types of accounts and remainder of the Treasurer's Report for those present.

T. Clark moved to approve the August, 2015 Treasurer's Report as presented. Lisa Conley, 516 Lac La Belle Drive, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Karen Trepton, 234 North Lake Road, moved to approve payment of the bills shown on the August, 2015 Treasurer's Report. R. Myhre seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

10. Report Results of Annual Audit

R. Myhre explained the process used in the Annual Audit and noted the audit was nearly

complete. The auditor had been called away unexpectedly and had not yet been able to complete the written audit report, thus a final report would be provided at the September Commissioner's meeting. At this time, there were no outstanding issues, nor were any anticipated.

11. Review & Approval of 2016 Budget

R. Myhre reviewed the proposed 2016 Budget and detailed budget presented at this meeting. He noted there were few changes from the 2015 budget to the 2016 budget. He also reviewed anticipated various expenditures including those associated with the Goose Round-Up, Carp Telemetry Study and Shoreland Restoration. After discussions with several community members, it was determined that a lesser amount would be desirable to work to replenish the amount expended on the streambank restoration project. Other possibilities would be explored over the next year to determine how best to replenish funds for future projects. Discussion ensued regarding a procedure to handle any surplus funds in the budget. Chapter 33 of the State Statutes governed activities and budgets for lake management districts. Variations in expenditures from budget line items were limited to \$10,000 without a special meeting of the District being required.

J. Collins moved to approve the 2016 Budget as presented. T. Clark seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

12. Presentation & Approval of Tax Levy

L. Conley moved to approve the tax levy as proposed in the amount of \$44,600. K. Trepton seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

13. Nomination & Election of Commissioners

D. Bauer explained the nomination and election process to be used in determining the Commissioners for the Lac La Belle Management District. Two seats were open this year and a nomination had been received via email for Karen Trepton, a resident of the City of Oconomowoc. He thanked Paul Carpenter for more than ten years of service to the LLBMD, noting his efforts in leading the LLBMD. D. Bauer also noted his own seat was open for anyone who wished to join the Commission.

D. Zimmermann nominated Karen Trepton for the position being vacated by P. Carpenter on the Commission. P. Carpenter seconded the motion. Karen Trepton accepted the nomination. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

P. Carpenter nominated Dan Bauer for the position remaining on the Commission. K. Carr seconded the motion. Dan Bauer accepted the nomination. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Bauer welcomed Karen Trepton to the Commission, noting an organizational meeting would take place immediately after the adjournment of the Annual Meeting this evening.

L. Conley thanked the LLBMD Commissioners for continued years of service to the District. She had been conducting lake monitoring for the past 27 years and was interested in having someone else learn to do it. She had equipment owned by the District and briefly explained the process of monitoring for anyone interested. R. Myhre thanked L. Conley for her years of service and commitment to the District.

14. Adjournment

R. Myhre moved to adjourn from the meeting. T. Clark seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 P.M.

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.