



LAC LA BELLE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

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Commissioners Meeting

THURSDAY, March 21, 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

Terry Largent

Dave Zimmermann

Absent

Jim Groose

Karen Carr

3. Comments from the Floor

Tim Clarke, Village of Lac La Belle President, provided an update on the project at The Club at Lac La Belle Golf Course and surrounding area. The progress made in implementing the ponds near Sauger Road had helped with spring run-off at this point. There was a lot of water in the ponds. This kept the run-off from going to the 400 block of Sauger Road and then draining into the lake as had been the pattern in the past. Outlet structures had not yet been installed due to frost in that area. Those structures would direct water to the north where a second culvert would be installed under Sauger Road. Property had been purchased from the Department of Transportation that would allow that water to flow through the culvert to be sent to the wetlands to the west. Completion of that portion of the project was anticipated by May 1, 2019. As discussed in the past, compensatory easement agreements were put in place on the existing golf course property to create ponds to hold as much water as in the past. Those ponds were designed but would not be considered ready for construction until official topographical information was ready to go. Those designs and topographical elevations would be verified by the engineers for the golf course and by the Village Engineer as well. With regard to work completed on the golf course stream, stonework had been added in certain areas with fescue installed in place of taller grasses. Recent heavy stormwater run-off filled an area where work had been undertaken and the area drained as desired. Drone footage was being used to assist in identifying the function of various topographic drainage

areas on the golf course as work progressed. This was to ensure that no increase in stormwater run-off was taking place. Current golf course owners had noticed an area of erosion on the eastern berm of the pond that was collectively maintained by the LLBMD and the Village of Lac La Belle. This was discovered when golf course representatives learned that the pond was built next to a hill located 16 feet from the pond inside the easement area.

Engineering work had begun on the stream near the mouth. Streambank restoration was needed. A preference for vegetative logs and riprap was noted by the engineer. While DNR staff was made aware of the work ongoing in this stream area, a permit for the work was not needed due to the length of the work area. T. Clarke also noted the water entering the stream north of the bypass was running clearer than previous years. This was credited to the work being done by the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program (OWPP) and Tall Pines Conservancy in that area.

Richard and Bonnie Paul, owners of property next to the golf course stream, was present. R. Paul had received no correspondence from the Village of Lac La Belle nor the LLBMD regarding any potential action being taken on items related to his property as noted on the agenda for this meeting. D. Bauer provided history of this matter and clarified the intent of the agenda item, noting that at the time of any necessary action, R. Paul would be notified and involved. E. Bollinger explained Tom Steinbach of Tall Pines Conservancy would be meeting with all creek/stream owners in the future to work on an overall plan for the area to benefit all along the creek prior to any action being taken by the LLBMD.

4. Correspondence

Emails

Various emails from Brooke Donovan, City of Oconomowoc, regarding Lake Level Reports (12/21, 12/26, 1/4, 1/16, 1/25, 2/5, 2/13, 2/22, 3/15, and)
December 14, 2018 – Kim Kirkpatrick – 12-13-18 Agd
December 14, 2018 – Amy Kowalski – LLB Courtesy Code
December 20, 2018 – Kent Stein (PETA) – Muskrat Control
December 20, 2018 – Aquatic Invasive Species Update – December 2018
December 28, 2018 – WIDNR Rock River Recovery – January Newsletter
January 22, 2019 - Aquatic Invasive Species Update – January 2019
January 31, 2019 – WIDNR Rock River Recovery –February Newsletter
February 22, 2019 - Aquatic Invasive Species Update – February 2019
February 28, 2019 – Shari Gulley – New To Oconomowoc
March 1, 2019- WIDNR Rock River Recovery – March Newsletter
March 21, 2019 – Julie Larsen – LLB Sensitive Areas

D. Bauer moved to Items 8, 9, 11 and 13 at this time. All items would be discussed concurrently.

5. Approval of December 13, 2018 Meeting Minutes

D. Zimmermann moved to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2018 LLBMD meeting as presented. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

6. Treasurer's Report

A Treasurer's Report was provided to Commissioners at the meeting. A review of all current account information took place.

J. Bode moved to approve the January 2019 Treasurer's Report. T. Largent seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

D. Zimmermann moved to approve the payment authorizations as presented. J. Bode seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

a. Discuss & Act on Bank Account Consolidation

A recommendation to consolidate bank accounts was provided. Discussion took place regarding how to proceed with consolidating the bank accounts noted.

E. Bollinger moved to request a resolution should be drafted to move and consolidate three existing LLBMD accounts and to eliminate three remaining accounts as presented. D. Zimmermann seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

b. Discuss & Act On Resolution To Establish Bank Account Signatories

This item was placed on the next LLBMD meeting agenda.

7. Discuss & Act On Liability Insurance Coverage

Information was provided to Commissioners from J. Goose regarding liability insurance coverage in addition to the existing policy with the existing LLBMD insurance carrier. A quote for liability insurance was estimated in the amount of an additional \$236 per year. Discussion ensued. Current coverage seemed sufficient. No action was necessary at this time.

8. Presentation By Ben Heussner Regarding Carp Telemetry Study, Lac La Belle Fishery & Input On Golf Course Creek

Ben Heussner, Wisconsin DNR Fisheries Biologist, provided a presentation on the use of acoustic telemetry in working with the Oconomowoc River carp population. The study involved tagging carp, and through the use of an acoustic receiver, monitoring the emigration patterns of carp above and below an electrical barrier. Two main objectives of the study included learning about the effectiveness of the thirty year old electrical barrier and learning about the carp in the system. Both goals had been achieved to some degree despite having a small amount of receivers and tags used in the study. Additional tagging and receiving equipment was being purchased to enhance the study. Effectiveness of the barrier was noted. The barrier was particularly useful in June and October of each year when the fish spawned upstream and emigrated downstream. Other effective barrier methods were also being considered. Carp had been removed and tagged from the overall system above and below the barrier and then distributed purposefully to determine

emigration patterns. Preliminary results of the carp telemetry study included 11 of the total 17 tagged carp were downstream at the end of the year. Seven of the ten released carp remained downstream of the barrier and never returned upstream, while others came near the barrier and lingered but never swam upstream past the barrier. Three of the ten fish released downstream of the barrier stayed below the barrier until the barrier was shut off; at which time they returned upstream. After that one carp returned downstream. Four carp released upstream stayed upstream and never returned. Part of the study involved learning to maximize the usage of the barrier facility. With this knowledge of upstream and downstream tendencies, actions could be taken to remove carp at certain times of the year and then use the barrier to restrict movements back into the upstream system.

With regard to the Lac La Belle fishery, B. Heussner explained small mouth bass were abundant in the lake based on sampling of Lac La Belle in recent years. Pike were low in number with fewer muskellunge noted as well. Walleye were stocked every other year in the even numbered years. There were two sizes of walleye fingerlings-one at 1.5 inches in the spring and another at 7-8 inches in the fall. Only the June fingerlings (1.5 inches) were used on Lac La Belle because it made stocking effective. Lac La Belle had low panfish amounts so June fingerlings worked well for stocking. Panfish had good size and structure but were not very abundant. In sampling, fish were noted in a per acre amount. From 2009-2017 there was an average of 23 total walleye per acre. Higher density of fish allowed for slower growth and provided a smaller size structure. A histogram of walleye growth and frequency was provided. Walleye limits included a 28 inch minimum length. The average length walleye in Lac La Belle was 15 inches. Muskellunge (also known as muskies or musky) were stocked by local clubs. There were 425 musky stocked in 2015 and another 200 in 2018. Walleye initiatives were helping to increase walleye in this part of the state. Future growth was anticipated. DNR staff continually tried to work toward balance within the system. Anglers wanted simplified regulations and slot sizes. This became difficult because fish needed time to grow.

With regard to carp in Lac La Belle, B. Heussner noted the current Common Carp population was down from the past with data supporting these findings. Catch rates in electrofishing had decreased and people that bow fished were beginning to complain. Approximately 40,000 pounds of carp were removed with approximately 16,000 pounds being Common Carp. It was customary to remove a half million pounds from other larger lakes. In 2009 more than 1,400 carp were marked with a fin clip (clipping a portion of the carp's dorsal fin). A commercial harvest would be helpful to establish a sample size population. As many fish as possible would be marked with a 10% population goal of approximately 1,500 fish the desired sample size. A commercial contractor could be hired to remove fish to gain a sample to be compared to the 2009 survey. Discussion took place regarding whether a commercial contractor could be hired for this year. Commercial carp fishermen were not that interested in Lac La Belle currently because there were very few Common Carp. The fish that were frequently identified as Common Carp in Lac La Belle were often Buffalo Carp. These were not the same fish. Buffalo Carp were not marketable for commercial carp harvesting. The expenses for a commercial carp fisherman to fish Lac La Belle outweighed the profits of a Common Carp harvest at this time. Clarification was provided regarding Buffalo Carp and Common Carp. Buffalo Carp were considered of no use in a fishery. They were not as detrimental to native plants and sediment because the Buffalo Carp did not possess the serrated fins that the Common Carp did. They did; however, destroy aquatic plants.

Buffalo Carp currently outnumbered Common Carp in Lac La Belle two to one. Efforts could proceed to have a commercial fisherman harvest in 2019; however, it would likely be desirable for the fisherman to harvest in the fall months. Additional data and discussions with DNR staff were required. Additional information from B. Heussner would be available on this topic in the next few months.

J. Bode questioned B. Heussner about the potential pollution sources and fisheries value associated with various tributaries entering Lac La Belle. B. Heussner explained it was important to control nutrient loading for water quality improvement in all tributaries and streams entering the lake. The Golf Course stream required additional review. Typically a stream or creek with that size did not provide spawning habitat or potential for recruitment of species in those areas. Rosenow Creek had thermal implications for the lake because it provided cold water in the hot summer months for certain species.

Discussion took place regarding replacement of the grates on the West Wisconsin Street dam. There were times when it would be helpful to have them and other times when it was considered detrimental. Removing them completely had been a mistake. The desired action at the time was to have a gate in the grate in order to allow downstream emigration when needed. Dam grates could be potentially be constructed with a gate and replaced in the future if necessary but would require a considerable amount of maintenance. At this time the telemetry study was underway and that should provide information on carp emigration patterns.

9. Update On 2019 Commercial Carp Removal

This item was discussed previously. Please see above. This item would be placed on a future agenda for additional discussion and consideration.

10. Update On 2019 Clean Boats, Clean Water Grant Program

J. Bode provided an update on the Clean Boats Clean Waters grant program offered through the DNR. Access to the lake was provided through the City of Oconomowoc boat launch. The City was already involved in the grant program. It would be helpful to contact the current AIS Coordinator to learn about other opportunities for working collaboratively with other agencies or groups to further education about aquatic invasive species. The current Clean Boats Clean Waters signage at the City boat launch needed new tools for the 2019 season.

11. Discuss & Act On Proposal For Golf Course Creek & Surrounding Areas

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting. Please see above.

Additional discussion took place. E. Bollinger had met with J. Bode and Tom Steinbach of Tall Pines Conservancy, regarding the need to develop a plan for the entire Golf Course Stream from one end to the other since the last LLBMD meeting. Permission had not yet been gained to walk the easement area along the Golf Course stream. There was a plan developed in the late 1990's that outlined a plan for the stream with regard to maintenance and plantings along the banks. Monitoring efforts for phosphorus and turbidity at Lang Road and at the entrance to the lake were

noted. Discussion also took place at that meeting about what the LLBMD could do to potentially assist in improving the watershed. Commissioners discussed the easement agreement and whether additional legal opinion should be sought in the future. DNR permits were in place regarding work on the fairways and for stabilization of the stream banks just before entering the lake. Additional areas requiring support included stabilization of the culvert crossing, the west side of the stream and the easterly side of the retention pond just south of the bypass. T. Steinbach would contact remaining landowners to determine what opportunities could be found to work together with the landowners in the future.

J. Bode explained the LLBMD could choose to assist in three options including education about watershed pollution control and sediment delivery, land purchase, and continuing to work to incentivize people for shoreline restoration. Opportunities could exist to work with T. Steinbach and Tall Pines Conservancy to further incentivize landowners for pollution control and sediment delivery. Discussion ensued regarding working with Tall Pines Conservancy and the Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program in the future to support efforts to remove sediment delivery, control non-point source pollution and improve water quality in various tributaries entering Lac La Belle.

T. Largent moved to proceed in continuing to work with Tall Pines Conservancy/Oconomowoc Watershed Protection Program to bring concepts and ideas relative to the future commitment of the LLBMD to a property or project. D. Zimmermann seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

12. Discuss & Act On Proposed Boat Docking Marina at 507 North Lake Road

D. Bauer noted the correct address for this agenda item should be 517 North Lake Road. A condominium development was being proposed including piers for boat docking that would be located between the dam and bridge. The DNR allowed certain rights to property owners with frontage on a waterway. Any development on this property would require a permit from the DNR or would require certain DNR regulations were met. No action was necessary at this time.

13. Discuss & Act On Re-Installation of Dam Grates

This item was discussed previously. Please see above.

14. Discuss & Act On Transient Boat Docks At City Beach

There was nothing new to report on this item at this time.

15. Discuss & Act On 2019 Shoreland Restoration

Discussion took place regarding other grants also available to residents and lake groups similar to the LLBMD Shoreland Restoration program. Those grants had an annual deadline of February 1 each year.

J. Bode moved to approve two projects for the 2019 Shoreland Restoration Program, not to

exceed \$5,000, for two projects and the consultant's invoice. T. Largent seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

16. Discuss & Act On 2019 Goose Round-Up

Paperwork for the 2019 Goose Round-Up had been submitted earlier in the year with the understanding that the Round-Up could be cancelled if desired; however, it could not be requested past the specified deadlines. The City of Oconomowoc planned to conduct a Round-Up in 2019 on Fowler Lake.

E. Bollinger moved to conduct a Goose Round-Up in 2019. T. Largent seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

17. Discuss & Act On 2019 Newsletter

No action was required at this time on the 2019 LLBMD newsletter. Various topics and articles were discussed and a potential timeline of distribution was noted.

18. Update on LLBMD Website

Updated lake levels, agendas, minutes and contact information for Arnold Groehler as well as an article on winter ice safety had been added to the website since the last meeting.

a. Topics For The Website

- 2019 Shoreland Restoration form

19. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The following items were suggested for the May 16, 2019 LLBMD meeting agenda:

- Update on 2019 Shoreland Restoration Program
- Update on the 2019 Spring Newsletter
- Update on the 2019 Goose Round-Up
- Update on Golf Course Creek & Surrounding Areas
- Update on Tour of the Golf Course & Streambank
- Update on Commercial Carp Fisherman Opportunities for 2019
- Introduction by Cassie Taplin, Waukesha & Washington County AIS Coordinator
- Introduction by Sherri Gulley Weber Regarding Non-Lethal Goose Removal Methods
- Discuss & Act on Bank Account Consolidation
- Discuss & Act on Lake Planning Grant Opportunities & Potential Lake Study

J. Bode requested information on attending the Wisconsin Lakes Convention. E. Bollinger invited all to attend the Healthy Lakes Conference scheduled for June 7, 2019 at the Seven Seas Restaurant in Delafield, Wisconsin.

20. Adjournment

D. Zimmermann moved to adjourn the March 21, 2019 Lac La Belle Management District meeting at 9:27 P.M. T. Largent seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.