



BALSAM LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
Annual Meeting July 18, 2009
Unity School Auditorium, Balsam Lake

- DRAFT -

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The 33rd annual meeting of the BLPRD was called to order by Chairman Howard Seim at 9:02 a.m.
- Howard Seim Introduced of Commissioner Carl Holmgren, Dave Wagner, Tom Miller, Jeff Reed, Karen Aubin and it was noted that Patrick Sturve was not with us because he was in the hospital.
- Market Place Foods was thanked for donating the pastries.

2. APPROVE AGENDA

- A motion to approve the agenda was made by Gerald Shaughnessy and seconded by Miki Foster. Approved.

3. APPROVE MINUTES of JULY 19, 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

- A motion to approve the minutes of the July 19, 2008 annual meeting was made by Debbie Irestone and seconded by Robert Nelson. Approved.

4. ELECTION – ELECT TWO COMMISSIONERS

- Chairman Howard Seim introduced the two candidates Tom Miller and Milt Stanze nominated by the BLPRD board. Tellers Carl Holmgren, Dave Wagner and Jeff Reed read the results with the final result was that Tom Miller and Milt Stanze each being elected to a three-year term.
- A motion was made by Chuck Swanson to bypass the ballot and go with approving Tom Miller and Milt Stanze onto the board for a three year term and seconded by Debbie Iverson. It was noted that the By-laws require that elections be held by secret ballot. By-laws over rule the motion.

5. GUEST SPEAKER – Heath Benike from WDNR

Howard Seim introduced Heath Benike from the Wisconsin DNR. He talked about the kinds of fish that we have in Balsam Lake (largest lake in Polk County) and the fish population of each of those fish. He talked about what the DNR has been doing to increase the Walleye population.

BASS

- The bass population is very large with the result that the bass in the lake are not maturing well; their sizing is small.
- Current regulation allows for a limit of one bass under 14in. A limit of 5 under 14 inches is planned for the future.
- The regulation change will help in reducing the population as well produce larger bass in the lake.

WALLEYE

- The walleye are not a native fish to Polk County.
- The walleye population has been declining since 1989. It could be due to too many bass in the lake.
- The DNR helped the population by stocking larger walleye fry in lake. In 2004 they put about 20,000 6-8 inches walleye fingerling into the lake. This stocking was successful as there was an improved retention as compared to small fingerling stocking in the years past.
- The DNR is considering increasing the legal walleye sizing from 15in. to 18in.
- This regulation would assure that the females would be protected.
- Heath said that we could help with the population by BLPRD District participation in the larger walleye fry stocking program. He said the District could buy from a vendor for about \$1.50 per fish.

NORTHERN PIKE

- Has been very stable since 1994.
- Not a lot of pike in the lake.
- 26in. limit on the lake for Northern Pike.
- Balsam Lake is not going to be a great lake for Northern Pike and that is okay.

PAN FISH

- Bluegills are a good average size. They are over 8inches average.
- State average is 7.2.
- Crappies are good. They go through a three year cycle. So every three years is a good crappie year.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Change the bass limit to 5 total less than 14 inches.
- Change the walleye limit from 15 to 18inches.
- Citizen input requested.

6. REPORTS

• Chair – Howard Seim

Thanked everyone for entrusting him to do the chairman duties. He thanked all of the district officers for all their hard work and everything that they do noting that they all go above and beyond their duties. He thanked the citizen volunteers for what they do; their hard work on the Little Balsam Sedimentation project and Gordy Hanson and Milt Stanze for their work with the secci disc program. He thanked Al Dornfeld and Greg Moore for their help on the Little Balsam Sedimentation project. He thanked Heath Benike for coming out today and presenting his fishery report.

• Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) – Carl Holmgren

- Report provided with update and statistics from both 2007, 2008 and 2009. Noted that they have gone up on the number of inspections, volunteers, and hours worked.
 - Will be applying for a grant for the year 2010.
 - Noted support received from Unity High student volunteers. They earn both volunteer hours for graduation and pay for half of the hours worked. Gave thanks to Jeanne Alling (Unity Instructor) for all that she does to help with the students schedules and lining them up.
 - Reaffirmed our goal was to Educate Boaters, Inspect for Invasive species, and Collect Data. All data is entered into the state WDNR database.
 - Provided invitation for homeowners to also volunteer for a shift or partial shift to experience the CBCW process. The more lake home owners get involved then it becomes standard procedure to understand the importance of CBCW and keeping the invasives out of the lake.
- **APM-Cheryl Clemens**
 - The first stage of information gathering is complete.
 - The aquatics committee will be out on the lake next week, surveying the navigational trails.
 - The DNR issued a permit to spray 11.3 acres of CLP in the South Bay of East Balsam. The post survey showed excellent results.
 - Matt Berg did complete the plant survey. There were 41 acres of CLP beds found. The CLP portion of the Plant Survey was completed in early June.
 - DNR is very strict when it comes to harvesting and/or spraying.
 - District did apply for permit for the Mill Pond and Raskin Bay area. The permit was denied. The DNR was out and looked at the areas and said that the navigational channels were just fine.
 - Raskins Bay people were in attendance at the meeting. They said they had been in contact with the DNR over the navigational channels. The DNR told them that the permit received from the BLPRD was not specific enough when it came to where they wanted the navigational channels.
 - It was noted that individuals may apply for a permit to do property specific navigational channels.
 - There is a difference between public navigational channels and lake home owner navigational access channels.

7. **OLD BUSINESS**

- **Waterfront Runoff Program (WRP) – Breanna Draxler**
 - All property has an impact on lake.
 - Goal-to improve the water quality while letting you still use your property, don't want to limit the use.
 - Site visit statistics reported include 16 site visits in 2008 and 7 for 2009.

Provide

- Free on site
- Free technical assistant
- Suggestions

Site Visit Includes

- Tour
- Identify the run off issue
- Discussion about what you can do

Plans

- Design
- Installation instruction
- Cost estimates

Recommendations

- Rain Gardens
- Rock infiltration
- Shore Line Buffers
- Native Vegetation
- Rain Barrels

Goal

- Divert Runoff
- Encourage Filtration
- Minimize hard surfaces

Benefits

- Lawn Care
- Habitats for animals
- Rain Gardens keeps the geese off your property
- Work shops are being offered. The next one is August 7.
- Looking at doing workshops in the winter if anyone is interested

8. NEW BUSINESS

• **WATER QUALITY - DAVE WAGNER**

- We had three bids for the Water Quality project. The price ranges from \$42,000 to \$122,000.
- Barr Engineering was awarded the WQ contract in the amount of \$65,000.
- Two DNR grants were awarded in the amount of \$20,000 for Phase I and II of the project. Grant applications will be applied for Phase III and IV.

Project Schedule:

- Tributary Monitoring - October 2009 to September 2010
- Water Flow Monitoring – April to September 2010
- Final Report - February 2011

Notes:

- Will give a better understanding of our water quality problems and ways that we can improve
- This will also allow us to see what is coming into Balsam Lake.

9. TREASURERS REPORT – Presented by Karen Aubim

• **2010 Budget Approval** - There was a discussion of the items included and noted that:

- The levy amount was increased from \$50,000 to \$100,000.
- A motion was made by Chuck Swanson change the proposed levy amount back to \$50,000 for next year and seconded by Jerry Shaughnessy. Motion failed.

- A motion was made to approve the budget as presented by Bill Stewart and seconded by Fred Salmon. Approved.

- **Audit Report:** Howard seim noted that the letter from the auditor was included with the mailing sent to all BLPRD members. Noted that 1099's tax forms will be sent to every commissioner that receives in excess of \$600 in compensation as suggested in the report.

10. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- Drawing was made for 'Door Prizes' that were donated... And the winners are:
Judy Stewart - Paradise Landing
Ken Foster - Indianhead Supper Club
Karen Aubin - Cabin Bar
Denny Aubin - Cabin Bar
Alice Reimann - Thirsty Otter
Jerry Shaughnessy - Thirsty Otter
Bruce Franson - Cabin Bar
Pat Reed - Hardware Hank gift certificate
Merna Salmon - Cabin life
Mary Mork - Cabin Life.
- Chuck Swanson made a comment about the problems with geese. He would like know what the District can do about this every growing problem..

11. **ADJOURN**

A motion was made by Jim Hayden to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 and seconded by Rolf Nelson. Approved.