

## Annual Meeting Notes

9/5/2015

### Open Forum Notes

- Paul Lasee offered to lead the Fish Committee – he said he had talked to the DNR and believes the first thing needed is to sit down with the DNR and get their intelligence suggested approach; Nancy thanked him and asked that he put together a plan; Nancy asked that even though there was not an existing budget, that he track expected expenses for future learning and planning
- Glen Schilling asked about the Lake District assessment options for funding the Aquatic Plant Committee work; he shared that he understood the District was anticipating spending an estimated \$140K total on the dam modification and dredging work, which based on his estimates was roughly \$2000 per owner; stated he was totally in favor of spending the money, but wanted to better understand the long-term funding of the project; he wanted to understand the plans to transfer and temporarily deplete other budget areas because of the expected expenses, cash flow impact, and loan setup; he suggested possibly pushing out the loan to allow for funding of other projects as necessary and to reduce the interest rates; Tracy Kupsh clarified \$90K as the Lake's portion of expenses, and clarified what additional work was considered in that money, including possible lake chemical spot treatment as needed in conjunction with the drawdown; Glen Schilling asked about the possibility of additional assessment options than what was laid out in the newsletter; Tracy Kupsh shared that the Board of Commissioners had discussed other options, but did not see significant value in offering another option; Tim Nolan voted for payoff in one year; Marcia Miracle liked the 2 year option, but agreed she preferred not to drag it out
- Jim Prentice asked whether we could explain in layman's term what is being done with the Aquatic Plant Committee work; Nancy McKenney shared that she had attended the WI Association of Lakes Annual Convention in Stevens Point, WI, in mid-April, and then shared the history of the Aquatic Plant Committee work including chemical treatment and eventually Lake draining as means to control the milfoil; Nancy McKenney then shared how both had mixed results, but how the Lake drainage effectiveness was inhibited by drainage issues and this resulted in contacting the Army Core of Engineers and requesting permission to dredge to allow for future, more effective drainage activity in coming years; Nancy McKenney explained that for the last drainage and the current drainage, the process had been through manual siphons; Joe Siudzinski then arrived and reviewed the overall plan highlights to core a permanent hole in the dam, dredge along the shoreline for more effective draining, and install more permanent siphons as well as other details of the Aquatic Plant Committee work; Jim Prentice inquired about the flow between Upper and Beecher Lakes (the conversation moved on and the immediate question was not answered, but asked again later and answered – see notes below)
- Glen Schilling asked about the use of a 10 inch pipe, asked why it was not larger; Joe explained that cost was the major issue and that the cost of the existing piece was \$37K; Joe Siudzinski shared that this was a decision point and that there was some effort to change the recommendation to larger piping, but in the end the grant approval process made the decision in that area; Joe Siudzinski complimented that the approval process was interactive and solid from his perspective; Glen Schilling referenced the challenges with a 10 inch pipe in times of heavy rain during Lake drainage; Joe Siudzinski referenced the difference between the current 10 inch piping setup and future state, with permanent dam modifications and improved water flow from dredging improvements, suggesting we would be in a much better state; Glen Schilling shared that he could not get to the dredging plan on the website and asked Joe Siudzinski to expand on this; Joe Siudzinski shared the dredging would occur on the West shore out from the dam, and would be roughly 8 feet wide; Glen Schilling mentioned that silting might occur in the future; Joe Siudzinski referenced his concern regarding the amount of material coming out of the Lake and the unanticipated and extra cost potential this could create, and he shared that it was a goal to avoid taking any sand; Joe Siudzinski reiterated the credit the Lake receives toward grants and other work for volunteer work and mentioned an all day survey that Chuck Druckery performs each year and asked about using future volunteers to do this – and, other work
- Jim Prentice asked again about the channel and what happens if/when it becomes dry; Joe mentioned that in our prior experience this was not an issue, but could be an issue when using the long-term pipes; Jim Lausher shared his past experience that there was water in the channel years ago when the dam went out; Mike Gotstein talked about the possible need to do spot treatments in select areas if draining does not work in all areas and shared that the existing grant had some funds available for that; Joe Siudzinski agreed that spot treatment would likely be needed and reiterated he felt we would be fighting this in the future, that draining is not a complete resolution; Joe Siudzinski asked for help in running snowmobiles over the dredged area during the Winter months to help it freeze

- Gene Wickman asked about the planned draw down levels and said his experience was there was milfoil in even the deep parts; Joe Siudzinski confirmed nothing is for certain, but that the future dredging might help push more water through depending on weather; Joe Siudzinski then asked people to take and share pictures in Sept and before ice goes out in Spring to help document final water levels
- Jim Lausher asked whether we needed to have signs to caution that ice may be different because of the draw down; Joe Siudzinski said that there were signs in some areas during the last draw down
- Glen Schilling asked about whether our Lake was a test for future Lake drainage; Joe Siudzinski shared that other Lakes are doing similar work (e.g., Cedarburg), but did mention this work was more rare than other options; Joe Siudzinski mentioned that when the Beecher Lake District first started this work, it was not on the DNR list; Clancy Whiting mentioned that what we are doing on this Lake is getting a lot of attention
- Nancy McKenney mentioned a PowerPoint slide of the Beecher Lake Aquatic Plant work history available after the meeting for viewing, this was the same presentation shared in the WI Association of Lakes Annual Convention in Stevens Point; Nancy McKenney mentioned putting this on the website for additional viewing
- Shared that the website name had changed to becherupperlakes.com; thanked Helen and Doyle Curtis for their work in this area

### **Nancy McKenney Introduced the Annual Meeting and Agenda Plans**

Took 5 minute break.

### **Annual Meeting**

Nancy McKenney called the meeting to order at 10:20am.

### **Order of Meeting; Nancy McKenney requested a change to the order of one item in the meeting:**

Nancy outlined the State Statutes for running a meeting and the need to abide by those. Proceeded with group Pledge of Alliance.

### **Approval of Agenda:**

Nancy McKenney reviewed the agenda. Jim Lausher made a motion to approve as read, and Helen Curtis seconded; all in favor.

### **Reading of Minutes:**

Nancy McKenney suggested approval of the 2014 Annual Meeting minutes as written in the Beach Chair News. Glen Schilling made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Paul Lasee seconded; all in favor. The minutes were not read as agreed by meeting participants.

### **Commissioner Reports:**

#### **Chairperson:**

Nancy McKenney covered the following:

- Thanked the Board of Commissioners and County representatives and introduced them
- Shared annual highlights:
  - Finalizing the Aquatic Plant Committee grant with DNR and Core of Engineers (COE) support
  - Attendance by Nancy McKenney at the Lake District Meeting
  - Recognized Helen and Doyle Curtis for newsletter work
  - Referenced the Good Friends of Devine award being presented at close of meeting

#### **Secretary Report:**

Judy Siudzinski, Secretary, represented nothing to report.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Reviewed 2014 Budget as of August, 2014; reported 2014 starting balance of \$38,963, after income and expenses, and September year -end balance of \$57,462.

### **Beecher Township**

Beecher Town Supervisor, John Keeley shared that the County will begin collecting taxes and that Emily LeFleur will no longer be in that position.

### **County Update:**

Clancy Whiting shared that the NR15 (shoreline zoning) is still pending due to recent changes. Clancy Whiting noted that he enjoyed working with the Beecher Lake District and that it has been one of his career highlights; appreciates the people and the effort. Clancy Whiting said "people involved deserve a pat on the back".

### **Committee Reports:**

#### **Aquatic Plant Committee:**

Joe Siudzinski updated the group that the Town continues to own the dam and recognized the work the Town did to help on the Aquatic Plant Committee's work. Referenced the material already covered in the Open Forum portion of the meeting.

#### **Boundary Committee:**

No update.

#### **Nominations Committee:**

Nancy McKenney shared that we had not received any nominations for the open Board of Commissioners' position.

#### **Shoreline Protection Committee:**

Marcia Miracle shared information around Oak wilt and referenced that she would leave additional material for people to take and reference. Marcia Miracle reiterated that she needs people on her committee. Gave an update on her team's initiatives and work.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

Fish Habitat Committee: Nancy McKenney reiterated that this committee had not been formed because of lack of volunteers. She suggested that any interest for volunteers be communicated to a Board of Commissioners.

#### **New Business:**

Nancy McKenney moved to consideration of District assessment options to fund the Lake portion of the Aquatic Plant Committee grant work. Tracy Kupsh began with referencing her material representing the cash outlay for the project. Tracy Kupsh called out that dollar amounts were estimates and subject to change. Tracy Kupsh represented the anticipated expenses and income by month from January 2016 to December 2019 and 2 options for grant funding. During Tracy Kupsh's presentation on the first option, Glen Schilling called out the point of negative funding to other committees for several months in this option. Then Tracy Kupsh reviewed the second option calling out how we get positive budget in other areas more quickly in this option.

Tracy Kupsh then went into a review of the 2 options. Tracy Kupsh called out differences between the options including the different impacts to funding of other budget areas.

Glen Schilling expressed Plan A would incur \$4000 to \$5000 in interest cumulatively; Glen Schilling then made a motion that to avoid interest charges the Lake District move forward with approving Proposal Plan B with initial assessment of \$545.90 per unit. This motion was moved by Glen Schilling and seconded by Gene Wickman. Marcia Ito asked treasurer to confirm that the reference to the interest was accurate. Treasurer Tracy Kupsh confirmed the interest

reference was correct. Carol Wickman asked the treasurer to confirm that the roughly \$500 assessment represented both the regular and additional grant funding. Tracy Kupsh confirmed this, referencing that the last assessment was around \$160. Tracy Kupsh also confirmed that the assessment would be included on the 2015 year-end tax bill to be paid in 2016. Clancy Whiting suggested that the Beecher Lake District should consider whether District would encounter issues if taxes were not paid in full because of the larger amount. Tracy Kupsh confirmed the importance of people to pay, even if paying ½ because District will get full payment. Glen Schilling referenced there was some money to cover those instances in Tracy Kupsh's document. Tracy Kupsh also mentioned that the payment was faster with new staffing from DNR. Joe Siudzinski shared that he thought payment from DNR would turn in a month.

Nancy McKenney asked for a vote; all was in favor. Nancy McKenney reiterated that payment would be \$358 higher than last year with this one-time assessment and then would return to more historical assessment levels.

Clancy Whiting updated that the legislature enacted recent changes which require special tax assessments to be represented as a separate line item on the tax bill referencing the charge. In past this would have showed as 2 lines, but now, you will only see one because the law was waived for the whole state.

Moved to 2016 budget. Glen Schilling moved for adoption of Plan B of the proposed annual budget; Marcia Ito approved; all in favor.

#### **Board of Commissioners Election:**

Nancy McKenney asked for interest to fill the pending vacancy on the Lake Board of Commissioners. Judy Siudzinski shared her view of the role and requirements. Clancy Whiting asked for clarification of the term timeframes, Nancy McKenney clarified that terms ran through the end of the calendar year. There was discussion of the value of having someone that resided on the Lake.

Marcia Miracle made a motion that we nominated Penny Albers for BOC; Glen Schilling seconded.

Jim Johnson asked for further clarification on the ability to participate remotely. It was clarified that was an option and it may also be possible to make changes to allow more meetings in person based on individual availability.

Marcia Miracle withdrew her earlier nomination; and Glen Schilling seconded.

Judy Siudzinski motioned that we nominate Jim Johnson for secretary, Helen Hohl seconded. Jim Johnson accepted the nomination and Glen Schilling moved to cast ballot unanimously for the Board of Commissioner's vacancy; all in favor, no opposed.

#### **Announcements:**

- Nancy McKenney shared the planned Special Board of Commissioner's meeting immediately following the current Annual Meeting. Jim Johnson, the newly nominated Board of Commissioners member was invited to attend. The purpose of meeting was to review and sign pending Aquatic Grant Vendor contracts.
- Nancy McKenney then reviewed picnic plans and fish contest following the Annual Meeting.

#### **Adjournment:**

Rob McKenney moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:20am; Marcia Miracle seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned.