

Beecher and Upper Lakes Public Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation
District Board of Commissioner Annual Meeting (09/03/2022) 9:00 AM
Beecher Town Hall

Attendees:

Lindi Magnuson, Board of Commissioners Chair Person
 Amy Komis, Acting Board of Commissioners Treasurer (not present)
 Jim Johnson, Board of Commissioners Secretary
 David Paulsen, Supervisor – Town of Beecher Representative
 Ken Hanson, Marinette Count Board Representative (not present)

AGENDA	
9:00-10:00	Open Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public Comment: Issues, Questions, Concerns, Vision
10:00-1010	Call to Order: Pledge of Allegiance
10:10-10:20	Approval of Agenda Review and approval of minutes from annual meeting 2021
10:20-10:50	Commissioner Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson Report • Secretary Report • Treasurers Report • Beecher Town Board Representative • Marinette County Supervisor Representative
10:50-11:20	Committee Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audit Committee • Aquatic Plant Committee • Boundaries Committee • Communication Committee • Fish Habitat Committee • Shoreline Protection Committee • Picnic Committee • Nominating Committee
11:20-11:25	Unfinished business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of Dam modification (2nd Valve) • Future of Lake drawdowns and aquatic plant control
11:25-11:50	New business: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2022-2023 Election of Board of Commissioner member • Call for Committee Members • Lake District Member Directory • 2022-2023 Budget • Good Friends are Devine Award
11:50-12:00	Announcements
12:00	Adjournment

**Note: The Board of Commissioners reserves the right to take agenda items out of order and adjust time frames to facilitate District business.*

Open Forum:

The Open Forum was called to order at 9:08 am by Lindi Magnuson. Her first order of business was to introduce herself and the Board of Commissioners for the past year. She continued

with a brief description of where she lived on the lake and how long she had been a resident. Each of the Board members present then followed in turn delivering the same information to the group. Once the board members had finished the residence one at a time introduced themselves and provided the information on the location of their home or cottage on the lake, along with how long they have been in the District. At the beginning of the meeting there were 25 property owners in attendance.

Lindi Magnuson then opened the floor for discussion of issues that were of concern to the property owners in the District. The first question that was brought up concerned the new instructions given residence regarding garbage pickup. David Paulsen explained that instructions were taped to the inside of all of the new trash cans (mailing instructions too expensive for Township) outlining how containers should be placed at the street for pickup and why old Waste Management cans will now be used for recycling (not the old green plastic bins). David was then asked why we changed providers and why the pickup date was changed from Monday to Tuesday. He explained that the Waste Management Company came back to the Township with a significant increase in cost for their service for the upcoming year. The day of pickup was changed because the new company already had established routes on Monday and was unwilling to change the day.

The next topic of discussion was the matter of the weeds on the lake. The idea of getting a weed cutter was brought up, but numerous long term residences related their experiences using weed cutters citing less than optimum results. A report by Chuck Druckrey will address many of the questions that were brought forth in this discussion.

A discussion of appropriate setbacks for a front deck was started to see if anyone had experienced the same issues with the DNR. It was the consensus of the group that no new construction can be undertaken within 75 ft. of the water's edge. Bob Magnuson related the fact that by averaging distances of nearest construction from nearby properties, one can get a reduction in the 75 ft. rule, but not significantly. The DNR has fairly strict rules regarding building along a shoreline.

An incident involving alleged camping near the boat ramp was then discussed. Several property owners living near the boat ramp had talked to the group which turned out to be a bachelor party that was doing a cardboard boat building and race. They were not drinking and were very respectful, cleaning up that area after they were done. Lesson learned here is, don't jump to conclusions.

Several newer residences wanted to know more about the "No Wake" status of our lake. Some of the more tenured property owners related the history of the "No Wake" status. Lindi Magnuson made the point that under the laws of the State of Wisconsin, lakes under 50 acres (Beecher and Upper Lake are 32 acres) in size can have motors but must leave a minimal wake. Hence, we have a "No Wake" designation. It was pointed out by Adam DeGrote that newer 4

stroke engines can operate efficiently at low to idle speeds unlike the older 2 stroke technology. Hence, running engines at low speeds all season is not a problem.

The final item of concern was who owns the land at and immediately adjacent to the boat landing. David Paulsen stated that the Township owns the site the boat landing occupies. Several property owners that live nearby did not feel that the turnaround for putting in boats has expanded onto their land in an evasive way.

The Open Forum portion of the meeting was brought to a close by Lindi Magnuson and a short recess (10 minutes) was called before beginning the business portion of the meeting.

Business Meeting

Call to Order:

The Annual Business portion of the meeting was called to order by Lindi Magnuson at 10:03 am. She began the meeting by leading the group in the "Pledge of Allegiance".

Approval of Agenda:

Jim Johnson made a motion to approve the agenda for the Annual meeting as printed on the BeecherandUppperlakes.com web site. The motion was seconded by David Paulsen and passed unanimously.

Approval of Minutes:

Glenn Schilling made a motion to approve the minutes from the 2021 Annual meeting as printed in the Beach-Chair News on the BeecherandUppperlakes.com web site. The motion was seconded by Betty Hansel and passed unanimously.

Commissioners Reports:

Chairperson Report – Lindi Magnuson briefly discussed the installation of the 2nd valve in the dam and the completion of the project. She referenced a completion report that could be read at the back of the room. She noted that there was a significant rain event in the spring that caused some damage near the dam due to erosion. The board was going to put money towards remediation but this need was negated by the Town of Beecher maintenance crew putting in some new rock material at the site. Going forward, both the Town and the Lake District will monitor the situation.

Secretary Report – Jim Johnson reported that all minutes from meetings of the Board of Commissioners and the Annual Meeting over his 6 year term have been placed online by the Communication Committee.

Treasurers Report – Glenn Schilling was filling in for Amy Komis who was absent for the meeting. Glenn reported that the district had a balance of \$14,494 as of the time of the report. The tax assessment for this year was \$200 per property for a total of \$14,000 that

came back to the district. Our Total expenses were \$50,724.46. The bulk of the expenses were related to the 2nd valve project.

Annual Operating expenses remained essentially flat from 2020. The Net cash on hand (balance less reserves) was \$21,577.97. The Districts reserve fund is currently at \$13,500. The board recommended a reduced Tax assessment this year of \$100 per property. This would bring in only \$7,100 for the coming year. This sparked a debate on the floor as to what the property owners wanted for an assessment. Bob Magnuson made a motion to maintain last year's assessment rate (\$200 per unit). It was seconded by Adam DeGrote. Before this could be brought to a vote Glenn Schilling reminded the group that to do this properly, Bob Magnuson would have to withdraw his motion and put forth a new one. Bob did withdraw the motion and made a new one to approve the budget as presented but disapprove the \$100 assessment in favor of a \$200 assessment. Mike Lange seconded the motion. A hand count vote was taken to determine the outcome. It was 23 for and 2 in opposing. The motion was passed.

**Beecher and Upper Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
Proposed 2023 Budget**

Expense	Fiscal 2023 Budget	2022 Actual thru 7/31/2022	2022
Aquatic Plant Control Estimated for contingencies		\$49,426.47	\$60,000.00
Estimated overruns			\$2,000.00
Chemical Treatment maintenance	???		
Shoreline Protection (Dry Terrain)			
Habitat Improvement			
Legal Fees			
Office Supplies/Public Notice/Communication Team	\$200.00	\$17.99	\$200.00
Storage Facility	Not needed		
Insurance Premiums	\$1,300.00	\$1,280.00	\$1,300.00
Total Operating Costs	\$1,500.00	\$50,724.46	\$53,500.00

* These funds can not be spent without a BUL approved committee plan and budget. Depending on requirements, funds can be shifted between reserves at the discretion of the BOC

** These Committees were authorized during the Annual Meeting and also have formal BOC approval which requires three items: 1) Charge (purpose), 2) Membership (prefer 3 members) and 3) Budget.

Assessed Units	\$71.00	71
Proposed Tax Assessment per Unit for 2020	\$100.00	\$200
Total Assessment	\$7,100	\$14,200

Beecher Town Board Representative – David Paulsen let the meeting know that the Memorial Benches for Jim Lauscher had been cemented in place at the beach area. He also gave a brief report on why the Township had gone to a new vendor for garbage pick-up. Lastly, he reported that the outhouse at the beach now had a remote control lock in place so it would once again be usable for the public. The only thing that needs to be done is to post the hours it will be open.

Marinette County Supervisor Representative - Ken Hanson was not present due to illness.

Committee Reports:

Aquatic Plant Committee – Jim Johnson read the report that Chuck Druckrey submitted his **Aquatic Plant Notes and Recommendations 2022** (see Appendix I).

Ad Hoc Audit Committee – Glenn Schilling once again lead the audit of the District's finances. He found everything in good order (see Appendix II for his report). He did bring up a short fall in taxes collected and distributed by the County and Township. This will be addressed in Unfinished Business.

Boundaries Committee – Bob Magnuson reported that he has been using the Marinette County GIS website to look at the number of lots that comprise the Lake District. At the present time there are 71 lots in the district.

Communications Committee – Helen Curtis reported to Lindi Magnuson that because of Doyle's retirement a printed copy of the Annual Beech-Chair News would no longer be mailed to each property owner. Instead, the Curtis's will continue to publish an online version on our BeecherUpperLakes.com website. Helen asked if she could get an up to date list of property owners addresses. Bob Magnuson said he had a list he could share with her.

Habitat/Fish Committee – The committee currently has no chairperson. Jim Johnson noted that he had talked to Chip Long (Inland Fisheries Biologist). Jim asked if we could stock the lake ourselves. Chip said that we could, but that the habitat for the smaller pan fish needs to be improved with fish cribs before doing so. Jim mentioned that Chip had sent along a document on proper fish crib construction. Jim also noted that he had talked to his neighbor Aaron Meyers who reported the old fish cribs in the lake have disintegrated with time.

Shoreline Protection Committee - Carol Wickman was not present to give a report.

Ad Hoc Picnic Committee – Penny and Don Albers bought the food and drinks for the Annual Picnic, as well as, cooking all the burgers and brats. Marlene Johnson and her sisters setup and ran the raffle. Total spent on the food and drink items was \$221.24. The raffle brought in \$615.24. The big prize of \$394 was the big draw. This was won by a young Lauscher girl. Congratulation young lady! Penny and Don were reimbursed by the proceeds of the Raffle. Receipts will be sent to Amy Komis.

Nominating Committee – Jim Johnson addressed the group looking for volunteers to join the board for a 3 year term. Jim's second term was coming to a finish completing a 6 year stint on the Board of Commissioners as the Secretary. Randy McArdle (Kmcardle@new.rr.com) stepped up and said he would take a turn on the board. Jim Johnson made the motion to nominate Randy and it was seconded by Lindi Magunson. Randy was voted in unanimously. The District appreciates his willingness to volunteer for the position and to serve on the board.

Unfinished Business:

The issue of unpaid or unreimbursed taxes was discussed by Glenn Schilling. He summarized his thoughts in the document that he read to the property owners (Appendix III). Clearly there are uncollected monies that the District is owed. Joe Stern noted that Tax Liability is never forgiven. Glenn thought that the board should press the county and township to see what happened to the tax money owed the District.

New Business:

No new business at this time.

Announcements:

- *Good Friends are Devine 2022 Award*

Lindi Magnuson reviewed what the Award was and the basic criteria for being nominated. This year's recipient was Joe Siudzinski for his tireless work on the Aquatic Plant committee over the last 12 years.

Announcements :

Raffle and Auction will follow immediately after the meeting.

Lindi Magnuson let everyone know that the next Annual meeting will take place on September 2nd, 2023.

Adjournment:

David Paulsen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Marsha Miracle seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

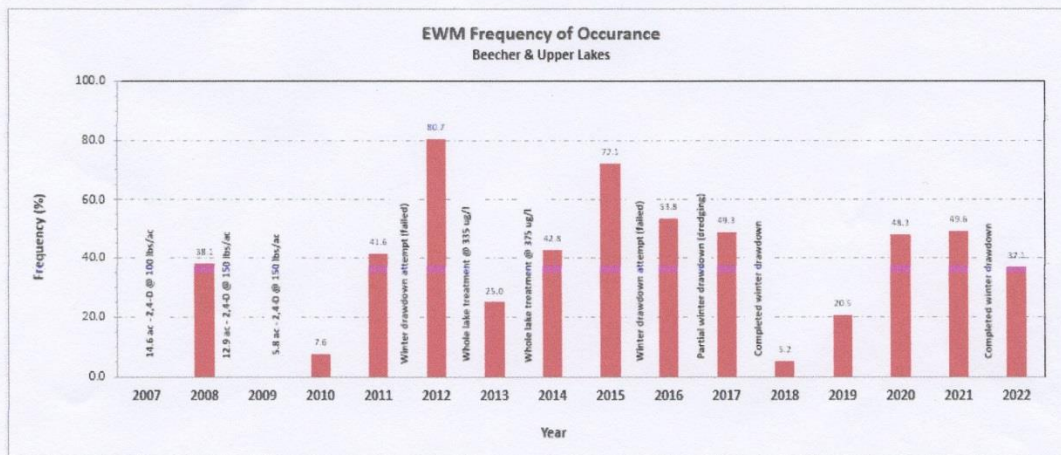
Appendix I:

Aquatic Plant Notes and Recommendations 2022 - Beecher Lake Annual Meeting

Chuck Druckrey – Marinette County Water Resource Specialist

We conducted an aquatic plant survey of the lake on 09/01/22 to evaluate the effect of last year's winter drawdown on Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM). I have included some graphs of the data and my recommendations for future management.

Everyone has probably seen the following graph before. It has been updated and shows the frequency of EWM in the lake with notes on management that has taken place in that growing season.

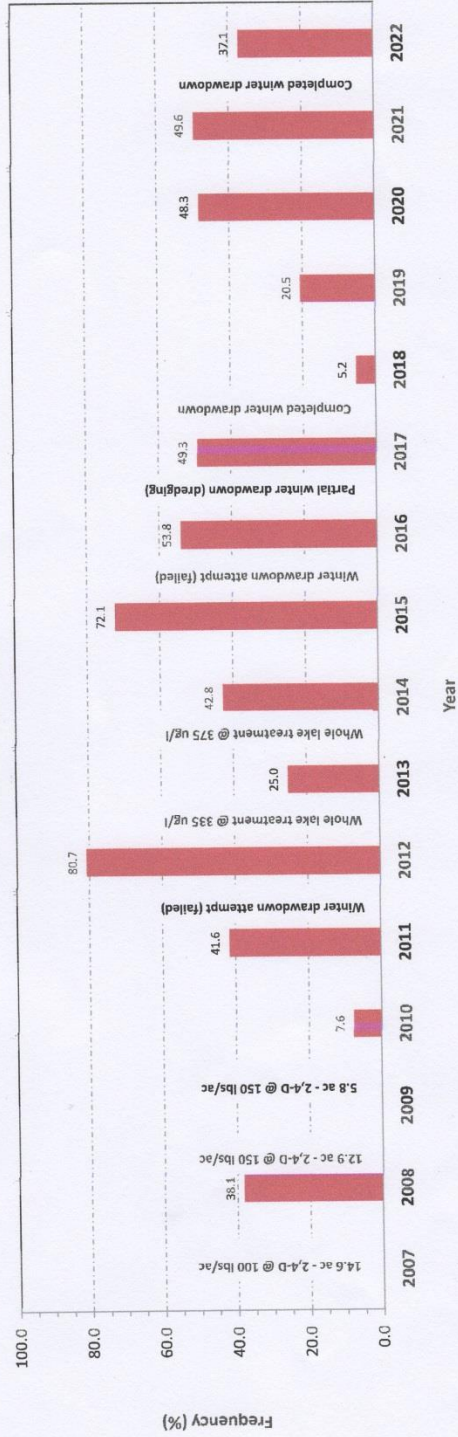


My first impression after looking at the data was that the drawdown did not work very well last year, especially compared to the first full drawdown in the winter of 2017-18, which resulted in a drastic reduction of EWM in the lake. The "relief" from that drawdown lasted two summers, after which EWM frequency increased and stabilized at around 50%. The drawdown which was done last winter only resulted in a small reduction in EWM, from 50% to 37%.

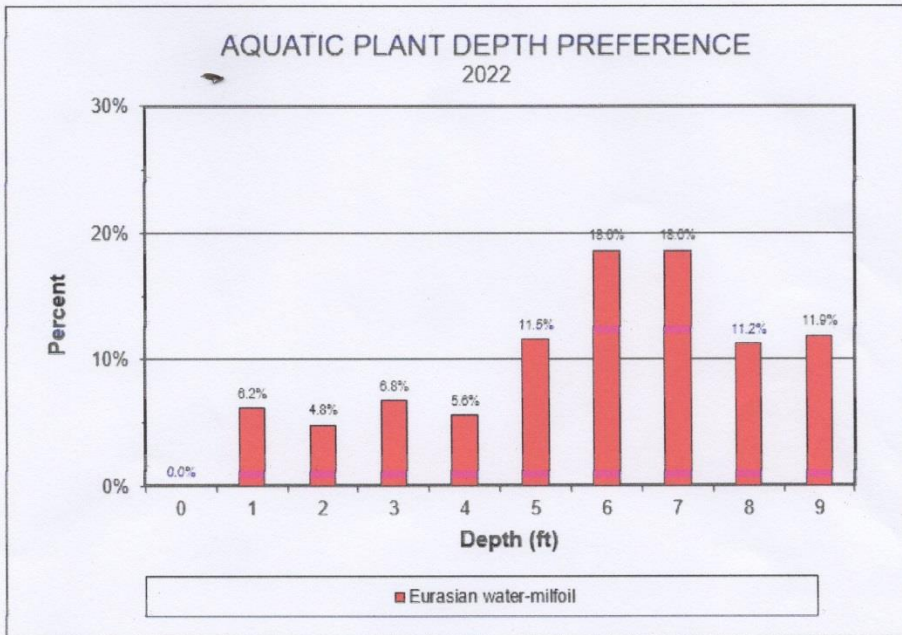
After spending some time on the lake my evaluation of last year's drawdown has changed somewhat. I noticed when we were doing the survey that in shallow water (less than 5 feet) EWM is more scattered. Also, in some areas of the lake, particularly in Upper Lake, some of the milfoil in shallow areas is a native species called whorled watermilfoil. It looks similar the EWM but is lighter green color and the whorls of leaves are a lot closer together, so it looks like a thick rope and less spaghetti-like.

Analyzing the data, EWM is much more common (and denser) in water greater than 5-feet deep. This is very evident along the north shore of the lake and the bay on the east end where you run into a "wall" of milfoil as you move off shore and hit the 6 foot depth contour.

**EWM Frequency of Occurrence
Beecher & Upper Lakes**



The following graph shows the relative frequency of EWM by depth for 2022... it shows where the EWM was found based on depth. If you add up the data you see that 76% of the EWM was found at a depth of 5 feet or greater.



After looking at the numbers and going back to what we saw out there, I think the drawdown was actually pretty successful, not as good at the last time, but pretty effective. Unfortunately, you are currently in a period of really good water clarity. I also noticed that the lake is a lot less stained than it has been in years past. This can also be seen in the data. Every year we survey over 200 points. From that we find the "maximum rooting depth", which is the maximum depth at which plants have enough light to grow. Here is what we found for the last several years:

Year	Max rooting depth
2017	8 ft
2018	7 ft
2019	6.5 ft
2020	8 ft
2021	9.5 ft
2022	10 ft

I think what I first attributed to poor control from the winter drawdown is really just an increase in EWM growing in deeper water. Also, as the lake gets clearer, the plant most able to take advantage of the new habitat is EWM. In this case, for the purposes of managing EWM, it's actually beneficial to have really dark stained water.

Recommendations for EWM Management

This is a tough one. If you really want to reduce EWM in the deeper water your best alternative is chemical control. However, when the EWM is found in a narrow band it's hard to treat it because the herbicide drifts off-site or is diluted faster than if it is a large treatment area. We do have the herbicide barriers that can prevent this but we only have so many feet and it's hard to deploy them in a narrow band as well. They would work well for the larger blocks of EWM like the one on the east end of the lake.

As for another drawdown this winter, I don't think the DNR would approve it. I think with so much EWM still in the lake it's going to spread into the shallow areas pretty fast and you may be looking at another drawdown next year (winter of 2023-24).

If the District does want to pursue an herbicide treatment we can help with deploying and retrieving the barriers. You would have to let me know ASAP so I can map the treatment areas with our GPS while the EWM is still up near the surface and visible.

As always, I am more than happy to work with the District going forward. I will plan on doing another aquatic plant survey next year and discussing future management options.

Respectfully submitted,
Chuck Druckrey
Marinette County Water Resource Specialist.

Appendix II:

August 19,2022

Ms. Lindi Magnuson
Chairperson
Beecher & Upper
Rehabilitation District
N16321 Dam Rd.
Pembine, WI 54195

Ms. Amy Komis
Treasurer
2133 King James Dr.
Green Bay, WI 54304

Ladies:

I was requested by the District Treasurer (above), to conduct an Audit of the Financial Records and Reports for the final five (5) Months of 2021 and the first seven (7) months of 2022. The Audit was conducted on August 17 and August 18, of 2022.

I am a Taxpayer and Member of the District audited. I have no Conflicts of interest with any Member of the District, or Officers, Commissioners of the District. It was conducted in accordance With Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) & Generally Accepted Auditing Standards (GAAS). The records provided were actual documents, photo copies, or carbon copies.

Findings of the Audit, and Observations are indicated below:

1.) The major Project undertaken by the District was the Dam Renovation/ Modification project. All other financial activity was routine in nature and typical with other years.

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- 2.) To be consistent with prior Audits, the time period covered was August 1, 2021 through July 31, 2022. Thus the Audit bridges two (2) fiscal years of the District. It covers the full scope of the major Dam Project.
- 3.) The Audit "Process" was as follows:
 - a.) Review of all quarterly Commission Meeting Minutes for Treasurer Reports, Discussion, and approval of all Invoices, to assure their appropriateness.
 - b.) Review all Invoices for dual signature "approval".
 - c.) Review all Checkbook entries; check carbon copies.
 - d.) Review Check Photo copies for "Dual signatures".
 - e.) Review all monthly Bank Statements to verify both debits and credits, as well as beginning and ending Balances.
- 4.) All Balances were verified. There were NO discrepancies or errors. I commend the Treasurer for her Service to the District.
- 5.) The Dam renovation Project was completed "On Time", and "Under Budget". Total cost was \$49,426.47 and \$573.53 under Budget.
- 6.) The last report of the Boundaries Committee at 2021 Annual Meeting indicated 71 Property Owners. The

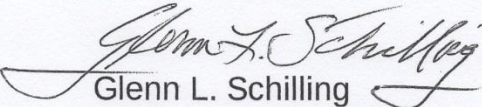
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Tax Receipts from Town of Beecher (\$3200) & Marinette County (\$10800), Total \$14,000.00. At the approved assessment of \$200 for 2022, there is a \$200 shortfall. The Treasurer is to follow up to determine if this is a tax delinquency, or the number of Owners has decreased.

7. As the District enters the fourth Quarter of the 2022 Fiscal Year there is a healthy Cash on Hand position of \$22,827.97. Since the recurring costs of operating the District are modest, and assuming no major projects are undertaken, 2023 may be an opportune time to consider a reduction in the Annual Assessment to Property Owners.
8. Unresolved Issue from 2021 Annual Audit: See Appendix I, attached.
9. Establishing/ Building "Reserves" : See Appendix II, Attached. (Discussion at 2021 Annual Meeting)

Should the Commissioners have any questions, or need additional information, feel free to contact me.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glenn L. Schilling

N16667 Dam Rd.

Phone: 920 205 4737

2022 District Audit

Subject: Unresolved Issue from 2021 Audit

As noted in the current Audit, (Items Nos. 6 & 8), reconciliation of the Districts Annual Assessment and the reimbursement from the Town Of Beecher / Marinette County, continues to be a problem. (Ref: Page 2, Item 4, 2020 Audit, & Page 2, Item, 2021 Audit.). The problem continues in the current 2022 Audit (Page 2, Item No. 6), albeit at a reduced level, ie, (-\$200) shortfall. The last time successful reconciliation was achieved, was the 2019 Audit.

The Shortfall is as follows:

2020 Audit	(-\$600)
2021 Audit	(-\$2100)
2022 Audit	(-\$200)

Obviously, the current approach is NOT working. Possible variables creating this are:

1. Incorrect number of Property Owners.
2. Real Estate Tax Delinquencies.
3. Errors in Marinette County tax accounting
4. Errors in Town of Beecher record keeping

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The first discrepancy (-\$600 from 2020 Audit) was supposedly caused by a "data entry " error and the \$100 Assessment was omitted from a number of District Member's Tax Bill. The Beecher Treasurer sent letters to all those affected requesting separate payment. Six (6) did NOT respond. We were assured the delinquency would be added to the 2021 tax bill. Our records do NOT reflect any payment.

The largest discrepancy (- \$2100 from 2021 Audit), was expected to be a timing issue, with payment to be made within 30-45 days of July 31st due date for property taxes. The additional payment was never received. (See the August, 2021 Treasurer's Report attached).

I would urge that the Treasurer meet with the Beecher Treasurer , and/ or Marinette County Treasurer to resolve this nagging issue.

Glenn L Schilling

2022 District Audit

Question: Can Lake Districts establish "Reserve Funds"? (2021 Annual Meeting Discussion not reflected In the Minutes)

I. A review of Wisconsin Statutes, Chapter 33 creating "Lake Districts" revealed no discussion regarding establishment of "Reserve Funds" in anticipation of future District major Projects.

II. A Contact to Extension Lakes, College of Natural Resources, University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point provided no position on the matter, except to agree the Statute was "silent".

III. The above is NOT dispositive of the question. It is Not "permissive", or "prohibitive". Simply put, it is open to question.

IV. An option would be to spend District funds to explore it "legally. However, since the District has no Immediate Plan for any major cost projects, it is probably best to NOT pursue it further. Also, a Legal opinion may well not dispose of the question.