

District Leadership

Sam Rivers Weber *Co-Chair*
2cherokeerivers@gmail.com
(715) 554-1054

Adam Elliott *Co-Chair*
adam.elliott@idinsight.com
(651) 343-5380

Shelley Rodriguez *Commissioner*
shelleyrodriguez2010@gmail.com
(651) 253-3093

Jen Wistrucill *Treasurer*
wistrucill@yahoo.com
Home: (651) 429-1501
Cell: (651) 280-7196

Peggy Lauritsen
Communications Commissioner/ Secretary
plauritsen@pldg.com
(612) 940-2006

SPRING MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: MAY 20, 2017

FINAL July 28, 2017

The BLPRD Annual Meeting at Georgetown Lutheran Church was called to order by Sam Rivers Weber at 9:02 am. Board attendees: Sam Rivers Weber/Co-Chair, Adam Elliott/ Co-Chair, Shelley Rodriguez/ Commissioner, Jen Wistrucill/Treasurer, and Peggy Lauritsen/Secretary, Communications.

Agenda (with flexibility)

Welcome, Introductions and Approval of Minutes

Co-Chair Weber expressed thanks to the Georgetown Lutheran Church for offering the use of the site at no charge. Co-Chair Elliott proposed to approve agenda with flexibility. Unanimous motion carries. A motion to approve the amended minutes from the 2016 Annual Meeting was made by Don Craft and Jim Mitchell was second on the motion. No discussion. Motion approved.

Guest Presentation & Dam Update (Co-Chair Elliott, guest presenter Larry Gotham, Morgan Parmley, dam engineer)

Co-Chair Elliott provided a summary of what was discussed at the annual meeting in August 2016. Larry Gotham presented the following in a Q&A format:

Why is the project taking so long? First, it was a privately owned dam property so a dam property transfer was needed. At the same time the dam washed out, the property owner passed away. It took a year for the estate to get an agreement signed with the District to transfer the property. The land was surveyed three times by January 2017 to comply with county rules on land subdivision and to get the final deed recorded. Secondly, dams are regulated by extensive county, state and national permits. Three permits are required and were applied for in Summer of 2016, County, U.S. Army Corps. and DNR. We received two permits by March 2017 and are waiting the U. S. Army Corps. permit.

Why is the dam status now different than it originally was? It is not now considered a “small” dam (less than 6 foot height) it is a “large” dam (greater than 6 foot height). A large dam enforces different inspection levels, hazard ratings and when the DNR reviewed the plans they changed it from a small to large. This also required a dam failure analysis and added time and cost.

When can we start to build? We are waiting on the U.S. Army Corps. permit. With that, we will submit for construction bids. Roughly 2 months are needed for the bidding process and 90 days for construction.

Why has the cost been changing? The dam size changed to meet requirements for “overtopping” during a 100-year storm event. This became a “large” dam adding protection for side areas and much more riprap (rock). The DNR accepted the dam as a “low hazard” dam. Cost went up as the width went up, more sheet pile and more riprap. He mentioned across all projects he is involved with this spring, there has been lack of bidders. Lack of bidders can drive higher cost bids as well as decisions on whether to reject bids vs accept bids.

What will the water level be when this project is done? OHWM is about 8 inches higher than the lake level in summer 2016. The water level will be restored to the level it was at prior to the dam washing out.

What is the status of the foot bridge? Sherrards have sold the resort and there is a pending sale on the land south of the dam location. The foot bridge is up in the air at this point. Installation of the foot bridge is not included in the dam costs. The decision is up to the property owners on both sides.

Dam Project Questions from Audience

Was there an easement for the footbridge built into the easements obtained from Sherrards? No, the easement as part of the dam project is for access to the dam for construction and maintenance.

How does this impact Little Blake Lake? When the dam is built the water level will be back to where it was prior to the dam going out. There will be a draw gate on the dam if there was ever a need to draw down the lake (this would need to be coordinated through the DNR).

Can we decide if we don't want the riprap and go back to a smaller dam? No advantage now (other than cost). If riprap is not in place then we would not have the banks built up enough for water to run around in higher water conditions.

If the new owner allows a new foot bridge, but doesn't allow people to cross, who pays for the bridge? The bridge location is shown in the current plan but not included in the cost of the dam. This will have to be handled separately through the owners on either side of the foot bridge and the district. The foot bridge can be done if it is done prior to the dam permit expiring.

Is our dam helping others that should pay? If the dam washed out the wetlands on the other side would get most of the water. Round lake has its own dam. The dam would maintain the water level that it once was. Currently Little Blake Lake and Straight River occupants are not being assessed for the dam.

Would construction happen in November or October even if weather doesn't cooperate? Would that drive costs up? Part of giving potential bidders a 90-day window is so that we get more bidders. More bidders means more options in pricing. The dam is being built in the water, there is no dewatering. Larry does not recommend a bidding process that late in the year when it is more difficult to construct.

Fish ladder as part of the dam? No, there is no requirement from the DNR to require a fish ladder.

What kind of warranty will we have for the dam? Typical is 1 year for contract for construction.

Did we need to hire an engineer to design the dam? Absolutely. The District does not have "an engineer on staff." An engineer was hired for the dam project.

Are there any grants or government assistance? The grant program runs every 2 years, if funded. If we wanted to wait another two years we could possibly get some funds to cover part of dam costs. It is a competitive process and based on ranking. We couldn't apply previously when we did not own the property needed or until all deeds were in place,

which was January of 2017.

How many projects have you worked with that received grants? Larry shared 2 projects he is currently working on that applied and received grants from the last funding cycle. They are paying up to 50% of the grant costs. These are the only two that he is aware of that have gone through application process.

When would the 2-year cycle for grant application begin? If a state budget is approved summer of 2017, then an application would go in this fall and application funds would be available in January 2018.

Do the grants apply to private dams? No, we would have to get a ruling that our dam qualifies as a public dam.

Could the rules change with the grant timing that would impact our permit? Potentially, our permit should be good for 2 years but there would be a timing window here for grant application and our permit expiring.

What is the approximate cost for the dam? The current cost projection is \$250,000.

Has someone on the board looked at a second loan? Yes, the same loan source is available for a larger amount than we have currently. We have taken only one loan for \$150,000. We are waiting for the appropriate timing.

Can you apply for the grant after? No, the grant application has to be applied for and accepted prior to starting the build of the dam.

What is the cost assessed per district member? The current cost projection is \$250,000 that is assessed over a 5 year period. Each parcel is assessed \$584.00. Parcels with shoreline also pay \$5.42 per lineal foot of shoreline.

Treasurer's Report

We have the following account balances: Savings Account: \$5.00, Money Market: \$98,372.68, Dam Account: \$2,216.02, BL Account: \$13,114.32*. As of 4/30/2017. *\$7479.30 in outstanding checks.

Committee Reports

Lake Plan Update by Shelley Rodriguez: The final draft of our new 5-year updated plan was sent to the DNR in March for final approval, which should be any time soon. She asked for volunteers for several committees and gave an inspiring overview about the benefits of volunteering.

WI Lakes Convention by Jim Mitchell and Mike Rogge: Mike recommended more shoreline restoration to benefit the health of the lake. Some communities create fun social events for Healthy Lakes activities. The convention is a great place to make strong connections that help our district. He reported on a success story where Eurasian milfoil was detected early by property owners and manually removed by divers over 3 years.

Jim presented that we can all do our part to make our lake healthier and reduce phosphorus levels. He encouraged property owners to make efforts to manage runoff as the district does its part to harvest weeds. We can also reach out to farmers in our watershed about row cropping, which represents 38% of the phosphorus loading.

AIS/ Clean Boats Clean Waters by Peggy Lauritsen: Thanks went out to all of the 25+ volunteers that inspect boats each season at the landings. New volunteers are always welcome to do 4 hours per month over the summer. There is a seasonal kickoff at the landings on June 10 at 10am. Last year we had 25 people attend and more kids are getting involved. Goals of the Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) program were reviewed. Peggy reminded all to clean weeds off your boat and gear entering or exiting the lake and don't move water lake-to-lake. We are participating again this year in the DNR Drain Campaign June 10-12 focused on anglers and the 9th annual Landing Blitz July 1-4 focused on invasives and boating safety.

There is an increased state and countywide focus on zebra mussels due to the severe infestation on Forest Lake and a new infestation found last year on Deer Lake. Zebra mussels can cause severe damage to native habitat and will clog the intake of your boat or jet ski. They spread rapidly and are almost impossible to get rid of.

In April, Peggy attended a Minnesota/Wisconsin joint workshop on zebra mussels which included the basics for monitoring, control and decontamination. One easy way to decontaminate is to let your boat dry out for 5 days! Early detection is the key. We currently do not have biologists monitoring our lake. It is up to us to learn to do it. There is a countywide training on June 13 and this info will be sent out to the CBCW list. Peggy asked for help with new grant applications due by Dec. 10 that will pay up to 75% of costs related to managing and monitoring for invasives. The time to start preparing applications is June.

APM Harvesting by Jim Maxwell: The harvester starting cutting weeds May 9. There is a bumper crop of weeds this year, perhaps due to the low amount of snow cover. It has been a tough year for cutting due to high winds. As of May 19 we have cut 76 loads of curly leaf pondweed (CLP). This compares to 190 loads cut in 2016; 171 loads in 2015; and 36 loads in 2014. Jim asked for more harvester drivers.

EPP/AIS/HL Grants Update by Sam Weber: The grants for Education, Prevention, & Planning (EPP) and the Core Study are both done and being wrapped up. We received a new grant for Healthy Lakes, which was written and is being facilitated by Peggy Lauritsen.

Healthy Lakes Program/Managing Runoff by Peggy Lauritsen: The 5 practices were reviewed with examples shown of each including rain gardens, shoreline plantings, diversion, rock infiltration and fish sticks. We applied for a \$22,000 grant on behalf of 13 property owners in February. We were awarded the grant in late April. There will be 19 Healthy Lakes practices installed over the next 2 years, 13 native shoreline plantings; 5 rain gardens; 1 diversion and 1 rock infiltration. We will continue to focus most on shoreline buffers/plantings. We can apply every year. If you are part of the grant this year, you can be part of it again next year to do more practices. Peggy will be contacting grant participants over the summer. Fall is a good time for plantings.

Communications by Peggy Lauritsen: We will continue to send 2-3 mailed newsletters per year, 7-10 emails, update the website (blakelake.org), have displays and literature at 2 meetings with 70-80 attendees and host 2 Facebook pages. The

website has been updated with more information about weed harvesting, meeting minutes from the last 8 years, the new lake plan, and dam updates. More and more information is exchanged digitally, and less is printed. Volunteers are needed for the communications committee.

Announcements

Harvester Drivers Needed — Contact Jim Maxwell.

Volunteers Needed — Clean Boats Clean Waters, Grant Writing, Communications, Lake Management Plan etc.... If interested to share your talents contact a board member.

August 19, 2017 — Annual Meeting, 8:00am to noon, (3rd Saturday in August)

July 4, 2017 — Boat Parade (July 4th is on Tuesday), 4pm

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jim Mitchell, 2nd by Don Craft. Meeting adjourned at 10:54 am. A total of 65 attended the Spring Meeting.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Jen Wistrick, Treasurer and Peggy Lauritsen, Secretary.

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: 5-20-17

FINAL 7-28-17

Meeting started at 11:04 am, held at Georgetown Lutheran Church.

Board Attendees: Adam Elliott, Peggy Lauritsen, Jen Wistrick, Shelley Rodriguez and Sam Rivers Weber.

Call to Order

Agenda (with flexibility):

Consideration and approval to borrow funds to cover dam expenses requested. Currently, the Board is authorized to borrow up to \$250,000 for the dam project.

Motion by Jim Mitchell to raise authorization for borrowing for dam expenses. Second by Paul Rodriguez. Friendly amendment to the motion made by Paul Rodriguez to request to raise amount of loan approval level to \$300,000.00, second by Jim Mitchell. Discussion ensued over raising the borrowing ceiling prematurely when we may be better off waiting until we know exactly what we need. Vote: 22 in favor/28 opposed. Motion not passed.

Motion by Jack Belisle to raise authorization amount to \$280,000.00, second by Margaret Morrill. Discussion ensued over whether or not holding another "Special Meeting" for the purpose of raising the ceiling would be a hassle for District members, depending on the time of year, and some felt to raise the ceiling now so that the board could be "ready." The board indicated it takes about six weeks to secure additional funding from our current loan source. Based on the timeline from accepting bids to paying final costs, there should be plenty of time to hold another Special Meeting and apply for any additional funds. Vote 21 in favor/29 opposed. Motion not passed.

A Special Meeting will be considered for future action on this issue. General discussion and participants are in favor of being notified by email of special meeting. Jack Belisle/Jim Filkins motion/2nd to adjourn meeting at 11:27am.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Peggy Lauritsen, Communications Commissioner/Secretary, plauritsen@pldg.com and Jen Wistrick, Treasurer wistrick@yahoo.com