

**BIG BLAKE LAKE
PROTECTION AND
REHABILITATION
DISTRICT**

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ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Date: August 20, 2016 **Amended 4-15-17**

The BLPRD Annual Meeting at Georgetown Lutheran Church was called to order by Co-Chair Sam Rivers Weber at 9:08 am.

Board Members present: Sam Rivers Weber/Co-Chair, Adam Elliott/ Co-Chair, Shelley Rodriguez/ Commissioner, Jen Wistrucill/Treasurer, and Peggy Lauritsen/Secretary, Communications.

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Elliott expressed thanks to the Georgetown Lutheran Church for offering the use of the site at no charge. We are confirmed for future meetings at this site. Donations to the church welcomed. After board introductions, Co-Chair Elliott proposed to approve agenda with flexibility. Unanimous motion carries.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Spring Meeting were printed in the Bugle newsletter, mailed to members and are also located on our new website. Copies of the minutes were also available for view at the meeting. A motion was made to approve minutes by Jack Belisle second by Jim Filkins. Unanimous. Motion carries.

Treasurer's Report

Jen Wistrucill reported account balances as of 31-July-2016 as follows: Big Blake Lake (BBL) checking \$11,776.72, Dam checking \$6,958/41, BBL Money Market \$142,665.68, Savings \$5.00. A motion was made to approve the treasurer's report by Ford Elliott, second by Vicky Dorner. Unanimous. Motion carries.

Guest Presentation: New Lake Management Plan (Commissioner Rodriguez) with Q&A by Katelin Anderson, water quality specialist, Polk County Land & Water Resources Dept. A committee of 13 district members met over the year to establish a new lake management plan. As of 2016, Blake Lake is on the impaired waters list, due to high levels of phosphorus – our goal is to get us off the list. She reviewed the visions and guiding principles of the plan. There will be many opportunities to volunteer to be part of our new lake plan. Committees include invasive species prevention, education, multi-generational engagement, native plantings of shoreline, watershed influence and fisheries. The final plan will be posted on the website at blakelake.org.

Old Business

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

The dam design plan is completed and it is submitted to the DNR. Larry Gotham, project dam engineer, provided history on the dam reconstruction to date, outlined a breakdown of the total project estimate and described the land transfer timing. Land was transferred last winter. His initial thought was the project might be \$75,000 for a small dam, then, with further testing, it became a large dam, estimated at \$225,000. Recent water flow and other tests have revealed that a larger dam is needed to hold a larger capacity. The DNR goal is to have a dam that would pass a 100-year storm event. The design plan proposes to have a dam that runs the full length of the channel. The dam design is a rip rap rock chute dam. Diameter of the stone and mix of that stone should be about 3 feet thick. Steel sheet piling is used for a vertical wall to keep the water surface at a constant elevation. There would also be a draw down structure to allow lowering of the lake a couple of feet if needed. Larry presented the engineering drawings in his slides. Location of the foot bridge would need to be down farther on the west side, and cannot be placed over, or on top of the dam. The old bridge would be

salvaged. If submitted with the dam, it is likely the dam would include the bridge permit in the dam permit. If done separately then we would need to submit a separate request for the bridge. The plan for the larger dam will require more land than originally acquired. The land survey is done, verbal agreement from landowners obtained. Next steps are to get this additional deeded land legal. He reviewed costs and new budget for the enlarged project scope and size. Completion of the dam would be the middle of May 2017, earliest due to road restrictions. If the DNR does not approve our design plan, and a new type of dam is requested, the cost could be even higher. A motion was made by Jim Filkins to increase the \$175,000 loan fund approval to \$250,000 for the board to obtain loan funds for the dam project, motion seconded by Tom Borden. Motion approved.

2) Buoy placements, slow-no-wake zone (Co-Chairs Weber and Elliott)

Options reviewed. Options are remove buoys or keep buoys with options for new placements (A, B or C in slides). Discussion ensued regarding why they were placed and what they were for. Motion made by John Walter, seconded by Bruce Peterson. Vote 45 to 29 – buoys removed.

Committee Reports

1) AIS / Clean Boats Clean Waters (Commissioner Lauritsen). We had a 23% increase in volunteers who attended our seasonal kickoff at the landing on June 11. More kids joined as volunteers this year! Our district participated in the DNR Landing Blitz in July and June Drain Campaign. We are 58% complete on the hours at the landing for boat inspections and AIS education. We have 63 hours to go to complete our season.

2) APM Harvey Report (APM Coordinator Jim Maxwell). Maxwell reported activity, expenses and increase of weed harvesting this season. He shared thoughts on why there are more loads, possibly low snow cover on lake ice, lower water level from dam and more large boat motors active on the lake. This year we harvested 158 loads of curly leaf and 33 loads of coontail for a total of 191 loads harvested YTD compared to 171 loads YTD in 2015, 36 loads in 2014 and 21 loads in 2013.

3) EPP/AIS/HL Grants Update (Co-Chair Weber). Weber reported that the Education, Prevention, and Planning Grant cycle ends this year (2016). The results of the Sociological Survey of Lake Residents in 2014, the Water Sampling and Citizen Lake Monitoring from 2013-2016, and all of the work that Jeremy and Katelin have done through Polk Co LWRD - including the results of the Core Sample analysis - have been combined to form our new Lake Management Plan, which will provide the foundation for future lake management activities and grant opportunities.

New Business

1) Healthy Lakes/managing runoff, reducing phosphorus (Commissioner Lauritsen). A primary goal of this program is to get the phosphorus level reduced on Blake Lake to get off the Impaired Waters List. Our lake is not as healthy as it should be. Lauritsen reviewed 5 practices of the Healthy Lakes Program, Fish Sticks, Native Plantings, Rock Infiltration, Diversion and Rain Gardens. She explained the DNR grant available to cover 75% of costs to implement and the deadline to apply is Feb. 1. Five district members have signed up to have their property be part of the grant application, more welcomed. There will be site visits in September. More information is available at healthylakeswi.com.

2) WI Lakes Partnership Convention is April 5-7, 2017, looking for delegates to attend.

Annual Business

- 1) **Approval of 2017 annual budget and review of audit results (Treasurer Wistracill).** No major findings in the audit.
- 2) **Elections-Vote: Election of 1 new commissioner** – 3-year term currently held by Adam Elliott. No write ins. Unanimous vote for Adam Elliott to serve a 2nd 3-year term.
- 3) **Communications (Commissioner Lauritsen):** Our website has been live for 6 months providing relevant information to district members such as meeting minutes for the past 8 years and newsletters for the past 3 years. A Water Safety page was added in July. We will continue to provide multi-channel communications such as our newsletter 2 times per year, emails monthly (7 seasonal months), provide helpful displays and literature at Spring and Annual meetings 2 times per year and post on our Facebook page.
- 4) **Recognition of volunteers:** Special recognition was given to 3 volunteers who created our website, Larry Bresina (site host and developer, donated 60 hours), Dave Rogge (developer and site maintenance, donated 120 hours) and Peggy Lauritsen (project manager and content uploads). Shelley Rodriguez thanked 13 members who served on the lake planning committee, (Gerry & Roxanne Smith, Jack Belisle, Don Craft, Sue Budd, Peggy & Jim Mitchell, Jim & Joan Maxwell, Peggy Lauritsen, Mike Rogge, Sam Rivers Weber). Peggy Lauritsen thanked the Clean Boats volunteers who serve every season at the boat landings to prevent invasive species.

Announcements

May 20, 2017 Spring Meeting, 8:30 am-noon (3rd Saturday in May)
August 19, 2017 Annual Meeting, 8:00am to noon, (3rd Saturday in August)
July 4, 2017 Boat Parade (July 4th is on Tuesday), 4pm

BLPRD 2017 Annual Budget: Vote: approval of annual budget. The budget has not been increased over the past 10 years, despite increased costs for weed harvesting operations and communications.

<u>Category</u>	<u>Budget</u>
APM Coordinator	\$2500
WLP Convention	\$1500
Dues	\$475
Harvey Pay/Exp	\$8500
Insurance	\$4500
Administration	\$4525
TOTAL	\$22,000

Motion for approval of new budget by Sue Ogren, 2nd by Gail Rustad. Unanimous.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sheila Monson, 2nd by Paul Rodriguez. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am. A total of 85 people attended the Annual Meeting.

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