

Big Blake Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District

Annual Meeting, August 16, 2014

Agenda

**Board Members: Tom Borden, Co-Chair Sam Weber, Co-Chair;
Jim Filkins, Treasurer; Joan Maxwell, Secretary; Adam Elliott Commissioner
Ken Sample, Polk County Board; Ron Ogren, Georgetown Chair**

Call to Order at 9:05 by Sam Weber.

Welcome and Introductions

Board Members Present: Sam Weber, Tom Borden, Jim Filkins, Joan Maxwell, Polk Co Designee Cedric Solland.

Board Members Absent: Adam Elliott, Ron Ogren

Approval of meeting minutes (handout) Motion to accept/approve minutes from 2013 Annual meeting by Stephanie Hinrichs; Second by Sue Ogren. Motion carries.

Approval of Treasurer's report (handout) Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Char Dunst; Second by Stephanie Hinrichs. Motion carries

Introduction of Guests and Presentations:

Jeremy Williamson, Polk Co LWRD – re: Core Sediment Sampling

Jeremy Williamson presented an update on the findings for the core sampling collected in September 2013. Jeremy has been doing studies on our lake since 2006. He is currently doing top and bottom water chemistry, algae and zooplankton sampling and reconstructing the history of Blake Lake through the core sampling.

They took two core samples and have 195cm of mud, essentially. From this core, they are extracting a lot of geo-chemical data looking at what phosphorus is bound to, finding out how much erosion has occurred in the entire watershed, etc. They date the core, calibrate it, then pull out the diatoms, zooplankton fossils, fish flies, pigments, and all sorts of things to measure and observe.

Blake Lake is really interesting because it has changed significantly over time. We have a low sedimentation rate. They took 2 meters of "mud" and they were able to go back to pre-settlement within 40cm... back to around the 1300s. Our geo-chemical analysis so far seems to indicate that our lake really began changing in the 1970s. In looking back to where we've been, to where our lake has been historically, we will be able to more accurately develop an aquatic plant management plan that is realistic and is based on evidence from where our lake has been in the past.

At the end of this core sampling data analysis, Blake Lake will develop a plan that will outline where we are going with respect to aquatic plant management. This will involve forming a committee to look at the data and present a plan to the District. This will also involve continued citizen lake monitoring participants. Clean Boats Clean Waters will also play a huge role in preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species and protecting our lake water and ecosystem.

Old Business

Slow-no-wake Zone (Tom Borden) Commissioner Tom Borden updated the District that most of the paperwork has been approved by WDNR and we are making progress toward gaining final approval for buoys to mark the slow-no-wake zone through the Narrows on Big Blake Lake. We expect to have full approval by next Spring for the 2015 boating season.

Email list The District would like to have an email address for every District member in order to communicate in a timely fashion. An email list sign-up sheet was circulated during this meeting; anyone who wishes to add their email address to our District list-serve for District info, CBCW info, and dam updates please give your email address to Peggy Lauritsen: plauritsen@pldg.com

Standing Committee/Report

Clean Boats Clean Waters (Peggy Lauritsen) 52 Volunteers have already completed 76 percent of our seasonal goal of 400 hours of CBCW monitoring per landing. We still have 45 days left to complete our goal.

Through the Drain Campaign, the Landing Blitz, and AIS flyers and brochures, our CBCW team is increasing awareness among our Lake District members and visiting boaters that AIS is a serious issue on area lakes. This year we handed out free AIS towels and ice packs to educate boaters on WDNR's statewide initiative to teach anglers to "Drain and Ice" – drain all lake water from your boat, your live-well, your bait buckets; ice your catch – this will help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species.

Three CBCW volunteers attended a 9-hour training through PCALR for Citizen Lake Monitoring Network; thank you Gail Rustad, Marge Filkins, and Vicky Dorner for attending this training.

Polk Co LWRD expert Katelin Holm/ Water Quality Specialist held a training here at Big Blake Lake to help us identify invasive species and go over the new inspection forms for CBCW. Big thanks to attendees for this training session: Judy Hall, Mike Rogge, Naomi Anderson, Tom Borden, Diane Borden, Sue Ogren, Marge Filkins, Jim Filkins, Peggy Lauritsen, and Kathy Maraden.

APM Harvey Report (Jim Maxwell) Our APM Coordinator Jim Maxwell informed us that 30 loads of CLP and 1 load of Coontail have been harvested this season (so far). Due to the decreasing density of CLP, it takes more hours of active harvesting to get an entire load of weeds. This is great news for our harvesting efforts as it is active proof that we are making a difference in our invasive weed population. Jim explained that as we continue to harvest CLP before it drops its seeds (turions), we have better odds of long-term reduction because new seeds are harvested while they are still attached to the CLP plant, then loaded onto a trailer and tilled into someone's farmland or garden thereby ending their cycle of growth in our lakebed.

EPP Grant Update (Sam Weber) The EPP Grant (Education, Prevention, and Planning) is a 3 yr, \$49k grant designed to educate District members about the lake and about aquatic invasive species (AIS), to prevent the spread of AIS through programs like

CBCW and CLMN along with Bait Dealer Initiatives and the distribution of flyers at the boat landings, and to plan for the future of our lake by developing a comprehensive Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan.

Each Spring and Fall Polk Co LWRD conducts a full point intercept survey at 276 gps coordinates on our lake plus every-other week they collect water samples, plant samples, and related water quality data such as water temperature, etc. at those same sites. Samples are sent to the State Lab of Hygiene (SLOH) where further analysis is conducted and transmitted back to Polk Co LWRD.

An executive summary will be available to all District members at the end of this grant cycle in 2016. Please consider becoming part of the APM Committee to help develop our comprehensive APM Plan beginning next year.

New Business

Polk County updates – Ken Sample or designee C.Solland

No Polk Co updates other than our opportunity to greet Cedric Solland as our Big Blake Lake designee. Cedric will serve as a liaison between our lake district and the county. Welcome Cedric.

Georgetown updates – Ron Ogren There were no Georgetown updates.

WAL Convention Delegates (April 23–25, 2015; Stevens Point)

Annual Business

VOTE: Annual Budget (Treasurer: Jim Filkins) Jim Maxwell/Vince Teuber motion to approve the annual budget of \$20,000. Motion carries unanimously.

VOTE: Commissioner Election: 3–year terms currently held by Sam Rivers Weber and Joan Maxwell.

Voting held by private ballot with Joan Maxwell, Sam Weber, and Peggy Lauritsen as nominees. Sam Weber and Peggy Lauritsen were elected to these positions for the next 3 yrs.

DAM Discussion The BBL P&R District Board presented a powerpoint explaining the procedures for reconstruction of the Dam. Through a series of meetings with the Sherrard family, the BBL P&R District, WDNR, and our Engineer, we've developed a scope and sequence of events; a timeline, as it were, to reconstruct the Dam that went out on or around April 28th, 2014.

A Rip–Rap Rock Chute Dam is our best choice because it is economical, simple, and virtually maintenance free. The Board also looked at Concrete Dams, and Concrete Drop Box Dams, both of which require de–watering prior to construction, which would cost at least \$100,000 more than a Rip–Rap Rock Chute Dam.

The “red tape” will take about 10–12 months to complete with property surveys, transferring deeds, approval of project, drafts, and final approval by the DNR then bidding from Dam builders. Once construction starts, it'll take about 30 days to complete the Dam. We are hoping to have this fully completed by next summer.

The preliminary figure we've been given by the engineer is between \$100k–150k.

Therefore, the board is seeking approval from the District to reconstruct the Dam, to assess the District for the costs of this project, and to borrow funds to get things rolling on this with a cap of \$175k. If Dam costs go above \$175k, the District will hold a special meeting to discuss the project costs and seek approval for additional funding. We do not anticipate this happening, and feel comfortable with the \$175k borrowing approval at this time.

VOTE: Funding for Dam Reconstruction: Approved

Motion approving the Dam Reconstruction project by Sue Ogren/Ford Elliott. Motion carried unanimously.

VOTE: Consideration of Borrowing Funds for Dam Reconstruction: Approved unanimously.

Three methods of assessment were presented to the District:

- 1) Riparian v Non-Riparian
- 2) Unique Flat Fee v non-Unique Flat Fee
- 3) Flat Fee for All plus Riparian cost per foot of shoreline

*Riparian means you have deeded access to the lake or you own lakeshore property.

The Board will determine the method of assessment; thank you for your input.

Announcements

Spring Meeting will be held May 16, 2015 (3rd Saturday in May)

2015 Annual Meeting will be held August 15th (3rd Saturday in August)

2015 Parade Date (July 4th falls on a Saturday) PARADE HELD ON THE 4th at 4pm.

Sue Ogren/Gail Rustad motion to adjourn at 11:10 carries unanimously.

78 District Members attended the annual meeting; 6 non-District attendees.

Common Acronyms you may hear or read today:

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| APM: | Aquatic Plant Management |
| AIS: | Aquatic Invasive Species |
| BBLP&RD: | Big Blake Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District |
| CBCW: | Clean Boats Clean Waters |
| CLMN: | Citizen's Lake Monitoring Network |
| EPP: | Education, Prevention, & Planning |
| LWRD: | Polk Co. Land & Water Resources Department |
| PCALR: | Polk Co Association of Lakes and Rivers |
| SWIMS: | Surface Water Integrated Monitoring System [Database] |
| WAL: | Wisconsin Area Lakes [now: WI Lakes Partnership] |
| WDNR: | Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources |

Minutes: BIG BLAKE LAKE P&R DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AUG. 17 2013

Tom Borden called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

Jim Thorn/Sue Ogren motion to approve minutes as printed in June Bugle, unanimous.

Jim Filkins presented the Treasurer's report and spoke about the need to approve a 50K Reserve account for Harvey as a Capital Expense Acct. Something that never was officially approved in the past. Sue Ogren motioned to approve capital exp acct and Peggy Lauritsen seconded, motion carried. Ogren/Lauritsen motion to approve Treasurer's report carries.

Jeremy Williamson - Core Sediment Sampling: Jeremy and Katelin from Polk Co LWRD did point intercept surveys on the lake this summer and spoke about gathering extensive data and entering into the mapping program. Curly leaf way behind this year. Native plants are growing where curly leaf used to be abundant, and that's a good thing. Taking chemistry samples at inlet and outlet and using a flow meter to gain critical information. Also is interested in doing sediment core samples - working with science museum - doing Geo chemical analysis also and looking at historical land use, going back 150 years or so. Lessening curly leaf makes us eligible for more grants.

Old Business:

Slow - No-wake. DNR needed comments and feedback from residents on the lake who have been impacted by the land erosion and lack of a slow wake zone.

* Jack Belisle who doesn't live in the narrows commented on the boaters

* Gerry Smith remarked about possibly having an on-line survey for our residents to give feedback regarding the need for a slow-no-wake zone. He thought it might be a danger to boaters to hit the buoy with their boat. He was told that it is the boaters responsibility if he does. This was a quote from Mark Little @ DNR.

* Gale Rustad lives in the narrows and has seen rip-rap totally washed away and seen people spin their watercraft in narrows.

* Peggy Lauritsen has seen a lot of traffic right by their dock. She commented that in her line of work they do surveys on-line often and if you get a 30% response on the survey is good.

* Ford Elliott says that 200 feet North of narrows gets hammered with wake. Says buoys are in the water at Balsam. On our lake we would be placing two buoys at each end. They are made of covered foam.

* Adam Elliott had a question regarding clarity on what kind of buoy.

* Sue Ogren says boaters are still coming too close to property. Suggested reminding boaters.

* Jerry Belisle has seen boaters going between his float and his shoreline.

* Vincent Tueber asked about the number of feet from shore and other boaters.

* Gail Rustad says people are asking "Where does the no wake zone start and end?" Says they need to see the signs.

Trash can vs. Signage at landings: Tom Borden reported that trash cans rent for \$55 a month and two would be required if we go that route. It was decided - no trash barrels. Signage is better to encourage people to take home their trash and dispose of it properly.

Vicky Dorner - is continuing to work on the email spreadsheet for District contacts.

Standing Committee report:

CBCW: Peggy Lauritsen – 42 people signed up this year. Some volunteers put literature at Bait Shops. We should be at landings 400 hours a season. We are not hiring kids to do 'voluntary' hours but we might have to. Our Landing Blitz was mentioned in the Amery Free Press which has a 5000 circulation.

APM: Jim Maxwell says Harvey is running good this year. Took out 6 loads of coontail compared to 85 last year.

On 6/30/2013 Jim Maxwell and Jim Filkins met with two fellows from the DNR and GLIFWC and received permission to expand cutting at the Belisle and Foley properties and near Lyle Sunde's property. Areas that were not permitted in the past.

Large mouth bass limits were discussed and DNR Fisheries agent Aaron Cole encouraged us to keep everything the same. Vicky Dorner would like Aaron as a guest at a future meeting. The \$3010 GPS system that was purchased last fall allows the Harvey driver to punch in the coordinates and not cover the same ground he just went over. Fixed head on Harvey by rearranging small motors; runs quieter now.

EPP Grant (AIS) Sam Weber reports that as we go to the next level of study we may qualify for a new grant. The Education, Prevention, and Planning Grant will involve more lake citizens for monitoring and CBCW activities and next summer there will be a Pontoon Classroom.

Core Sampling Grant Approval: The total for District's commitment to the core grant is \$8,000 over two years. Motioned to approve made by Jim Thorn, Ford Elliott seconded. Motion carried.

New Business:

No update from Polk Cty or from Georgetown.

Annual budget - Jim Filkins reports that insurance has gone up significantly. The board is actively looking for alternatives. Budget remains at \$20,000 per year. Vince Tueber/Ford Elliott motion to approve carries unanimously.

Wal Convention: Stevens Point hosts it this year. Ford Elliott strongly recommended that a board member attend. Tom Borden and Peggy Lauritsen volunteered to go this Spring (2014).

The 4th of July falls on a Friday in 2014 – the boat parade will be on that Friday at 4pm.

It was announced that the spring meeting in 2014 will be on May 17th (third Sat in May) and the Annual meeting will be on August 16, 2014 (third Sat in August).

Adam Elliott volunteered to be a commissioner; Elliott/Filkins motion carried.

Motion to adjourn made by Ford Elliott / Seconded by Vicky Dorner. Adjourned 10:15 a.m.