

BLAKE LAKE P&R DISTRICT (BLPRD) – Spring Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: May 19, 2018

FINAL June 28, 2018

The BLPRD Spring Meeting at Georgetown Lutheran Church was called to order by Co-Chair Sam Rivers Weber at 9:07 am. Board Members present: Sam Rivers Weber/Co-Chair, Shelley Rodriguez/ Commissioner, Jen Wistrick/Treasurer, Peggy Lauritsen/Secretary, Communications and Adam Elliott/Co-Chair.

The agenda was approved with flexibility unanimously. Motion to approve the August 2017 Annual Meeting minutes by Jim Filkins, 2nd the motion Steve Morrell. Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Report (Jen Wistrick)

Reviewed current account balances as of 4/30/2018:

Savings Account	\$ 5.00
Money Market	\$129,258.22
Dam Account	\$ 6,127.29
BL Account	\$ 22,126.09

Year	Annual Expense	Details
2016	\$2,457.30	Chain, Hydraulic Pump, Gear
2017	\$ 451.24	Hydraulic Motor, F/R Switch
Initial Balance	Total Expense	Current Capital Reserve
\$50,000.00	\$ 2,908.54	\$47,091.46

- Capital Reserve of \$50K established in 2013 is now at \$47,091.46
- Question on how many loan payments have been made on dam loan: 3 payments total have been made and we have collected special assessment for 2 years 2016 and 2017.

Dam Update (Adam Elliott):

- Approval for dam plans received August 2017. With this late approval there was not enough time to get bids out and project done and the likelihood of a grant being potentially available for 2018.
- April 23rd, 2018, we sent out advertisement for bids.
- April 30th Dam grant submitted to DNR. We are awarded points based off different categories (emergency plan etc....). If we are awarded a DNR grant, it covers 50% of costs.
- May 2018, bids opened, we received bids from 5 companies for \$331K, \$312K 300K, \$257K, and \$205K. The \$205K bid was a company Larry Gotham has worked with successfully. Our most recent project estimate from Larry Gotham, dam project engineer was \$257,000.
- DNR Dam Grant recipients will be announced by July 5th, 2018.
- Construction should start in July 2018 and finish by August 30, 2018. The DNR will need to review and approve construction.

Lake Plan (Shelly Rodriguez):

Reviewed upcoming events and lake management goals we need volunteers for. Announcement of Water & Wildlife Mixer, a fun way to learn about volunteering at the lake, at the Eagle Lounge, 11am-noon, May 26th, 2018. BL Bingo game introduced. There are six lake goal teams that need volunteers, see Shelley for details.

WI Lakes Convention (Peggy Lauritsen):

Our district benefits by sending representatives to the annual state conference. We gain networking with nearby lake districts in watershed, information that supports our Dam ownership and maintenance, Board member education and training, access to state and county-level discussions and free literature for our members. Topics of interest this year were shoreline restoration, watershed management, blue-green algae toxins, threats to loons and capacity building for lake organizations through allied partnerships working on shared goals within the watershed. The dates for the next convention are April 10-12, 2019.

AIS (Aquatic Invasive Species) – Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) (Peggy Lauritsen):

Our AIS plan is to “control + prevent”. Key components of the plan are:

- Harvesting - invasive weed, curly leaf pondweed
- Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program - check boats, educate boaters at landings
- Educate members – meetings 2x year, displays, website, newsletter
- Monitoring for new invasives: zebra mussels, eurasian milfoil (paid biologist monitors 276 intercepts, 2 times per season; (4) zebra mussel traps placed in lake
- Rapid response plan ready for new infestations

Our CBCW goals this year are 300-400 volunteer hours at the landings and 400 paid staff hours. A DNR grant that covers 75% of the cost for 400 hours of paid time. There is a job description (handout) for the paid hours and will be posted on the website. It pays \$12 hour. There is a persisting state and countywide threat of invasives, especially zebra mussels and Eurasian milfoil. Lakes infested with these two big threats were reviewed (see also www.blakelake.org/invasives). There will be CBCW refresher training at the landings on June 9. The CBCW end-of-season potluck at the landing is Saturday, Sept. 8, 4-6pm. See more at <https://blakelake.org/events/>.

Aquatic Plan Management -Harvesting (APM) (Jim Maxwell):

- Harvester was put in on Tuesday May 15th, 2018. One pass made this week and there were very minimal weeds on first pass.
- 1419 hours total on the harvester. Working good and we continue to maintain it.
- New weed on lake Elodea which is native plant. Jim confirmed with Polk County representative it is a good weed to have. They are often found floating on top.

EPP/AIS/HL Grants (Sam Rivers-Weber):

Closed out EPP Grant and received reimbursement just over \$38K. New grants that are open are Health Lakes and Clean Boats Clean Waters.

continued

Healthy Lakes (Peggy Lauritsen):

Presentation and update given. See <https://blakelake.org/records>. Native baby trees given out at the meeting encourage the planting of native trees on lake properties and are from DragonFly Gardens & Nursery in Amery, WI. Upcoming events announced.

- Healthy Lakes Grant #1 for \$22K for shoreline and water runoff projects. 13 properties are participating. There will be a tour of completed projects Sept. 1, see <https://blakelake.org/events>.
- Healthy Lakes Grant #2 will start in May 1, 2019 so sign up would occur in August 2018.
- What members can do to improve water quality: STOP MOWING - 4 feet from shoreline; PLANT NATIVE plants, trees, shrubs; UPDATE SEPTIC system – inspected; GET FREE advice about runoff on your site on Friday, August 24, “**Ask The Expert**” – **Property Visits**. Sign up for a time slot. Expert biologist, Jeremy Williamson, Polk County Land and Water Resources 30-minute site visit from 9am to 4pm. Free.
- We asked Jeremy Williamson “**How are we doing at managing water quality on Blake Lake**”? His advice: “STAY THE COURSE”...continue: harvesting to reduce impact of invasive curly leaf pondweed/weeds, continue Healthy Lakes practices - shoreline plantings, managing runoff, in the future provide financial support or incentives for “watershed councils” involving agriculture, partner with nearby lake districts and he has a high concern to remain diligent about threats of blue-green algae.

Communications (Peggy Lauritsen): Presentation and update given on 5 ways communications are provided to members. The website is updated regularly, see www.blakelake.org.

Other general comments:

- Jim Filkins noted there are loons nesting on small island on east side of the lake. Stay clear 200 feet.
- Harvester driver Dale Butler passed away this past March.
- Ken Knutson, reported a wrapping vine found on the shoreline which is killing the native plantings.

Announcements (Sam Rivers-Weber)

- Saturday August 18th, 2018 Annual Meeting 8:00 AM
- June 30th, 2018 Boat Parade 4:00 PM. Meet on Sherrard’s end and parade around the whole shoreline.
- June 30th, 2018 Pontoon Tie-up middle of the lake 6:00 PM.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Sue Ogren, 2nd by Joan Maxwell. Meeting adjourned at 10:32 am.

A total of 56 attended the Spring Meeting.

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