

**BLUE SPRING LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 6, 2021 8:00AM
Virtual Zoom Meeting**



**Meeting Minutes
Reviewed but Not Yet Approved By Board**

8:00 A.M. Call to Order

- Board members present at the meeting were Jim Hochman, Greg Bauer, Paul Cannestra, Dick Natrop, Weenonah Brattset, Roger Igielski, and Walt Christiansen.
- Staff members Cheryl Peters and Greg Twelmeyer were in attendance.
- Patricia Cicero (Director, Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Department and Susan Graham of Wisconsin DNR also attended.

Secretary's Report – Paul Cannestra

- Agenda – Approval of agenda for February 6, 2021 Board Meeting. Motion to approve by Paul. Walt Christiansen 2nd. Carried without a negative vote.
- Minutes - Approval of minutes from November 14, 2020 Board Meeting. Motion to approve by Paul. Dick Natrop 2nd. Carried without a negative vote.

Sewer Report - Greg Twelmeyer

- Update on upgrades to SCADA computer system by LW Allen
 - LW Allen started putting panels out. The weather has prevented them from doing much work.
 - The computer upgrade is done but there are some issues with the computer, unable to print out January reports. LW Allen programmer will be trying to figure it out.
- Status of VisuSewer sewer repairs –
 - Contract – Approved by Board at meeting. Signed by J. Hochman 11/14/2020.
 - No activity until spring.
- Sewer Bill Payment Options
 - No update on getting sewer bills onto tax bill rather than BSLMD quarterly billing. Greg Bauer and Walt Christiansen will discuss.
- Update on roof over the panel located near the pumphouse
 - Dick Natrop needs to follow up.
- Sewer: Flow Rates Data
 - Daily flow believe to be in the 17-18,000 gallon range, though without written report.
 - Jim Hochman asked when the last time was that East Troy upgraded its sewer treatment plant. Greg responded that a major upgrade was done 10 years ago. Greg did not know if sewer rates to East Troy residents were increased at that time.
- Greg has a proposal for panel cleaning which should be done this summer. Will forward on to Cheryl.

Dam Report - Jim Olson No one had any information. Pass on the dam report

Operations Report - Dick Natrop

- Buoys order. Buoys ordered, got lower price. Ready in early April. Trapper will pick them up. They will go in after the water level is raised.
- Need for DNR permit for launch berm repair –
 - Permit issued in 2013 covers the current required maintenance work.
 - Can be done safely after June 15th. Trapper will contact R&W to get the work done.
 - Put in a silt fence.
 - Cost is \$11,000 Greg Bauer thinks the Town will split this with us. Weenonah will get it on the Town Agenda for approval.
- Weed spray request for the use of ProcellaCor
 - Its too early to assess our chances for spraying. Once we can get back on the lake, a survey can be done. The West Bay and where else?
 - Patricia Cicero and Susan Grey joined our meeting for this agenda item.
 - ProcellaCor was approved by the EPA in 2017. It has been fast tracked for usage on northern lakes but also Whitewater Lake and Silver Lake in Kenosha. In some instances, it doesn't work and they don't know why.
 - In the review process, it was determined that it has a negative impact on native species. It is also very clear that ProcellaCor does not stay in the treated area, but moves and can travel up to one mile.
 - Currently the DNR is backing off on herbicide treatments because of the spread and lack of specificity of plants that are killed. In our lake, native Coon Tail is susceptible. We also have hybrid Milfoil which is less susceptible to most herbicides including ProcellaCor.
 - Despite all of this, our residents will want some kind of cleanup. Our control plan is mechanical, manual, herbicide, and/or biological control. Susan Graham proposes fine turning our strategy for re-harvesting plan. We would need a new plan in order for herbicide approval. Jim Hochman suggested Susan do a presentation at our informational meeting. Board agreed that Ms. Cicero and Ms. Graham should be invited to informational meeting in May.
 - A plan was suggested, by Ms. Graham, for better mechanical control by starting early and deep cutting. This has been successful on Lake Monona. Might need to get deeper cutter bar for our harvester. Dick will check with Trapper to see how early we can get the harvester in the water and how deep can we cut. Typically, we start mid-May in a warm spring. Water level raised April 15th, Trapper can start then. Our aquatic plant management plan has much of this information available.
 - Most complaints come from weeds around piers. Because of boats, the harvester can't get too close. A property owner can clear 30 feet of frontage and go out as far as you want and remove plant material. Plants must be removed from lake. However, native plants are important for fish and clear water. Patricia or Susan may be able to advise on native plants.
 - The Board's goal is to get information out and circulate our plan via the website and informational meeting.

Town Report – Weenonah Brattset

- Results of the town Caucus

- Held Jan 16th to approve Supervisors. Three candidates ran unopposed: Larry Kau, Weenonah Brattset and Dick Natrop
- Process to appoint a clerk/treasurer
 - Currently seeking a clerk/treasurer. Job description has been sent to two people who are interested in the job. The town would like the position filled asap. Dee Dee Moratek has been filling in and done a wonderful job, but she is the village clerk.
- RR crossing at Marsh Rd is a high priority – it is very dangerous. Updates of signals will happen within 4 years. Senator Baldwin’s office was helpful and is looking for grants that might make this happen sooner. Ed Miller and Weenonah Brattset were instrumental in making this possible.
- Fire and EMS contract negotiations will begin soon. Pete Sommerhauser and Dick Natrop are on committee.
- Roger Igielski asked about getting the speed signs on Highway H. Weenonah said they cannot be moved until repaving of Little Prairie Road is complete. One of them will record, which will give us proof of speeding and we can ask to get a Sheriff to monitor drivers. Weenonah and Walt will work together to acquire county’s approval for sign relocation.
- Dick Natrop reported that given the snowfall the plows are doing a pretty good job. We have a new operator who is now getting closer to the mailboxes.
- Trapper plows out public access areas, the composite site and any other areas that are close to sewer control panels.

County Report – Walt Christensen

- Walt did speak with John Jenson about collections being handled through tax bill. It is possible, can be done. Because the county cannot collect on services that are not provided, there could be a long delay (as much as year) because the fees would be collected in arrears.
- During last year’s budget process there was an issue where budget did not include funding for the water resource area. Walt and Susan went to meetings and asking for consideration to make money available. 50% funding and \$15K in DNR grant was obtained that would be added to a position. Jim H supported endeavor for more funds.
- Vaccinations in Jefferson County: 500 slots were filled in 10 minutes on the day Dick N signed up. The hang ups are at the state and federal level. Sometimes vaccinations that can be delivered, are not known to county until same day. The problems will get worked out. Information for how to sign up at the county: Go into Jefferson County website and go to Health Department. Go to COVID Vaccinations. Sign up on the Survey Monkey list.

Treasurer’s Report - Greg Bauer

- Quarterly Financial Review – P&L we’ve done very well.
 - Boat launch was \$4,400 vs \$2,200 as budgeted.
 - 4th of July celebration, Insurance, Labor, and Dam were under budget.
 - Total office expenses, and Lake Management were right on budget.
 - \$30K in Sewer Repairs that were not used last year, will be used this year.
 - Outside services over budget due to legal fees not related to sewer
 - Compost site a little bit over.
 - Overall lake management 28K under budget. Repairs were less because new

- harvester. Weed payroll under because not as many weeds.
- At the end of the day, we are \$50 -60,000 under budget.
- We will go out for insurance bid in the next renewal period.
- Will make a recommendation for cash to be moved to LGIP funds.
- With the increase in sewers fees from the Village of Palmyra, do we absorb the increase with our savings or increase the fees we charge residents? Presently, we will absorb the increase.
- Draft year-end financial review – No other questions for Greg.
- Audit report – currently collecting information needed. It is earlier this year.

Old Business – Sewer Contract

No need to go into closed session. Everything to be discussed is public record.

- BSLMD does not have a current contract in place with the Village. The Village has come to us with a proposal for rates given the upcoming improvements to their sewage treatment plant. We received notice for new 60% increase effective Jan 1.
- Town and County has gone over the proposal very carefully. Gene Laschinger (of T&C) said the Village’s proposal is fair and reasonable with two exceptions:
 - The Village holds a reserve for replacement of the sewer system that is \$456,920. These funds, as the Village lays it out, will not be moving into the new plant.
 - Yearly revenue exceeds costs.
- The Village board has approved the increase rates despite these two things. The plant will be funded by a grant so no need to come up with a down payment. There will be debt service included in the cost of the new plant and what we pay.
- When we renegotiate our contract, we hope to stipulate that money from the above two items be utilized. We are asking that the money for sewer stay within the sewer system and we are hoping to force that with our contract. The new contract should be a 20 year contract.
- Our cost from the Village will go from \$85,000/year to \$130,000/year. Typically, we have \$20-30,000 that we put into our LGIP Sewer fund as excess.
- We can absorb the increased costs in 2021 without additional increase.
- Plan to report on direction at information meeting.

New Business – Status on Nowak Building Code Issue (2021 VI00001) Weenonah Brattset

- Original permit was issued as a non-conforming building. It was approved to go from school building to living quarters. One floor limited to 1,400 square feet.
- Building inspector saw that a second floor has been put in.
- Owners have been caught out of compliance and are now asking for a height of 25 feet and two floors instead of 18 feet and one floor.
- Property owners are going to have to come Town board on Monday night to request a variance. They also have to notify property owners 3 lots all the way around, this is notification not approval.
- Weenonah sought the Board’s recommendation on how to proceed with the variance request.
- The board discussed past interactions and behaviors by the property owners. Their original variance for the property was denied, but they went ahead and built a two story garage any way. Board members have received many complaints about the condition of this property.

- Discussion was held on allowing the variance with the stipulation that the site must be cleaned up, trailers and building material removed. There has been no history of cooperation by the property owners of complying to requests or even their permit.
- The prevalent concern is continual disregard for rules and requests.
- Setting a precedent in this area can be a concern for all future building on the lake.
- It was noted that the property owners have the right to have the trailers as located.
- Height restrictions or variations of a permit that has previously been issued will not be permitted.

Other New Business

- Three Ski Show dates have been approved by the Board: Memorial Day Sunday, Fourth of July, Labor Day Sunday.
- Question about the 4th of July Parade start time. Emmy Twelmeyer proposed that we start before 10 when it is cooler and accommodate children’s nap times. Others felt that we should accommodate extended families who might have to travel to the lake. A survey will be made of residents on this subject.

Jim thanked everyone for their time and input. Especially grateful to County and State water people for attending and their information.

10:05AM Adjourn – A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Roger Igielski and 2nd by Weenonah Brattset.

Future Board Dates - all Board Meetings dates are suggestions and are subject to change

- April 17, 2021 – Board Meeting
- May 29, 2021 – Blue Spring Lake Management District Informational Meeting
- June 19, 2021 – Board Meeting