



## LAC LA BELLE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

[www.llbmd.org](http://www.llbmd.org)

Commissioners Meeting  
**THURSDAY, May 20, 2021– 7:00 P.M.**

### **Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall**

6812 Brown Street  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

*“The LLBMD seeks to promote environmentally conscious and fiscally responsible decisions by providing education, enhancing a healthy lake ecosystem and ensuring safe use of Lac La Belle for today and tomorrow.”*

#### Minutes

1. Call to Order

D. Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

2. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present

Dan Bauer  
Ernie Bollinger  
Jeff Bode  
Karen Carr  
Jim Groose  
Dave Zimmermann

Absent

Terry Largent

3. Comments from the Floor – None.

4. Correspondence

Emails

Various emails from Brooke Donovan, City of Oconomowoc, regarding Lake Level Reports (3/25, 4/9, 4/30, and 5/7)

March 25, 2021 – Ben Heussner – Lac La Belle Carp Barrier

March 29, 30 & 31, 2021 – Larry Rickart – LLB Shoal Markers

March 30, 2021 – Brad Steckart - Register Today For LCCW's April 21st Quarterly Meeting

March 31, 2021 – WiDNR Rock River Recovery – April Newsletter

April 1, 2021 - Aquatic Invasive Species Update –April 2021

April 2, 2021- Ann Schref – Shoreline Restoration

April 4, 2021 – Lisa Conley – New Website

April 13 & 14, 2021 – Mark Frye - Re: Lac La Belle Carp Barrier Contractor

April 14, 2021 – Brad Steckart - LCCW's April 21st Quarterly Meeting Is Just One Week Away!

April 15, 2021 – Julie Larsen – Shoreland

April 20, 2021 – Max Wolter – Walleye Plan Update & Research Need

April 26, 2021 – Lisa Conley - Re: Draft Aquatic Vegetation Plan For Lac La Belle  
April 29, 2021 - Ginny Pease - Re: Draft Aquatic Vegetation Plan For Lac La Belle  
May 3, 2021 – WiDNR Rock River Recovery – May Newsletter  
May 5, 2021 - Darrell Smith - Re: Field Cover On Creek Feeding Lac Labelle  
May 10, 2021 – Wisconsin Lakes - Lake District Treasurer Training: A Thur @ 4 Webinar  
May 11, 2021 – Beth Hoefer-Jeso – Spring 2021 Issue Of The Oconomowoc Watershed  
Protection Program Newsletter Streamings  
May 13, 2021 – Wisconsin Lakes - Reminder: Comments On Aquatic Plant Treatment Notice  
Requirements  
May 18, 2021 – Mike Jones – LLBMD 5-20-21 Mtg - Goose Round-Up Info  
May 19, 2021 – Ginny Pease - May 20 Meeting Question

5. Approval of March 25, 2021 LLBMD Meeting Minutes

**E. Bollinger moved to approve the minutes from the March 25, 2021 LLBMD Meeting as presented. J. Groose seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

6. Treasurer's Report

J. Groose reviewed and discussed the Treasurer's Report.

**E. Bollinger moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. J. Bode seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**K. Carr moved to approve payment authorizations as presented. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

a. Update On 2020 Audit

An auditor had been found to conduct the 2020 audit. Additional information would be available at the 2021 Annual Meeting.

7. Discuss & Act On Carp/ DNR Roughfish Contract

There was nothing to report at this time.

8. Discuss & Act On West Wisconsin Dam Grates

D. Bauer met with City of Oconomowoc Public Works Director Mark Frye and Ben Heussner, DNR Fisheries Biologist, at the West Wisconsin Avenue dam since the last meeting to discuss what options were available to assist in keeping carp from moving through the dam into Lac La Belle. The bars on the dam needed repair before the grates could be added. In addition, the spillway was wide open, and another grate would need

to be built to stop carp from coming through the spillway. Various alternatives to keep the carp from migrating into Lac La Belle had been discussed at the meeting at the dam. Estimates for the repair work and alternatives were needed. A crane was needed to hoist the dam grates onto the dam which would increase the cost of the project. A maintenance agreement would be required in the future for the dam grates.

9. Discuss & Act On Lac La Belle Streambank Restoration Project

Discussion took place regarding the letter sent to the Village of Lac La Belle regarding a continued commitment to the Lac La Belle Streambank Restoration project at the Club at Lac La Belle golf course once the golf course work was brought into compliance with DNR requirements. Bringing areas of the project into compliance were underway. Once completed, notification of compliance would be provided to the LLBMD.

10. Discuss & Act On Lake Country Clean Waters (LCCW) Request For Donations

The Lake Country Clean Waters (LCCW) organization requested consideration of a donation. The LCCW hosted the Healthy Lakes Conference each year and provided valuable informational resources to the LLBMD.

**J. Bode moved to donate \$1,000 to the Lake County Clean Waters organization. K. Carr seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

11. Update on 2021 Grants – Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant, Lake Planning Grant & Targeted Runoff Management Grant

J. Bode provided an update on the following grants:

*Clean Boats, Clean Waters (CBCW) Grant* - Erik Hanson had been hired as a new AIS Coordinator for Waukesha and Washington Counties. Two full-time interns had been hired to support CBCW activities for the summer season beginning Memorial Day weekend on Lac La Belle and on other area lakes in Waukesha County. Discussion took place regarding the need for additional tools on the CBCW signage that boat launch.

*Targeted Runoff Management Grant* – Information pertaining to this grant had been covered in Item 9 on the agenda.

*Lake Planning Grant* – Work on this grant involved completion of the Aquatic Vegetation Plan based on Point Intercept Survey results.

a. Discuss & Act On Aquatic Vegetation Plan & Point Intercept Survey Results

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item 13 on the agenda. J. Bode explained the history of the Lake Planning Grant activity, noting that the grant opportunity was first discussed when B. Heussner provided information to Commissioners about water quality relative to the Lac La Belle carp population. Little information had been gathered regarding the aquatic plants in the lake at that time. One of the goals for carp control was to improve the water quality. In attempting to manage carp control, aquatic plant information was requested by B. Heussner which resulted in the Aquatic Vegetation Survey conducted by Onterra, Inc. in 2020 via a Point Intercept Study (PIS). At that time, the LLBMD agreed to commit to doing the Aquatic Vegetation Survey to provide B. Heussner data for better carp control and the LLBMD would also be responsible for planning an Aquatic Vegetation Plan (AVP). The LLBMD was awarded a Lake Planning Grant from the Wisconsin DNR to contract with Onterra, LLC to conduct a whole-lake PIS of rooted aquatic vegetation in 2020. The PIS was conducted in 2020 and the findings provided in a report to the Commissioners in advance of the meeting.

The Lake Planning Grant currently held approximately \$4,500 after Onterra's work was complete. The original goal was to convene the group after doing the survey to write the AVP. After talking with several scientists, engineers, and other lake scientists with a similar background to J. Bode, he was able to draft the AVP. Writing a plan had seemed an obvious next step because the PIS showed sparse vegetation and the existing vegetation no longer reached the previous depths in prior years. In addition, there was a significant decreasing trend in water clarity from 2010-2020 with the average decline of approximately 3.0 feet. The reduction in water clarity affected the aquatic plants and indicated a need to do some work within the watershed to consider sediments coming into the lake and being churned from the lake bottom.

The good news was that the LLBMD was already taking several steps that would be recommend in the AVP, such as Shoreland Restoration, Clean Boats, Clean Waters program participation to prevent AIS from entering the lake, monitoring of the water clarity, and working with other partners in the watershed to continue to mitigate stormwater runoff in key locations. Also, the aquatic plants found in Lac La Belle were fairly diverse in population.

The AVP written by J. Bode had been shared with 10 scientists at Onterra, DNR staff, and UW- Stevens Point Extension staff with positive feedback received. The goal of the AVP was see an increase in water clarity over the next 10 years. With water clarity improvements, light would again be able to reach the aquatic plants to stimulate plant growth for native plants that helped to keep the lake healthy. The goal could be achieved by working through eight key elements. The first element was to support investments in watershed projects to reduce the loading of algal stimulating nutrients and light-reducing

suspended solids from entering the lake.

Rain gardens were one way of supporting watershed projects in addition to the current Shoreland Restoration Program. Additional future discussions were needed about rain garden features and the benefits they could bring to the lake. The second element was that water quality monitoring should continue, and grants should be sought, to measure nutrient and suspended solid loading to the lake from tributary streams and the Oconomowoc River to target pollution control opportunities. Soft sediment bay area protection was also a key element in improving water clarity. Lac La Belle had several areas with soft sediments and consideration should be given to protecting those areas with revised "Slow No Wake" boating ordinances and strategic placement of marker buoys. The fourth element involved carp removal and control through continued cooperation with the DNR Fisheries Management to commercially harvest carp and to explore replacement of failed downstream barriers with the City of Oconomowoc and DNR. Fifth, the AIS prevention efforts needed to be supported through AIS grants and control efforts, such as the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program. Aquatic Plant Management was the sixth element. The LLBMD should continue to seek to limit the control of plants only when and where necessary in public swimming areas and boating channels or to remove new invasive species threats. Ongoing efforts to provide technical assistance and funding in support of Shoreland Restoration project was considered important. The seventh element involved vegetative surveys. The LLBMD should conduct whole-lake PIS every 10 years and annual surveys of vegetative growth patterns and depths to better understand the littoral zone growth. Last, the LLBMD would seek to raise awareness and inform lake users and residents about the vital role that aquatic plants play in lake health and how best to protect them.

Discussion ensued regarding soft sediment bay protection opportunities and locations in Lac La Belle. J. Groose offered to assist J. Bode in the soft sediment bay protection efforts. Discussion also took place on the expenditures associated with repair of the electrical barrier downstream near Ixonia relative to the repair of the dam grates and repeated maintenance needs. It was noted that a rare yellow lily had been found in Lac La Belle. These had been planted in Beggs Isle in the 1920's as part of the historic Floating Garden and some still remained. These lilies should be protected. Overall if people chose to do nothing in this matter, there was a great deal at risk. The trends of declining water clarity were disturbing and protection of plants in the lake started with overall watershed protection measures. Secchi disk readings of water clarity used to be seven to ten feet and were now only three to four feet in depth. While some expected all water issues to be the result of poor upstream water, this was not the case. The water coming from Fowler Lake appeared clearer than that of Lac La Belle. Despite mitigation efforts underway at the northern end of the lake, it would take at least five years for the area to settle out and water clarity to return. The next step involved approval of this plan and then sharing it with other adjacent municipalities. In addition, a change of scope in the grant would allow the remaining \$4,500 funding to be used to assist in some of the

monitoring elements of the plan.

**D. Zimmermann moved to accept the Aquatic Vegetation Plan to move forward with discussion with municipalities on the lake. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

**J. Groose moved to request a change of scope to allow water quality monitoring and to allow aquatic vegetation survey work to continue and to pursue a change of scope in the Lake Planning Grant to do this work. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

12. Discuss & Act On Walleye Plan Update & Research Need

E. Bollinger shared information pertaining to Walleye management and a potential need for further research into the productivity levels of walleye in Wisconsin lakes. No action was necessary.

13. Discuss & Act On North Lake Wake Boat Study & Recommendation For Ordinance Related To Wave Effects On Area Lakes

Information about wake boats and wave effects had been provided to Commissioners in advance of the meeting. Wave boats were different than wake boats. Wave boats were used to surf behind or beside a boat. These types of boats needed at least 30 feet of water in order to avoid stirring up lakebed sediments. Studies conducted in Idaho on a small shallow lake (six to seven foot depth) yielded findings that wave boats operating in shallow lakes left behind a lake without fish or plants due to wave boat use. This was concerning because approximately 70% of Lac La Belle was considered shallow in depth. In addition, waves from wave boats needed 300 feet on either side of the boat before the wave dispersed and started leveling off. This meant that a single wave required at least 600 feet before dissipation began to occur.

Discussion ensued regarding benefits to requesting wave boats operate in areas at least 200 feet from shore. Discussion also took place regarding what options were available to handle management of wave boats on Lac La Belle at this time. One option was to work with local municipalities to create ordinances that supported limitation of activity on the lake. Discussion ensued. J. Bode agreed to share the AVP for Lac La Belle as well as the wave boat studies with local municipalities to determine options to create awareness as well as management efforts, if desired.

14. Discuss & Act On 2021 Shoreland Restoration Program

There were currently six participants interested in the 2021 Shoreland Restoration program. K. Carr reviewed the locations of the potential participants. The program

budget would allow two participants per year. The criteria for participation was reviewed with Commissioners at this time. No action was necessary until all necessary paperwork was completed and Eco-Harmony staff had a chance to visit the properties. Additional information would be available at the next Commission meeting.

15. Discuss & Act On 2021 Goose Round-Up

Information about the 2021 Goose Round-Up program had been received from the USDA earlier in the day. In order to conduct the Goose Round-Up, 35-40 geese were required at minimum. There was no contaminant testing required this year. K. Carr and D. Bauer volunteered to assist in the Goose Round-Up if there were enough geese.

**K. Carr moved to proceed with the 2021 Goose Round-Up if there were enough geese present to warrant that the Round-Up take place. J. Groose seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

16. Discuss & Act On 2021 Annual Newsletter

The 2021 Annual Newsletter was distributed to all LLBMD residents and local municipalities on May 5, 2021.

17. Update On LLBMD Website

Lake level reports, Aquatic Invasive Species updates, historical information, photos, events, several organizational newsletters including the 2021 LLBMD Newsletter, and other information had been added to the LLBMD website since the last meeting. Prioritization of events with local partners relative to posting information on the website in the future was discussed.

18. Agenda Items For Next Meeting –July 15, 2021

- Update on West Wisconsin Avenue Dam Grates
- Update on Lac La Belle Creek Restoration Project at the Club at Lac La Belle
- Update on 2021 Grants – Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant, Lake Planning Grant & Targeted Runoff Management Grant Including Point Intercept Survey Report
- Update On 2021 Goose Round-Up
- Update on the 2020 Audit
- Discuss & Act on Carp/Commercial Roughfish Contract
- Discuss & Act on 2022 Preliminary Budget
- Discuss & Act on Annual Meeting Date
- Discuss & Act on Annual Meeting Budget Hearing Notice and Agenda
- Discuss & Act On 2021 Shoreland Restoration

Various Board members noted scheduling conflicts with the August 19, 2021 Annual Meeting date. The Board agreed to tentatively schedule the Annual Meeting for Thursday, September 2, 2021.

19. Adjournment

**K. Carr moved to adjourn the May 20, 2021 Lac La Belle Management District meeting at 9:38P.M. J. Groose seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.**

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.