



LAC LA BELLE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

www.llbmd.org

Commissioners Meeting
THURSDAY, July 15, 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 7:01 P.M.

2. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present

Dan Bauer

Ernie Bollinger

Karen Carr

Jim Groose

Dave Zimmermann

Absent

Terry Largent

Jeff Bode

3. Comments from the Floor – None.

4. Correspondence

Emails

Various emails from City of Oconomowoc, regarding Lake Level Reports
(5/20, 6/29, 7/7, and 7/9)

May 21, 2021 – AIS Update – May 2021

June 1, 2021 - WIDNR Rock River Recovery –June Newsletter

June 1, 2021 – Ben Heussner – Lac La Belle Roughfish Management

June 3, 2021 – Brad Steckart - Join Us For LCCW's Next Quarterly Meeting - June 23rd at 6 pm
- via Zoom

June 9, 2021 – Brad Steckart - Reminder - Lake Carrying Capacity & Recreation Impacts
Webinar

June 10, 2021 – Wisconsin Lakes - NW WI Lakes Conference, Online in 2021

June 14, 2021 – Brad Steckart - Lake Country Clean Waters Quarterly Meeting - June 23rd

June 23, 2021 – Horton Group - [Newsletter] New Trends in Claims for Public Entities

June 28, 2021 – Alex Delvoe - Re: 2020 CBCW Grant Payment Request Reminder

July 2, 7 & 8, 2021 – Ross Kopfer – Carp

July 12, 2021 – Lisa Conley - Fwd: New Legislation impacts - MLR Legislative Update
July 13, 2021 – AIS Update – June 2021
July 15, 2021 – Lisa Conley – Website Link Suggested
July 15, 2021 – Accurate Business Communications, Inc. – Recording Secretarial Services

5. Approval of May 20, 2021, LLBMD Meeting Minutes

E. Bollinger moved to approve the minutes from the May 20, 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

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and discussed.

E. Bollinger moved to approve the Treasurer's Report and to authorize payments as presented. D. Zimmermann seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

a. Update On 2020 Audit

Efforts were underway to complete the 2020 Audit Report that would be presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting. No audit issues were anticipated.

7. Presentation by Jeff Riedemann Re: Carp/ DNR Roughfish Contract

Jeff Riedemann, Commercial Carp Fisherman, Tony Havranek, of WSB & Fish 20, were present via Zoom along with **Ben Heussner, DNR Fisheries Biologist.** T. Havranek explained his work experience, noting he had been part of many collaborative projects between the Wisconsin DNR and the US Fish & Wildlife services as a Tribal Land & Water Resource Manager for the Chippewa. In 2017 he began working with WSB on invasive Asian Carp issues using a holistic applied science approach to gain perspective by getting a population estimate to establish a sustainable management plan for the carp. Many aspects of fish management, including electrofishing, carp telemetry, barriers, etc., were used in that scientific approach. He also worked with Fish 20, a subsidiary of WSB, which was the largest live fish buyer in the US.

J. Riedemann explained he had been President of the MN Commercial Fisherman's Association for the past 27 years. In 1989 he started with his first seine net and began commercial fishing. Markets had changed over time. Fish 20 was the only live fish hauler of carp in the U.S.A. today. There was no demand for dead carp and already low prices were being artificially propped up by Asian Carp removal. If he were to try to sell carp in Minnesota or Wisconsin, they would only make a dime per pound of fish. He

made several trips to Lac La Belle last year and noted the lake had several eccentricities. Seine netting would be limited in the lake due to the shallow areas with deeper waters that dropped off quickly. Fish that were in locations in the fall would not leave deeper water areas until spring. In some lakes, the Buffalo Carp would move into the shallows, but the lakebed would not allow seining to occur in this way in Lac La Belle. When netting fish, a gradual drop-off area was required because the bottom of the nets were under a great deal of pressure. The nets acted like a board sweeping along the bottom of the lake. They could be manipulated but the slower the net was pulled, the more it would drape. If a gap was left underneath, the Common Carp would get out. Buffalo Carp were higher swimmers. In consideration of netting Lac La Belle, the northeasterly areas of the lake had many fish cribs on the bottom, the northern end had sailboat anchors and the westerly side was so rocky that a seine net would not be able to move through that area. Sonar under the ice helped to indicate the presence of carp but he could not confidently estimate more than 250 pounds of carp per acre due to the water clarity. Influx of fish from the Rock River was another large variable in estimating the number of carp in the lake. In 2019, the southern end of the lake had a large number of Common Carp and Buffalo Carp in it. Last year he made five trips to Lac La Belle and could not find fish anywhere. For this reason, he did not get a permit to fish last year. In addition, COVID-19 affected the way fish were sold. Two-thirds of the fish that he had seen in the past would be undersized and could not be sold in the market. Buyers did not want Buffalo Carp in the same way they did in the past. The number of Common Carp available was a limiting factor along with the price of fish. If future netting were to occur, it would be important to take the time needed to establish areas where he could go in under the ice where there were no impediments on the lake bottom. Having nets get caught on the lake bottom was a very dangerous situation for the crew and in some cases, crew members had lost limbs working with the netting as a result of getting hung up on logs or other lakebed debris. He had worked with moving some debris on Minnesota lakes with some success and this could potentially help in this situation. He also wanted people to know that commercial fishing was not undertaken as an exercise in cheap labor. Insurance required skilled laborers on the job at an expense. Also, there would not be enough money in revenue for him to commercially fish the lake if the LLBMD decided to dump the fish. It was important to work smarter, not harder in this case. T. Havernak could help the District to do so in order to allow commercial fishing on Lac La Belle to take place as a result of his fish management and live fish buying/selling experience. Anyone else commercially fishing the lake would also end up working through T. Havernek because he was the only one in the U.S.A. currently doing what he does. At this point in time, it was not financially feasible for J. Riedemann to fish the lake this year. He was willing to enter into a contract if all were willing to work together and the contract could be renewed. Nets could possibly be pulled in deeper water if the impediments were not there. If there was no workable solution found in the winter or spring of next year, then it was time to admit defeat and dissolve the experimental roughfish contract.

T. Havranek questioned whether carp, existing phosphorus levels or other water quality

issues were causing problems on Lac La Belle. The overall limnological aspects of the lake relative to the carp and phosphorus loading into Lac La Belle was discussed. Water quality was an issue and was declining as noted in the Aquatic Plant Plan/Point Intercept Study results. There was also a carp issue and the aquatic plant life degradation in the lake helped to contribute to that. It was difficult to narrow the situation and focus on the cost for carp removal without having a contract and it was difficult to have a contract without knowing the value of the fish. B. Heussner explained a slightly outdated population estimate of carp was available; however, the number of carp would not fluctuate in recent years to the river depth, past removal of carp and virus impacts. A contract could potentially be modified as an experimental contract, but the issue of responsibility of payment still required resolution. An understanding of the population estimate was needed by T. Havranek prior to moving forward. All agreed about the need for collaborative efforts to move forward with realistic goals. Lake contours and scanning for potential obstructions to netting could be accomplished by side scanning under the ice. All were looking for cost estimates and next steps in the process. T. Havranek agreed to work with B. Heussner to move forward on a contract with cost estimates that would work for all. There could be opportunities to work with other watershed partners to bring about change that would be good for all stakeholders. Once the number of Common Carp and Buffalo Carp could be determined, additional emphasis could be given to project lakes by T. Havranek when looking for fish buyers. The existing Buffalo Carp needed to be thinned out and time granted to allow them to grow. In addition, the use of radio telemetry already underway for Carp locations was helpful. It did not make sense to embark on a project without understanding the full scale of the problem. Understanding the population biomass was the first step to understanding the overall situation of Lac La Belle. T. Havranek and B. Heussner would work together to determine the process and goals for moving forward. An estimate of work associated with the process and DNR contract requirements would be provided at a future LLBMD meeting.

8. Discuss & Act On West Wisconsin Dam Grates

City staff had contacted the company that originally installed the grates on the West Wisconsin Avenue dam, and all were awaiting an estimate for the work to re-install the grates.

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

Efforts were underway to continue to bring certain aspects of The Club at Lac La Belle design into compliance with the DNR. Removal of certain non-compliant elements was anticipated to take place at end of the golf season.

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

This item was placed on the next LLBMD meeting agenda.

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

This item was placed on the next LLBMD meeting agenda.

12. Discuss & Act On 2021 Shoreland Restoration Program

K. Carr explained she met with EcoHarmony Landscape & Design staff and five interested LLBMD residents to evaluate various potential projects for the 2021 Shoreland Restoration Program. There had been eight submittals for the 2021 Shoreland Restoration Program information and three applicants had decided to withdraw their submittals. She then reviewed the proposals for the Klein and Damron properties and an alternate property owned by L. Nugent.

E. Bollinger moved to proceed with working with the two recommended Shoreland Restoration projects as discussed at this meeting. J. Groose seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

13. Discuss & Act On 2021 Annual Meeting Date – September 2 ,2021

Due to scheduling conflicts, a change was necessary for the 2021 Annual Meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 19. It was suggested that the Annual Meeting date should be changed to Thursday, September 2, 2021.

K. Carr moved to change the 2021 Annual Meeting Date to September 2, 2021. E. Bollinger seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

14. Presentation by Linda Goehre – Recording Secretarial Services

Linda Goehre, of Goehre Creative, provided information about her past work experience related to providing recording secretarial services to the LLBMD in the future. L. Goehre was asked to provide a proposal of work at the next LLBMD meeting.

15. Discuss & Act on Preliminary 2022 Budget

The 2022 Preliminary Budget was discussed by Commissioners. Commissioners

discussed various aspects of the budget pertaining to fisheries management, various grant expenditures, lake, and watershed protection planning, and annual LLBMD programs such as Shoreland Restoration. Without certain grant amounts available at this time, it was difficult to complete the 2022 Preliminary Budget at this meeting. A meeting was needed in the future to complete the Preliminary 2022 Budget.

Bob and Lisa Conley, 516 Lac La Belle Drive, were present. B. Conley provided information about two parcels of land potentially for sale within the District boundaries. He requested the LLBMD consider purchase of these parcels in order to hold them in conservancy because of their relationship to area wetlands and impacts to Lac La Belle water quality. He also explained the historical perspective associated with the funding of the Lac La Belle Environmental Foundation (LLBEF). The LLBEF had been dormant for several years. Other nearby parcels of land had recently undergone significant vegetative cutting without permitted activity to do so. E. Bollinger suggested the LLBEF pursue these types of activities and return to the LLBMD with an action plan that could be considered.

16. Discuss & Act on Preliminary 2022 Budget Hearing Notice & Agenda

Additional information was needed for the Preliminary 2022 Budget and impacted the 2021 Annual Meeting Budget Hearing Notice & Agenda. Discussion ensued regarding holding another meeting to complete the 2022 Preliminary Budget and related 2021 Annual Meeting Agenda & Budget Hearing Notice. This item was moved to the Thursday, July 29, 2021, LLBMD meeting beginning at 7PM via Zoom.

17. Update On LLBMD Website

The Onterra Point Intercept Study Results and photos, Aquatic Vegetation Plan, lake level reports, monthly Aquatic Invasive Species updates, additional events such as the Paddle In Event, Light Up the Lake event, updated Healthy Lakes Conference and tentative change in Annual Meeting date had been added to the LLBMD website since the last meeting.

18. Agenda Items For Next Regular Meeting – October 21, 2021

The next meeting of the LLBMD was scheduled for Thursday, July 29, 2021, at 7PM via Zoom. The following agenda items were suggested for inclusion on that meeting agenda:

- Discuss & Act On Recording Secretarial Proposal
- Discuss & Act On 2022 Preliminary Budget
- Discuss & Act On 2021 Annual Meeting Agenda & Budget Hearing Notice

Agenda items for the next regular LLBMD meeting on October 21, 2021, were suggested as:

- Update On West Wisconsin Avenue Dam Grates
- Update On DNR/Commercial Fisherman Roughfish Contract
- Update On Lac La Belle Creek Restoration Project At The Club At Lac La Belle
- Update On 2021 Shoreland Restoration Program
- Update On 2021 Grants – Clean Boats, Clean Waters Grant, Lake Planning Grant & Targeted Runoff Management Grant Including Point Intercept Survey Report
- Discuss & Act On North Lake Wake Boat Study & Recommendation For Ordinance Related To Wave Effects On Area Lakes

19. Adjournment

E. Bollinger moved to adjourn the July 15, 2021, Lac La Belle Management District meeting at 9:24P.M. K. Carr seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.