



Minutes

Beaver Dam Lake District Annual Meeting

Aug 13,2022

Held at Beaver Dam High School 500 Gould St Beaver Dam , WI 53916

Meeting called to order at 9:33 am

Attendees:

Commissioners: Bill Foley, Dale Maas, Rich Hiley, Nicki Hupf, Gene Mazewski.

Guests: Rep. Mark Born, Beaver Dam Mayor Becky Glewen, Art Watkinson DNR

Tracey Propst Beaver Dam Chamber of Commerce

Minutes:

Motion to dispense with the reading of the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes made by Chairman Foley, second by Dale Maas and approved unanimously.

Chairman Foley welcomed and introduced the above guests. The meeting was attended by 79 electors and 4 guests,

Tracey Propst, Exec. Director of the BD Chamber of Commerce began with a presentation outlining the benefits of the lake to the local community. Included was a portion of a video of Dodge County made by Discover Wisconsin that highlighted Beaver Dam Lake and the community programs put on by the Beaver Dam Lake Improvement Association.

Chairman Foley then began the main presentation discussing the whole watershed of Beaver Dam lake and the impact of a 32 inch annual rainfall carrying nutrients and silt into the lake. The discussion centered on the the nutrient most responsible for creating the algae blooms on the lake, phosphorus. He highlighted sampling data collected by volunteers over a many years that are showing that the lakes Total Phosphorus (TP) numbers are moving in the right direction. He pointed to cooperative efforts by a number of agricultural producers making changes to their farms to reduce runoff and capture silt before it gets to the lake. He included discussion of the various sources of phosphorus entering the lake and the resuspension of phosphorus due to activities of an over abundant carp population.

Art Watkinson continues the discussion of algae and keeping phosphorus out of the lake. He demonstrated some sampling techniques to distinguish typical algae from the hazardous blue-green algae which is not actually an algae but a cyno bacteria. He pointed out that if he saw signs of blue-green algae in the lake, he would stay out of the water.

The discussion then moved to carp. Gene Mazewski reviewed the timeline of carp studies and commercial fishing for carp removal on the lake. A 2014 study to determine the biomass of carp in the lake concluded the lake contained 335 lbs. of carp per acre for a total of 2,200,000 pounds for the lake. A commercial harvest of 1,704,000 lbs was also carried out in 2014 which would be 77% of the above lake total. When considering that the harvest covers a few acres of the 6,800 acre lake, logic would dictate that there were considerably more than 2.2 million pounds of carp in the lake. Commercial fishing was halted after 2017 because of numerous issues with the program, and a DNR team was assigned to develop a new harvesting policy. That policy is now in place but the result is that no carp have been harvested from Beaver Dam lake since 2017.

Dale Maas who has been on the Wisconsin Conservation Commission for many years continued the discussion of the new policy noting that there are now new hoops to jump through before actually harvesting any carp. He pointed out the need to work with the DNR to avoid spending time and money to prove the obvious, BD lake has way too many carp and we need to move as quickly as possible to start

harvesting. Commercial fisherman do not want small carp, but it is necessary to remove small carp in addition to the large carp if we expect to pull down the biomass population in a reasonable time. We need

to find a way to get out the fish we need and still be profitable to the commercial fishermen. Once we get numbers down then bio predators such as bluegills may be able to help control the population.

Chairman Foley then moved into projects, the importance of volunteers and collaborations with other organizations. In collaboration with BDLIA funding has been secured through Dodge County and the ARPA federal program for the Rakes Bay project. This project will construct 2 weir dams in the upper bay to slow and diffuse runoff giving sediment a chance to settle into the wetlands and cattails where phosphorus will be trapped and kept from the lake.

The Puckagee springs funding is also secured from the state to correct serious erosion that has occurred on a DNR managed parcel of land in the upper stretch of the lake.

Residents near Edgewater Park are studying a badly degraded backwater in their neighborhood with the help of Kunkel Engineering. Based on the results of their study, the District may begin a restoration project there.

The Healthy Lakes project of the BDLIA has completed 16 native plantings projects.

A shoreline study will define and catalog habitat of the lake shoreline to support walleye reproduction. A compromise is needed with DNR for a practical survey due to our 51 miles of shoreline. The plan is to perform this work with volunteers.

Key Take Aways:

- BDL is an impaired water
- Volunteers are an essential resource
- Funding of projects is essential to effect improvements
- Water quality has improved over the past ten years

The Treasurers report was presented by Rich Hiley. Data that was sent to all members in the annual meeting notice was reviewed. An audit report completed by Debora Wells, an independent CPA was presented.

The proposed budget for next year was presented (also supplied earlier to members) and a substantial amount of discussion followed. The proposed budget and therefore tax is about half of last years because some projects were delayed and those moneys carried over to complete the work in 2023. Interestingly, members suggested adding money to the budget to build up for future work, but the District is legally prohibited from doing that. The budget was approved with no dissent.

Gene Mazewski then outlined the rules for the election of one (1) commissioner to a three (3) year term. One nomination was received by the commission prior to 21 days of the meeting in a form that met the requirements of District Policy and therefore that nominee's name was printed on the ballot. Mike Zimmer, the nominee was then allowed 3 minutes to introduce himself. The floor was then opened to accept nominations. The request for floor nominations was repeated at least three times with no additional nominations coming forward. An elector moved that nominations be closed and that the nominee be approved by unanimous consent. With no objections Mr. Zimmer was elected to the open position.

Following the election the floor was opened to public comments. Various topics of interest to the members were discussed. Most of the members stayed for this discussion. The commissioners were pleased with number of District members taking part in the meeting and the interest showed through out.

An elector, Dan Keyes, came forward and made a motion that the District study and report what the difference would be to parcels if taxed by appraised value vs the current uniform rate and report that at the next annual meeting. A member in the back seconded the motion, discussion took place and the motion was put to a vote. The motion failed with 29 against and 4 in favor.

Mr. Keyes then made another motion asking that the District contact the DNR about making certain public access areas into a sanctuaries for spawning panfish. After a bit of discussion to clarify the motion and how this could be done, a second to the motion was requested and none was made. The motion was dropped.

Following review of the above minutes, it was discovered that the two (2) motions made at the end of the meeting were actually out of order and should not have been permitted. State Statute Chapter 33.30 (2m) (c) covering Lake District annual meetings states that an item proposed for consideration must meet defined conditions. Because the conditions were not met, the motions were out of order.

Since action was not taken on either motion, no harm was done, and no further action will be taken by the commissioners.

A motion to adjourn was made and quickly seconded and unanimously approved.
Meeting adjourned at 12:01 pm

The Power Point presentation will be posted to the District website where more detail on the presentations can be found.

Respectfully submitted Aug 15, 2022

Gene Mazewski
Gene Mazewski Secretary