

Beaver Dam Lake District  
Minutes  
Annual Meeting  
August 14, 2021  
Beaver Dam High School Auditorium

The meeting was called to order by President Bill Foley at 9:30 am.

The following commissioners were present: Bill Foley, Rich Hiley, Dale Maas, Nicki Hupf and Bill Boettge.

Chairperson Foley welcomed attendees and introduced guests Mark Born, Assembly person representing the 39<sup>th</sup> District and Beaver Dam Lake District legal counsel, Bill O'Connor.

The program opened with a video showing how algae can result from excessive runoff of nutrients from agriculture, city storm sewers and waterfront property can damage and destroy lakes and rivers.

Beaver Dam Lake is has been declared an impaired lake by the EPA due to the high nutrient load primarily phosphorus. The lake has over 90,000 acres in its watershed which is primarily agriculture with a very high percentage of this in row crops.

In 2018 Beaver Dam Lake's phosphorus load was over 276,000 pounds of phosphorus. One pound of phosphorus produces five hundred pounds of algae. Agriculture runoff is a significant cause (45%) of this phosphorus load. The phosphorus load caused by carp is 33%. (UW WRM 2017)

In recent years there has been a strong movement by many farmers in Dodge County to implement best practices including no till, cover crops, etc which reduces the runoff of nutrients and soil.

In a recent shallow lake restoration review of Beaver Dam Lake by the DNR showed that the lake is moving in the right direction with the programs that are and can be implemented.

The carp problem in the Lake has increased especially since the DNR has stopped commercial fishing on the lake for the past three years. The DNR is currently preparing a new carp management plan. Some measures used in rough fish control are:

- Bio predators
- Habitat
- Commercial fishing
- Exclusion barriers

A carp bio mass study was completed in 2014 showed 335 pounds per acre which is on the threshold of dominating the lake and making it difficult for game and pan fish. An updated bio mass study is scheduled for this year or 2022.

Pelicans and cormorants continue to cause problems on the lake.

Based on the recent past we have to factor into our planning increased number of rainfalls dropping large amounts of rain and the temperature of lake increasing up to 4 degrees. This can result in more and larger algae outbreaks.

Two areas of the lake where we are concentrating our efforts:

1. Rakes Bay
  - a. Our research shows that 40 percent of our phosphorus load into the lake comes from Rakes Bay
  - b. We are developing a plan to reduce the phosphorus coming from this source
    - i. Instead of current straight line ditches, have meandering streams
2. Puckagee Springs
  - a. Thirty-five feet of shoreline has been eroded in the past 20 years.
  - b. We have developed a plan to extend the protection of this essential wetland for many years.

In addition to the above two projects we are working on projects in collaboration with:

- BDLIA
- Beaver Dam Water Utility with adaptive management practices
- Dodge County Healthy Soil – Healthy Water
- Fox Lake District
- Dodge County Land & Water Conservation Dept
- Dodge County Parks Dept on a project in Derge Park
- Beaver Dam Lake Development Corp
- Several farmers and land owners in the area
- DNR

All of this requires volunteers. Volunteers needed for:

- Buoy placement on the lake
- For lake monitoring – taking water samples etc
- Events on the lake
- Marketing and communication

Role of the DNR has changed

- The DNR no longer initiates planning for WI lakes but instead depends on the lake property owners through their lake district to be proactive in management of their lakes.
- DNR now provides the technical support
- DNR has reduced staff and now depends on lake volunteers
- Many DNR positions are currently vacant; for example
  - Local fish biologist – vacant
  - Regional Lake Management person – eliminated
  - Regional Water Quality - vacant

Commissioner Nicki Hupf reviewed how important Beaver Dam Lake is to the quality of not only lake residents but the community. We have to work at protecting and improving our lake.

In summary

- Beaver Dam Lake is an impaired lake
- We can and must reduce phosphorus in the lake
- The quality of the water equals the quality of the lake
- Time to act is critical
- The role of the DNR has changed and we must be more proactive and involved in our lake management

Treasurers Report

- Lake District was formed and began operations in March 2020
- Funded initial first 8 months with \$20,00 line of credit
- Could not have an annual meeting in 2020 because of COVID restrictions
- Operated on interim budget through December 31, 2021
- Our December 31, 2020 statement was reviewed and approved by a CPA

Budget for period Jan 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022 was presented and a motion for adoption was made and seconded. During the discussion on the motion the following comments were made:

- Instead of charging each parcel in the district the same amount the budget should be charged by assessed value
- It was pointed out that the commissioners choose to charge each parcel the same for simplicity and because the charge would be less than \$50 per parcel

A motion was made by Dan Keyes and seconded by Dave Monro to change the method of charging property owners from the special charge of the same amount for each parcel to charging based on assessed value of property. After discussion a vote was taken and motion was defeated.

Additional discussion continued that commissioners should review some of the properties because they are just marsh or wetland and not the same as residential properties.

The vote was then taken on the budget and the budget was approved as presented. (last page of these minutes along with annual meeting agenda)

#### Election of Commissioners

Three commissioners were to be elected.

The following were nominated. Behind the names are the votes each received per the count of the ballots by the election clerks:

Rich Hiley	70
Bill Boettge	79
Dale Maas	90
Chase Fletcher	38
David Munro	39
John Kuzniewicz	41
Patricia Kurth	26

Based on previous agreement the top vote getter, D Maas, receives a 3 year term, second most votes B Boettge a 2 year term and third most votes, R Hiley a 1 year term.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:15 am.

Respectively Submitted,

Bill Boettge, Secretary