



DRAFT MINUTES
TO BE APPROVED AT 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

BEAVER DAM LAKE DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 2024
BEAVER DAM HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
500 GOULD STREET
BEAVER DAM, WI 53916

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 8:30 AM, MEETING STARTS AT 9:30
AM

Meeting called to order at 9:31 AM

Attendees: Bill Foley, Mike Zimmer, Nicki Hupf, Gene Mazewski, Dale Maas

Guests: Mark Born – State Representative / William O’Conner- Lake District attorney/ Mike Wissell - Beaver Dam Mayor / Laura Stremick - DNR Fisheries Supervisor/ Arthur Watkinson-DNR

Attendance: = 62

Chairman Foley Introduced District Commissioners and Guests in attendance.

Motion to approve minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting made by Dale Maas, seconded by Mike Zimmer and approved unanimously.

Steve Carpenter was introduced as the first speaker. Dr. Carpenter has worked on water quality and fisheries problems of Wisconsin’s lakes since 1974. He is a world acclaimed limnologist with numerous awards and publications. His presentation centered around the water quality history of lake Mendota, one if not the most studied lakes in the world.

European explorers arrived in the 1830’s and found a pristine, crystal clear lake with white sand shoreline. Settlers soon arrived. Following the civil war land grants were given and by the 1870’s every acre in the watershed that could be was plowed. By the 1880’s a 2 1/2 foot layer of rich sediment covered the bottom.

From there industry and agriculture forever changed the lake. Many programs and experiments have followed and today Mendota is plagued with algae and

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cyanobacteria blooms just like Beaver Dam lake. He continued with current initiatives and in particular goals to dramatically increase native plantings as riparian buffers.

A very informative presentation ending with a Q&A session.

The next presentation was by Arthur Watkinson on Phosphorous Trends in Beaver Dam Lake. Arthur has been a regular presenter at our annual meetings and spends a lot of time sampling the lake, especially zooplankton.

He discussed phosphorous data showing the lake is better in winter and dry weather but still is considered impaired. The overall trend line shows improvement still a long way to go. He discussed how progressive the agricultural community of Dodge County is at educating and adopting practices to reduce runoff. He covered the benefit of native plantings and showed several examples of plantings that were low maintenance and very attractive. Again Q&A followed.

Chairman Foley gave a power point presentation covering activity since the last meeting. Volunteer activities involving sampling both on the lake and on tributary streams. Long term volunteers were recognized. The recent Slow No Wake experience was discussed along with some problem areas where members were asked to be aware of. Chemical usage that could harm the lake and examples of lake residents found to be pumping septic tank waste into the lake were examples. He also covered producer forums and again the progressive attitude of Dodge County producers. DNR support was also acknowledged. The power point presentation will be posted to our web site.

Gene Mazewski followed with a brief update on where we stand with the rough fish program. After losing our fish biologist last year, the rough fish harvest planned was canceled. Early attempts to resuscitate the project got nowhere. Getting Rep Born and the Governor involved finally produced highest level attention to our problem and we are currently productively working with fisheries on a long term plan. The District wants to undertake a major lake harvest concurrent with agreed to habitat improvement of our two

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largest bays. Those negotiations are in progress. Our stocking of bluegills by both the District and the BDLIA as rough fish bio control will be done this fall and DNR supports that effort. Also discussed a Resolution the District had on the spring Conservation Congress hearings to lower the panfish limit on BD Lake which passed but still has a few steps to get through. Likely to be in the 2026 regs.

Mike Zimmer began the financial presentation with showing our books have passed the annual audit. He thanked our auditor who performs our audit pro bono. He then reviewed the proposed budget item by item. He pointed out that almost all funds collected go towards lake projects. All District positions are volunteer so overhead is low. There are a couple of larger costs projects in the budget, but we expect to get grants to cover much of those expenses. Since we are just applying for the grants now and can not 100% guarantee them, the costs are in the budget. A couple questions were asked them the budget was unanimously approved with an assessment of \$49.77 per parcel.

One commissioner position for a 3 year term was open. Dale Maas, the existing commissioner was nominated for the office. No other nominations were made (after 3 calls) and a motion was made and passed without objection to elect Mr Maas to the position by unanimous consent.

Meeting opened to public comment and questions. Officers, Arthur Watkinson and Laura Stremick all fielded questions. Most were on the rough fish efforts. We learned that a fisheries biologist position for Horicon is approved and a contract harvest permit for Tressel Bay is going out.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted

Gene Mazewski, Secretary

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