



LAC LA BELLE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

www.llbmd.org

Commissioners Meeting
THURSDAY, May 20, 2010 – 7 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 LaBelle for today and tomorrow.”

Minutes

1. Call to Order

P. Carpenter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Roll Call of Commissioners

Present

Paul Carpenter
Dave Falstad
Mike Fitzsimmons
Sally Keefe
Lou Morgan
Richard Paul

Absent

Jan Husak

Also Present

Luke Roffler, Wisconsin DNR
Ben Heussner, Wisconsin DNR
Bob Conley

3. Comments from the Floor

No citizens wished to speak.

4. Correspondence

Emails

- Various emails were received regarding the newsletter including articles, logos, etc.

- April 19, 2010 from Lisa Conley regarding Sierra Club Wisconsin Water Team – TAKE ACTION to Clean Up Harmful Phosphorous
- May 11, 2010 from Lisa Conley regarding 5-28-10 Phosphorus Forum Information
- May 18, 2010 from Sarah Toomsen of Yaggy Colby regarding The Letter of Support and DNR grant funding strategy for project
- May 19, 2010 from Ben Heussner regarding the Lac La Belle Comprehensive Survey Report 2009

Fax

- May 11, 2010 from Norm & Martha Eckstaedt regarding Goose Round-up and lack of a newsletter

Mail

- CarpFest Registration
- 4 mailing list deletions
- Goose round-up slips

L. Morgan received phone calls regarding the “Slow No Wake” article in the LLBMD newsletter as to how the water level was measured. H explained to the caller that the water level was measured from the top down in a specific location at the dam located near Shorehaven.

5. Approval of Minutes – April 15, 2010

D. Falstad motioned to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2010 meeting as presented. R. Paul seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

6. Treasurer’s Report

The report will be emailed to the Commissioners.

7. Payment Authorizations

P. Carpenter motioned to approve the payment of usual and customary bills. R. Paul seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

8. Website Updates

The following items were posted to the website:

- Minutes and agenda
- Spring 2010 Newsletter
- New Logo

M. Fitzsimmons received an email from Jared Wold providing the District with a quote and ideas for the designing the website. A copy was distributed to the Commissioners. M. Fitzsimmons would like to obtain one more quote and discuss this at the next meeting.

Without objection, agenda Item #12 was taken next.

9. Discuss & Act on Lac La Belle Water Quality Improvement Project

A letter of support was written and will be signed on behalf of the LLBMD by P. Carpenter.

L. Morgan looked at the Golf Course Creek and discussed challenging the DNR on its terminology of “navigable waterway”. R. Paul clarified that “navigable” in this sense means the water is navigable with a watercraft at least one time per year. The location for a sediment trap was discussed and L. Morgan thought there may be a more economical area on the golf course side rather than on the other side of the bypass. He expressed concern about the District committing a large amount of money on a questionable project. P. Carpenter clarified that at this time the District is only supporting the initial fees for the project.

10. Review Current Status of Town Representative Assignment to LLBMD

P. Carpenter will contact the Town of Oconomowoc Chairperson, Bob Hultquist and the issue will be discussed at the next LLBMD meeting.

11. Discuss & Act on CarpFest Activities

L. Morgan is working on obtaining the shirts; the logo and other printed material will be put on the shirt.

S. Keefe received necessary permit approval from the City; standard restrictions apply. The City of Oconomowoc has reduced the fees associated with rental of the facility for CarpFest. Additionally, a DNR permit is required and will be obtained.

R. Paul is working on the advertising; ads will be run in the newspaper two weeks prior to CarpFest.

12. Discuss & Act on DNR Fishery Report

A document entitled “Comprehensive Survey Report of Lac La Belle – Waukesha County” was received by the Commissioners. The report was reviewed by L. Roffler and B. Heussner.

The 2009 Comprehensive Fisheries survey began on March 23, 2009. The following was included in the report and discussed at the meeting:

- Walleyes – The population is approximately two walleye per acre and is heavily male-based. The fish are fairly large, especially the females. The DNR is reviewing methods to protect the walleyes. Two consecutive years of natural reproduction was observed.
- Northern Pike – Fairly low catch rates, large size structure, growth rates were average.
- Small Mouth Bass – Not very prevalent, low catch rates, balanced size structure.
- Large Mouth Bass – Larger size structure and less prevalent.
- Musky – 39 were counted, size structure was impressive.
- Common Carp – Population estimate is 13 carp per acre, large size structure.

Management Recommendations included:

- Maintaining special regulations on walleye and transition to an 18” minimum length limit and three fish daily bag limit on walleye to continue protection of female walleyes, while offering better angler harvest opportunities.
- Monitor walleye population for contribution of stocked versus naturally reproduced fish to alternate year classes through OTC marking.
- Continue regular stocking of large fingerling northern pike to increase survival and improve overall abundance.
- Continue to closely monitor common carp abundance estimates and size structure.
- Encourage continued carp removal efforts including the annual Lac La Belle Management District CarpFest and commercial contracts for rough fish removal.
- Continue to monitor bass and panfish populations through catch rates, average sizes, and abundance estimates.

In response to a comment from P. Carpenter, B. Heussner thought the variety of fish in Lac La Belle was good, noting this is good for the both community and the system. Compared to other area lakes, he thought that the fish diversity indicated a high quality lake. Deeper, clearer lakes such as Oconomowoc Lake have different species compared to Lac La Belle, which is shallower. Many other lakes do not have any walleyes. He felt that Lac La Belle had room for improvement in walleye size structure and abundance by evaluating contribution of stock to determine whether stocking is effective. Walleyes as a small fingerling are stocked every other year. One year of stocking was missed due to VHS, but this showed that natural reproduction was taking place. This year the lake was stocked with marked fish (marked with a stain that stains their hard structure). Fish stocked in the lake are native fish species to the lake.

There were issues collecting the smallmouth bass and B. Heussner was not sure how accurate the results were for this species.

The DNR is scheduled to complete the Comprehensive Survey Report for Lac La Belle every four years.

B. Heussner felt that every effort of carp removal was beneficial. People should be

encouraged to remove this species. The outlet is a good spot to target these fish and would also be a good area for commercial fish removal. He recommended paying a flat fee for commercial carp removal and volunteered to assist the District in the development of a commercial fishermen contract. Additionally, B. Heussner would help the District if they wanted to develop a plan for capturing the carp by the outlet and would lend necessary equipment to the District. Although the carp may be “stacked up” one day, they may not be there the next. The first step would be to monitor when the carp are present. P. Carpenter will contact B. Heussner to discuss this in more detail.

S. Keefe noted that the last study was done in 1993 and asked if there was comparative information to share with residents at the annual meeting. L. Roffler and B. Heussner stated that they would be able to make a presentation at the Annual Meeting on September 2, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

In response from an inquiry from S. Keefe on whether the DNR had any recommendations for the District to support fisheries, improve water quality and lake health, and educational programming, B. Heussner suggested that it would be beneficial to provide resources to landowners for managing their zones, i.e. shoreline restoration, proper boating, invasive species, preventing immigration of new invasive species, and aquatic water guards. S. Keefe will contact Heidi Bunk to obtain more information.

During CarpFest B. Heussner will conduct two demonstrations, one at 10:00 a.m. and the other at 2:00 p.m. on the boat and electro fishing.

Without objection item #9 on the agenda was taken next.

13. Discuss & Act on Goose Round-up

Permission slips are being received. R. Paul has renewed the permits. Guidance will need to be given to the US Fish & Wildlife as to where they can collect the geese. R. Paul will contact them to determine exactly when they will be here for the goose round-up and to determine what they need from LLBMD. With advance notice, P. Carpenter and S. Keefe could provide guiding assistance to the US Fish & Wildlife during the round-up.

14. Update on Shoreline Restoration 2010 Project

M. Fitzsimmons will email any applications that he receives in the US Postal Box to S. Keefe for the shoreline project.

A tentative date of June 5, 2010 has been set to look at properties with L. Reas. This will be coordinated with L. Reas, S. Keefe, and D. Falstad.

15. Set Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Lac La Belle Management District will be on June 17, 2010 at

7:00 p.m. at the Town of Oconomowoc Town Hall.

16. Agenda for Next Meeting

Discuss & Act on Approval of May Treasurer's Report
Discuss & Act on Website Designer
Discuss & Act on Goose Round-up
Discuss & Act on Shoreline Restoration 2010 Project
Review Current Status of Town Representative Assignment to LLBMD
Discuss & Act on Lac La Belle Water Quality Improvement Project (Accurate Business Communications will contact George Stumpf for progress information)

17. Agenda for Annual Meeting

- DNR presentation on Fishery Report

More information will be added to this item at upcoming meetings.

18. Adjournment

R. Paul motioned to adjourn from the meeting. S. Keefe seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by:

Accurate Business Communications, Inc.