



Devils Lake Water Improvement District
Regular Board Meeting
Taft Conference Hall
1206 SE 48th Place, Lincoln City, OR
and via zoom

September 14, 2023

MINUTES

Called to Order at 5:59 pm by President Tina French.

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Tina French, Susan Elworth, Mitch Moore (in person); and Keith Fowler (via zoom)

Board Members Absent: Dayton Mays

DLWID Staff Present: Boone Marker

Approval of Consent Agenda and August 10, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Discussion: Susan pointed out that under the harvesting report, Tom “Rice” should be changed to Tom Johns.

MOTION: Moved by Susan Elworth, Seconded by Mitch Moore, to approve the consent agenda, and minutes of the August 10, 2023 regular board meeting as amended. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

Discussion: Boone said that the Pines Tavern entry was incorrect, but coding was correct. Discussion took place by the board about the new format of the report, and indicated that the new format was well received.

MOTION: Moved by Mitch Moore, Seconded by Keith Fowler, to approve the monthly financial reports as amended. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

1. Devils Lake Neighborhood Association Presentation by DLNA president, Mitch Moore

Mitch indicated that the total donation from DLNA this year is \$17,000. He presented a plaque to the Board with the names of the 124 named fish. The most common name is “fish”, second most common “Bob”.

2. Blue Heron Landing Project and Citizens Advisory Board

Blue Heron Landing is a project, Mitch is working on a website and gave a presentation and asked about DLWID’s willingness to form a citizen advisory group. DLNA wants to help DLWID make this happen. www.blueheronlandingproject.com

Discussion: Tina talked about details of the purchase of the property and the need to find funding. Susan asked about putting together an advisory committee to work on funding. It was suggested that a maximum of two board meetings would be needed to form an advisory committee. Mitch asked if the board would like an advisory committee to help Boone with this project. Susan and Tina said there is too much work for just the board, and this is something for the community. An advisory committee would give the community ownership and input. Blue Heron Landing will give people access to the lake and an opportunity for learning about the lake. It was suggested that the board get the community to give input about what they want there. Susan asked Boone to put information about the Blue Heron Landing Project website on social media and in the newsletters.

3. Staff Report

District Projects & Operations

Devil Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management

- New harvesting staff
- Update on harvester maintenance - \$8K for repair
- Expecting invoice for annual harvester lease in September.
- No carp mortality reported.
- Metal signs are posted around the lake.
- Aerators were serviced, new piping and buried.

Discussion:

Boone thanked Tom Johns for his work harvesting weeds this summer. Tom Rice and Tim Peterson will take over. The harvester is out of the water in August to make repairs to the bottom. Boone is expecting an invoice for \$150,00 for the year from the harvester owner. Boone has not seen evidence of any carp mortality. Susan said she found one dead carp and a member of public in attendance said she also found one. Discussion took place about beavers and other critters in the lake.

Boone reported that he has removed the paper signs and replaced them with laminated signs. He also reported that Bill Sexton worked on the piping and cleaned the lines on the aerator.

Discussion took place about cleaning out the Third street canals earlier this year.

Water Quality Briefing

- Water testing – e. Coli tests continue to be low levels.
- On lake vs. shoreline testing
- DEQ won't test water unless suspected algae bloom.

Discussion: Boone reported he had his first “yellow” e. Coli testing at the marina. Discussion took place about possible reasons for that. It was noted that usually “yellow” testing occurred at sites in other places (not the marina). Discussion took place about past reasons for bad tests. Discussion continued about the best places to test. Boone said he has been talking to people about Harmful Algae Bloom. After a HAB is suspected, OHA will test for free. Discussion took place about the different weeds in the lake. Mitch said he would put out an article on lake weeds.

Blue Heron Landing/Marina

- Wi-Fi and cameras working. Webcam at Blue Heron is live. Working to make security cameras visible too.
- Building Maintenance – weather proofing roof

Discussion: Jimmy got wi-fi access working at the marina and cameras for the website. The picture will refresh every 5 minutes. Security cameras will show the dock. There has been water inside the building since the rain. Discussion took place about the design of the roof and possible remedies. It was suggested that possibly pulling down the lean-to and putting up a wall may be better than tarping, or patching of roof. Tina said local roofers are booking in September of 2024 (a year from now).

Boone reported about suspicious activity at the marina last night, the trespassers said they had permission from the previous owner to do what they were doing. A police report has been filed. They ripped off a sign on the building. LCPD is looking into the vehicle, a newer white Chevy pickup. They said they were staying in Waldport. They left batteries and a sawsall at the site, so left in a hurry. They knew to use Noel Walker's name and he said he did not give permission to anyone to do this. Boone asked the board if repair should be done, and it was agreed that yes, the damage should be fixed. Boone got no trespassing signs, and the chains need to be put up at the end of each day. He will get more signage and chain. He is hoping to get more security footage to share with police.

Devils Lake Flood Protection & Dredging Project

- No approved permit currently. OPRD has requested additional alternatives prior to their consideration of the permit approval. Permit needs revising to meet ORPD needs, as well as consideration for disposal.
- Obtain remaining private property owner signature for hotel property. Emailed/VM left. Found returned package for signature from earlier this year. Will continue to follow up.
- Would like to arrange a special meeting to further discuss.
 - Proposed dates – Sept. 27, Oct. 2, 4, 17, 18

Discussion: Boone would like to set a special meeting to find out what needs to be done about dredging. He talked about his discussion with ODF&W. Susan asked that Civil West and Campbell (the permit specialist) be included in the meeting. It was agreed to try to schedule a meeting early on the 27th, or the 2nd or 4th of October.

Communications Report

- Harvesting team email/Facebook yielded 37 shares and multiple calls/email to Dayton for inquiry.
- Attempted to change the name of Facebook page to Devils Lake Water Improvement District, but it was not allowed. DLWID FB page is listed under Devils Lake Oregon.
- Metal signs have been received and being posted around the lake.

Discussion: With a plea on social media, the harvesting team was filled in about 24 hours. Discussion took place about the Facebook page name and link on website. Minutes and agendas are being posted on the website.

Grants/Fundraising

- DEQ – Supplemental Environmental Project Grant
 - Project must primarily benefit the environment or public health in Oregon
 - Types of projects we may qualify for: Improve Water Quality
 - Regional Solutions (Mary Camarata-DEQ) – spoke about issues DLWID is facing. Will follow up with DLWID about ways RS/DEQ can support our projects.
- National Fish Passage Program – Dec. 31, 23 – remove instream barriers and restore aquatic organism passage and aquatic connectivity for the benefit of Federal trust resources. Up to \$2mil. Could contribute to potential dredging project.
- SDIS – Safety & Security Grant – matching funds grant that could help upgrade fencing around Blue Heron Landing.
- Oregon State Marine Board Grants – Water access improvements, boating facility grants, new construction. Grant application due Oct. 2-Dec. 11 – approval in April 2024. Some grant options are 50/50 matching funds.

Discussion: Boone reported that he chatted with two people from the Governor's office's Regional Solutions teams and it is possible that water improvement grants may be available for possible projects. Safety and security grants are available through special districts, for fencing. The kayak launch at Brown Bear state park was discussed.

Community Events

- 8/24 – Kiwanis Guest Speaker – Carp, harvester, water testing, HABs
- Grass Carp Festival Revival - 2024
- Partnering with organizations for recreational use

Boone asked about revival of the grass carp festival. Tina suggested he ask Miles Schleslinger and Seth Lenartz. Discussion took place about replacement of the DLWID canopy.

Boone said he has been approached about recreational uses. Tina said that included in DLWID's mission is to encourage recreational use of the lake. Getting the community out on the lake by creating opportunities, such as special events at Regatta Park and using Blue Heron as access. It was noted that large events need a permit from the Oregon State Marine Board.

Public Comment

A member of the public said that they spotted about 40 grass carp yesterday, and today 15 or 20, and one old-timer.

Susan Gomberg said she is attending the meeting because she cares about the lake. Though she doesn't live on the lake, she loves her view of the lake.

There was a question about harvesting on Thompson Creek. Boone explained that the harvester is headed that way, they are working towards the north end of the lake. There is trouble with a dumping location in that area. It takes about one hour from there to Blue Heron to dump. The district is paying for the harvester by the hours of use. The northeast finger of the lake is problematic. Discussion took place about dumping locations, and further discussion about the amount of weeds taken out of the lake this year.

Board Discussion:

Susan said she would like a formal report next month about how much has been removed from the lake, the money spent, and lessons learned from working on the harvester and what can be done differently. With a three-year lease on the machine, there are problems that need to be fixed.

Keith asked about drone images. Boone said he is working on a license. Tina suggested someone to do filming.

It was pointed out that within the next two to six weeks, big rafts of weeds will be coming to the surface, then they sink. Harvesting needs to be done before they sink.

Boone said that he will be out of town next week.

Tina and Susan and Keith will be gone for the November meeting (Tina can zoom in). That meeting may need to be rescheduled or cancelled.

It was also noted that the Board needs to schedule an executive session for Boone's six-month performance review.

Special meeting needs to be scheduled to discuss projects other than the dredging meeting. It was agreed that a separate meeting was needed.

Tina and Susan discussed their availability.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:11 pm

Next Meeting: Thurs. Oct. 12, 6:00pm

Submitted by Susan Wahlke