



Devils Lake Water Improvement District  
Regular Board Meeting via zoom  
February 9, 2023

## **MINUTES**

Called to order by Chair Tina French at 6:02 pm

### **Roll Call**

DLWID Directors Present: Tina French, Mitch Moore, Keith Fowler, Colin Teem

Excused Absence: Susan Elworth

Lake Manager, Executive Director: Joshua Brainerd

Eric Johnson joined later in the meeting

### **Approval of Consent Agenda and December Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** Moved by Mitch Moore, Seconded by Tina French. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Approval of Monthly Financial Report**

Tina had several questions about the financial report, including what appeared to be a negative balance. She agreed to check with the credit union tomorrow about the account balance. She also had a question about the donation from Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and whether that should be included under grants revenue.

**MOTION:** Moved by Colin Teem to approve financial report as presented, Seconded by Mitch Moore. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **District Projects and Operations**

#### **Communications Report**

District staff is scheduling a board work session during the month of March to review current projects and operations. Some board members need to respond to the Doodle poll that was sent on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

Project summaries are being updated and formatted to post on [www.dlwid.org](http://www.dlwid.org). Some meeting minutes have been posted. Discussion took place about how to get information out to the public. Mitch has posted on the DLNA website and asked Eric to copy anything from there to the DLWID website.

Discussion took place about more communication on social media about the weeds. Colin talked about the importance of sharing these posts.

Budget Committee Member Search is underway. Discussion took place about people who have been approached and are not interested. Other names were suggested. Josh asked that board members let him know of anyone who might be interested.

Beginning with the March 9, 2023 board meeting, DLWID will be holding their regular monthly meeting at Lincoln City City Hall the 2nd Thursday of each month @ 6p.m. Tina asked that staff let the public know that meetings will be back at City Hall.

### **Lake Bottom Aeration Project**

Diffusers will be cleaned once weather allows. Discussion took place about whether or not this is needed this year. Bill Sexton recommends skipping it this year because the lines are so tangled in the weeds. Colin asked about using divers to take photos or using radio controlled cameras.

### **Devils Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management**

District staff is evaluating options to expand and increase the efficiency of our mechanical harvesting operation. District staff will be working with the DLWID board during the March work session to discuss the program. At this point the weather needs to improve before continuing. Bill could start training operators in March. Mitch said that there is word out that people have been hired. Tina emphasized that operators need to be employees with existing workers compensation.

District staff continue to work with the ODFW to complete the necessary information required for the grass carp stocking permit. The district has submitted our lake management plan and draft grass carp permit to ODFW. The next ODFW Commission meeting is scheduled for 2/17/2023. District Staff and counsel will be present at the meeting. The meeting will take place at the Benson Hotel. Tina also plans to be present. Board members asked that the attorney be encouraged to attend in person.

Lincoln City has agreed to fund in water removal of vegetation near some city owned parks and canals. The work plan is currently being reviewed by district staff and contractors and is planned to commence in early spring 2023. Bill has started on the 2<sup>nd</sup> street canal, since he can't get in there after March. Stephanie and Daphne from the City gave approval to go ahead. \$50,000 is budgeted for work on the water adjoining city parks and city canals.

### **Devils Lake Flood Protection**

Dredging - The permit draft is complete. We are awaiting Lincoln City's approval of the plans, which is a conditional use through the planning commission. Discussion took place about Highway 101 easement, possible significant wetland next to Hostettler Park, and the need for joint partnerships and funding since half of the water body is connected to city-owned property. Further discussion took place about waiting almost three years for the permit.

A briefing document was requested by Lincoln City Staff to include in their discussions at the January League of Oregon Cities Day at the Capitol. The Summary was prepared and submitted to Lincoln City prior to the meeting.

#### ACTION ITEMS

Obtain approval from Lincoln City

#### **Water Quality Briefing**

No changes from January. There are no current indications of harmful algal blooms in the water. All sampling points indicated healthy concentrations of dissolved oxygen (DO). Discussion took place about Ecoli testing, which is done in May, and other testing is done year-round. Discussion took place about putting the boards in the dam in mid-April. It was mentioned that the lake level is at ten feet. Discussion took place about flooding on 2<sup>nd</sup> street being worse, but not other areas. Keith stated that the lake level is a foot lower than at this time last year.

#### **New Business**

2023-2024 District Budget – staff has begun work and will have a draft ready before the March meeting.

#### **Non-Agenda Items**

Mitch presented his vision for the Blue Heron Landing site. The site could provide a food court, lake access, natural resources education, space for offices, lab, and a small meeting space. There could be a visitor center with displays, a community room for meeting or event space, food service. With a public marina access could be by roadway or water craft. There is also the potential for a fueling station. Discussion took place about next steps, which would include a look at the estimated cost then approaching the legislature. Discussion took place about the variety of available uses helping to broaden public appeal for the project. Josh suggesting looking into what kind of buy-in there would be for funding from USDA, State Marine Board, State Parks and Recreation. There is need for partnerships and a fundraising plan, including possible grants. Discussion took place about the economic impact from the food and rental vendors and the importance of public access to the lake. Mitch suggested looking for sources of funds, and the educational aspect could appeal to private foundations, which would build matching funds for grants. He also suggested looking at federal infrastructure funds, and lottery grants for natural resources related aspects of the project. It was suggested that the possibility of hiring a grant writer be discussed at the March work session. Keith asked if there might be tourism dollars available from the city. Discussion also took place about an RFP for leasing the boat slips and the need for maintenance before opening the area to the public. Tina stated the need to open the property this summer.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm**