



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

April 13, 2023

MINUTES

Called to order at 6:01 pm

Roll Call:

DLWID Directors Present: Mitch Moore (appearing by zoom), Tina French, Colin Teem, Susan Elworth (in person)

DLWID Director Absent: Keith Fowler

DLWID Staff Present: Lake Manager, Executive Director: Joshua Brainerd (in person), Eric Johnson (via zoom)

American Powerboat Association Donation Presentation – Mike Johnson

Update: American Powerboat Association is the sanctioning body for boat racing in the US and the rest of the world. Some records on Devils Lake can be world records due to that association. Mike told us that this organization wants to help keep the lake healthy, and wants to be good stewards of the lake. He said this is the fastest water in the world. Their donation is from many states, including entry fees. They had to cancel races scheduled for the fall of 2022, but are now on schedule for October 7 & 8, 2023, unless weeds say otherwise. He said he saw no weeds visible today. He said he is impressed by the work being done to control weeds. This weekend is the beginning of the racing season. Tina asked about races on other lakes in Oregon, and he said that races take place on a lake in Clatsop County and on the Willamette River near Newberg. Tina expressed the board's appreciation for the donation. Mike said the APA loves working with North Lincoln Fire. He said he will contact rentals and DLNA to inform them which weekend the races will take place.

Budget Committee Meeting @6:13

Roll Call: Mitch Moore (appearing by zoom), Tina French, Colin Teem, Susan Elworth, Roger Smith, Tom Rice, Miles Schlesinger present in person

Absent: Keith Fowler, Bryan O'Doherty, Larry Rich

Director's Report by Josh Brainerd

Cost to operate the harvester is \$300-500/hour. Herbicides are less effective and cost \$2-3,000 twice a year. Grass carp have worked before, and he is optimistic that they will be useful again. Discussion took place about the LB forms and whether they are the current year numbers or the budget for next year. Jay Roleoff asked about why the debt service on LB 30 is low, and was told that at the end of five years (possibly from 2021) there will be a balloon payment due. Another question was if 5,000 carp will be purchased by May, when are subsequent purchases scheduled. The response was that restocking will take place when ODF&W allows, which at this point is in 5 years. Colin asked about funds for future tax levy costs, if they are in the general fund, or a separate line item. He also asked about funds for a grant writer. Josh said the amount for consulting services was increased for that, and that he did not include election costs, but a supplemental budget could be done with funds from general fund. Discussion took place about the budget for contracting, and the reply was that there were no funds designated for legal services or harvesting.

Mitch suggested that Josh forward the spread sheets instead of .pdf documents to the board and budget committee soon. Discussion took place about the schedule to adopt the budget before deadline. Josh replied that continuation of the budget hearing can be done at the May board meeting, and approved on June 8th. June 30th is the deadline. The budget hearing was continued at 6:34 pm until 6 pm on May 11th.

Approval of Consent Agenda and March Meeting and March 21st Special Meeting Minutes

Discussion about including draft minutes with the agenda packet and whether board got staff report other than agenda. Tina said only agenda was received. Tina said that the missing name on the meeting minutes should be "Highland".

MOTION: Moved by Susan Elworth, Seconded by Colin Teem, to approve the minutes of March 9th regular board meeting and March 21st special board meeting, with one change to "Highland". No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Monthly Financial Report

Tina asked about the change of format of the materials from the bookkeeper (monthly journal and balance sheet for March). Colin said the new format was easier for him to understand. Asked about credit card expenses on resources, Josh replied that it was mostly ongoing payments, some fees and permits, some conference expense.

MOTION: Moved by Colin Teem, Seconded by Susan Elworth, to accept the financial report as presented. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Staff Report – Josh

Tom Rice gave the special projects committee report. He thanked Miles Schlesinger for encouraging the committee to resume meeting. They reconvened the West Devils Lake Road cleanup for May 17th, and are considering kayak cleanup of the shoreline. They are considering a carp festival when the carp go in, and later in the summer, possibly August, holding a Devils Lake Revival. Tina said she would like some

sort of community event when the carp arrive in late May or early June. Tina thanked the committee for coming back.

Tina said she has noticed some new growth of weeds, and has been checking daily. Weeds need to be closer to the surface before harvesting can begin, as the harvester only reaches 4 to 6 feet. Eric will ask people on FaceBook to watch for weeds.

Discussion took place about holding an event on Memorial Day weekend. Mitch talked about donations online for fireworks. Tina asked about a QR code or Venmo account or paying on the website.

Discussion took place about wanting to get the barge out.

No other special committee reports.

There is information on the website about meetings. Discussion took place about the waiting room and security options for virtual meetings. Tina asked about offering the opportunity to watch virtual meetings. It was pointed out that the signal strength is a little slow, but Charter will be able to adjust things. Mitch said that video and audio quality were very good now. Further discussion took place about the meeting room layout.

Public Comments

None at this time.

District Projects and Operations

Special Projects Committee Report

- Update of proposed committee activities for 2023.
- Monthly Committee meetings have resumed and are being held on the 1st Thursday of each month.

Communications Report

- New meeting webpage on www.dlwid.org. The page has been designed to make our meeting information more accessible. The page can be viewed at: <https://dlwid.org/online-meeting/>
- New video conferencing equipment has been obtained to make District meetings more accessible online. The equipment is intended to allow for better communication during hybrid meeting sessions.

Lake Bottom Aeration Project

- No update – trying to find time when diver can take photos.

Devils Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management

- ODFW has approved the grass carp stocking permit. DLWID plans to order 5,000 tagged, sterile, grass carp with an anticipated stocking date of late May 2023 to early June. They will be 12 to 16 inch fish.

- Lincoln City has agreed to fund in-water removal of vegetation near some city owned parks and in canals. The first payment of approximately \$10,000 has been received by DLWID for the cleanup of the 2nd St. canal. The remainder of the vegetation removal work will proceed throughout the year. Bill Sexton took about 45 years of debris out of canals and neighbors have been appreciative. Colin asked about State Parks (campground and Brown Bear) Josh said there is a new person in charge, and he has not yet met with him. He will shop same scenario with State Parks. Susan asked about meeting with Mike Kennedy, with Siletz Tribe. Colin suggested contacting County about County park on Neotsu Drive, and park off H also. Josh has asked CTSI for \$50,000, no response yet. Josh gave City bill and it was paid. Discussion of parks around lake and ownership.
- No contract with City at this point. He will present to City Council next month. Tina suggested MOU.

ACTION ITEMS

- Submit Grass Carp Ploidy Release Authorization to U.S. Fish and Wildlife prior to stocking.
- Submit Fish transport permit to ODFW prior to transportation of fish, to bring them into Oregon.
- Design and post signage around the lake regarding the prohibition of removing Grass Carp from Devils Lake. Tina asked about signage – plans are to show a picture of grass carp and include ORS about removal, and update other signage. Colin asked about posting information about the law and why carp are there. There was a good sign in the gazebo at Regatta, but suggested they be put at all boat launches. Mitch also suggested sign on aerator. Colin suggested sign at private boat launches (Indian Shores and Wabusha). Tina asked about homeowners associations being contacted, and also suggested nuisance species of weeds and reason for grass carp.
- Order 5,000 tagged sterile Grass Carp from Keo fish farms. In Arkansas. Josh is working on ordering fish.
- Finalize mechanical harvesting plan (drop locations, operators, volunteers, disposal). Tina asked for bids from Whistler and Knott to submit bids, along with NLSS.
- Begin mechanical harvesting in lake for 2023 season.

Devils Lake Flood Protection

- The permit draft is complete. Lincoln City has approved the plans with no modifications. One remaining private property owner has yet to sign. Staff met with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) to obtain their approval. OPRD has requested additional alternatives analysis prior to their consideration of the permit approval. Mitch asked about alternatives analysis. OPRD is not ready to sign the permit, Josh said it was not a cooperative meeting with the new representative. They will require several things that are almost impossible. They are looking for less impact on ocean shores. Discussion took place about the requirement of OPRD signing the permit. Meeting on April 7th about sand being sent to the beach. OPRD was not a party to the multi-agency meeting. Originally dredging was to be dumped at Hostettler Park, then trucked off site, now current plan is to send sand to the beach. It was suggested that we need their objections in writing, exactly why they will not approve, and when they will issue a decision, and whether this is a denial, and what are their criteria. Tina

and Josh met with City Manager Daphne Legarza a while ago and she was willing to work with DLWID. Hostettler Park is now designated as a significant wetland. Discussion took place about what vegetation is there.

ACTION ITEMS

- Obtain approval from Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for Joint Permit Dredging application.
- Obtain remaining private property owner signature for hotel property located @ 1091 SE 1st. St. Certified mail was returned. Discussion about due diligence. Property owner is required to be party to permit. Property extends into D River. Discussion took place about ways to find out property owner, and maybe title report.

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).
- The district's water sampling equipment has been sent off for its yearly maintenance. The manufacturer is running 30 days behind. The calibration and maintenance should be complete by the end of April. It cost \$6,000 this year, more expensive than in the past. Equipment is expected to be back soon.
- The District's yearly water sampling program, which includes E.coli testing, HABs monitoring, and basic water chemistry, is scheduled to begin in May. Post results on front page of website. Josh welcomed any suggestions about website. Colin suggested an "alerts" pop-up.

ACTION ITEMS

- Begin E. coli sampling and reporting for 2023.

Marina

- Several property management companies have been contacted regarding rental of the boat slips. District staff are currently awaiting proposals. No new contacts from property management companies he has contacted. Discussion about ways to handle rental of boat slips. Tina will share ideas. Needs to be done this season. Christina has had many calls about this. Majority expected to be seasonal, some longer.
- Staff meeting with PARC Resources to discuss District fundraising needs took place on April 12th. Information available through special districts membership. Some plans cost about \$50,000, but the grant would pay consultant, only expense would be Josh's time. State of Oregon has a couple grants available. Next step is to look for grants for this.

ACTION ITEMS

- Contract with firm or individual to begin boat slip rental program.
- Search for fundraising sources.

New Business -

- DLWID temporary office location could be at Taft's for a reasonable cost. City Hall space was cost prohibitive. Stuff from community college is now at marina. Signage would be difficult. Calls are forwarded to Christina's District cell. 5330 goes to cell phone. We have landline for security. Tina asked about rental agreement with Don. Josh will forward it to the board.

Non-Agenda Items

Mitch said he is looking forward to being at the next meeting in person.

Ann Norris said she has trouble understanding the vision, goal of having Blue Heron Landing, and asked what will be accomplished. Tina said first, the main reason was lake access. Vivian's has no access due to sand. DLWID wanted guaranteed lake access. Second, was to have a home for multiple reasons: office and community place and access. No paddle boards, boats, kayaks, available any other way. No plans yet, just dreams, and plan to reach out to community in the future. Need different funding sources for possible uses: Meetings, education, office, storage and labs, also food service and rental of "toys". Current plan is from what community has asked for. Looking for separate funds to develop, not take away from funds to keep lake healthy. Blue Heron is not priority at this time, the health of the lake is most important now. Funding for Blue Heron is not competitive with funding for the lake. Susan suggested different pages on website for different projects.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Submitted by Susan Wahlke