



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

January 11, 2024

MINUTES

Called to Order at 5:58 pm by Chair Tina French

Roll Call:

Board Members Present: Tina French, Dayton Mays (in person), and Susan Elworth (virtually)

Board Members Absent: Keith Fowler, Mitch Moore

DLWID Staff Present: Boone Marker

Approval of Consent Agenda and December 14, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

Discussion: none

MOTION: Moved by Dayton Mays, seconded by Susan Elworth, to approve the consent agenda and minutes of the December 14, 2023 regular board meeting as presented. No further discussion. Tina abstained from voting since she did not attend the December meeting. Motion passed.

Approval of Monthly Financial Reports

Discussion: none

MOTION: Moved by Tina French, seconded by Dayton Mays, to approve the monthly financial reports as presented. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

No comments or questions at this time.

STAFF REPORT:

District Projects & Operations

Devil Lake Aquatic Vegetation Management

- Met with ODFW (12/19) in Newport to discuss additional fish.
- Met with ODFW Director (1/3) in Salem.
- Lake survey

Discussion: Boone reported that he and Larry Brown met with ODFW staff about getting additional fish in the lake. Tina said that it was her understanding that one year from their introduction would be when it would be evaluated whether or not more fish were needed. Boone met with the head of fisheries on the 3rd about the weeds in the lake and how to control them.

Larry Brown spoke about what he has learned: that the fish had grown by three times already when they escaped the lake and were found on the beach; number one food for grass carp is Elodia, and harvesting causes fragmentation. He also said that summer is when the grass carp eat and he would like more fish by the summer. He said that an annual survey is needed for five years to see if there are enough carp in the lake, and tagging the fish doesn't make sense, he doesn't see the need, and it more than doubles the cost of the fish. Larry reported that the Director of Fisheries contacted him and said to survey the lake, and if weeds increase, put in 5,000 more fish. He said the lake needs enough carp, but not too many. He also said that the depth of the lake shouldn't affect surveying of weeds. He would like to do measurements with Bill Hagmaier.

Tina said that she understood that staff didn't feel 5,000 fish not enough, and it was determined to try the three-prong approach (harvesting, herbicide, and grass carp). Tina reported that there is milfoil between the State Park and Regatta Park now. Discussion took place about use of herbicides on certain weeds. The ODFW Director is due to retire April 1st and it is uncertain what will happen under a new director. Boone said he hopes for new fish this spring and not tagged.

Bill Hagmaier said that he hopes ODFW could be reasonable and rational and realize that waiting five years is not proactive. He hopes for reconsideration of the amount of fish being stocked. He doesn't think we should pass up an opportunity to get more fish if possible. He thinks that the height of the Elodea is higher than the previous survey. Earlier it was determined that 12,000 fish were needed to control the annual weed growth, but need more fish to reduce weeds in the lake. He encouraged the board members to obtain information in writing for ODFW to get more fish and the reasons tagging is unnecessary.

Discussion took place about the state rule that requires tagging and reasons the rule does not apply to Devils Lake. Discussion about Bill Hagmaier's survey proposal under \$5,000 and

Boone's authorization level. Boone will forward Bill's proposal to board members. The board expressed hope that submitting an annual report will reinforce the need for more fish. The consensus was that in August of each year a survey is needed, but with an extra survey this spring. Discussion took place about Elodea growing between 45 and 70 degrees, and the water temp is currently above 45 degrees. It was noted that the carp have already migrated to the south end of the lake. Dayton asked about how fast the carp can be delivered and directed Boone to get documentation about no need for tagging. The truck will only hold 5,000 grass carp at a time. Bill is looking to perform a survey in the next 30 days and submit a report in the next 60 days (before end of March) for submittal to ODFW.

MOTION: Tina French moved to authorize \$3500 for Boone to approve the proposal from Bill Hagmaier for the survey, narrative report, and update of previous information, and forwarding the proposal to the board this evening. Motion seconded by Dayton Mays, and motion passed unanimously.

Boone agreed to also ask for the price of 250 fish, to inform ODFW.

Boone reported that he met with Lincoln City Parks & Rec Director Jeanne Sprague and City Manager Daphne Legarza this morning about documentation and funding for canal work and other funding for DLWID from the City. There is discussion about herbicide use in the DLNA newsletter and spreading the news to lakefront property owners. Discussion took place about the timing for herbicide application.

Blue Heron Landing/Marina

- Blue Heron Project – next meeting in February

Discussion: Boone reported that there may be a cat entering the building. Tina asked about applicants for the citizen committee. Boone reported the committee had their first meeting in November, and will meet again in February.

Devils Lake Flood Protection & Dredging Project

- Need to set meeting dates with State Parks, ODFW, DEQ, USACE, DSL.
 - Met with OPRD 12/29 – conclusion was unlikely to issue a permit due to the in-water work period of August and not issuing beach permits during summer. Suggested finding a different upland de-watering station. Waiting on additional meeting with Preson Phillips to discuss space at state parks.
 - Met with Civil West 1/2 - can make any location work if we can find one that isn't the beach.

Discussion: Susan and Boone reported that they met with OPRD staff and there is no chance for dredged sand to be placed on the beach. It was recommended that Boone contact Preson Phillips, local state parks representative, about east side of Hostetler Park/Devils Lake State Park as location for dewatering of sand. Discussion took place about the chance of using

Hostetler Park, or other methods to be discussed with Civil West. Non-suction method would be less expensive. Barging may be only alternative. Then funds need to be found to pay for the process. Possibility of using heavy equipment was discussed, and whether it would be allowed. Discussion about previous permit and changes in direction. It is felt that the full or true story was not previously given to the board. Draft permit to state parks is all that has been done previously.

Discussion about using plywood to get the river to self-dredge. Susan said that the river in-water work period during the summer is the only time that would be possible, because of salmon migration. DSL owns bottom of the lake, DEQ, Army Corp of Engineers, ODFW control the river, so at least four agencies are involved for permission to dredge. October meeting with Civil West resulted in a new proposal due to wetlands at Hostetler Park. There are methods to work within wetlands, which may alter Civil West's recommendation.

Discussion took place about lake level photographs and addressing the need for dredging as a flooding issue.

Mark Lowen spoke to the board about keeping up the good work with the grass carp. He said he owns a home near Vivian's. There was 18 and 10 inches of water in his living room the last few years, after owning the property for many years. He is willing to share stories and photos about water level and years of dredging.

Tina talked about work that is expected and the budget that DLWID has.

Communications Report

- 2023 Devils Lake Recap Newsletter
- Scheduling a time to get on the Double R podcast to discuss lake activities in 2024.

Discussion: Boone sent out a recap on New Year's Eve. He will talk with Roger Robertson about 2024 plans on the Double R podcast.

Grants/Fundraising

- OWEB review & site visit (12/20)

Discussion: Susan and Boone met with reviewers about grant opportunities. A message about what is being done is needed, more than just recreational purposes. Not much chance of grants, but good to meet with them. They mentioned state parks program, mostly watershed enhancement

Budget Committee

- Begin working with Mitch Moore to start working on 2024-25 budget. Will set committee meeting starting in March.

Discussion: Boone said he would start working with budget committee members.

Public Comment: None

Susan asked Boone about the special districts conference, but Boone has a conflict, and will not be attending this year.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm

Next Meeting: Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:00 pm

Submitted by Susan Wahlke