

# Bone Lake Management District Annual Meeting Minutes

**Saturday August 8, 2015, Wilkins**

## **FINAL**

Commissioners present:

Bob Murphy  
Phil Foster  
Alex Chorewycz  
Mike Musial  
Karen Engelbretson  
Patricia Schmidt, Polk County

Committee chairs present:

Ann Miller, Watershed  
Sherri Singer, Social

Guests:

Cheryl Clemens, Harmony Environmental  
Jeremy Williamson, Polk County Land & Water Resources Dept.

Auditor:

Frank Schlick

District members: 85 persons signed in

**The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

Motion to approve Minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting  
So moved/seconded/carried

Motion to approve Income Statement and Projected Budget 10/1/2014 through  
9/30/2015 and Proposed 2016 Budget  
So moved/seconded/carried

## **Lake Improvement Reports**

### **Grant Discussion, Comprehensive Lake Management Plan**

Phil Foster

Bone Lake has received \$700K in Wisconsin DNR grant dollars to date. A document outlining the current grants was distributed to members. Phil introduced the Lake Management Plan and the Aquatic Plant Management Plan.

### **Core Sample Results**

Jeremy Williamson

Jeremy's report began with a description of sediment core collection and then provided slides and data from the study of Bone Lake's core sample noting that a new core sample was taken on August 7, 2015. The core sample study showed a sedimentation rate increase 2X since settlement (mid-1800s). Biogenic silica makes up 44% of inorganic solids in the lake, most lakes are at 2%; this shows the most biogenic silica of all lakes in the world, and is typical of Polk County lakes.

Other data show:

- The diatoms present in different layers of the core illustrate that algae species are the same as pre-settlement but many more diatoms are present in sediments since the 1960s.
- Sedimentation rates are decreasing in most recent years (since 2000) but we cannot expect a return to the pre-settlement state;
- The lake is becoming more productive, more prone to algae growth;
- The lake is in OK shape but could tip to being more green for longer periods with the potential for toxic algae; or
- We can continue to reduce phosphorus loading as we've been doing with recent watershed and waterfront runoff reduction practices.

A new study of the 8/7/15 core sample will record pigments to identify algae groups. This study will take 5-6 months.

A member comments that geese may be contributing to the phosphorus load as many more geese are now present on the lake. He thinks the number of geese is a problem and the District should remove them. He also stated that he shoots them. It was suggested that tall grasses and native plant buffers discourage geese from coming ashore.

### **Water Clarity, Internal Load Study, Phosphorus Loading**

Cheryl Clemens

Our focus is on phosphorus reduction, identifying sources and what can be done. A monitoring update will draw water samples to determine how well recent practices are working.

The internal load study will attempt to discover how much phosphorus is available to algae at different times, over the next three years. Cheryl described stratification: layers of the water column based on temperature and density. Oxygen stays in the top layers. When there is no oxygen in the bottom layers, phosphorus is released from the sediments; it remains trapped there until fall turnover when lake temperatures mix. Mixing can also occur in the summer from high winds and boat traffic. When the lake mixes, phosphorus becomes available to algae.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Waterfront Runoff – Alex Chorewycz**

Since 2010 the committee has arranged 91 site visits by consultant Cheryl Clemens. Sixteen visits have been made this year. There is "free money" for installing a runoff

reduction practice at lakefront properties including a septic incentive of \$1000 to replace a failing septic system. More messaging about what property owners can do, and sources of phosphorus was suggested by a member; the member also suggested stronger messaging “delivered in the door.”

**Watershed** – Ann Miller

The watershed committee addresses phosphorus loading from culverts and streams and identifies large practices and oversees installations. Ann thanked the property owners that have participated in runoff reduction practices over the past few years. No projects are underway at this time.

**Fisheries** – Bob Boyd and Mike Belich

Committee chairs were not present and no report was given.

**Aquatic Plant Management** – Cheryl Clemens

Cheryl reported on CLP treatments. Studies show a decrease in the number of plants in the treatment areas.

**Wildlife Natural Beauty** – Karen Engelbretson

Karen offered extra Bone Lake Wildlife and Habitat maps available at the committee’s display. Bone Lakers have the opportunity to participate in a regional purple martin survey by providing information about their colony. Forms were available at the display.

The proposed slow no wake zone at the north west corner of Bone Lake was described, a map was shown, and the reason for the protection effort was outlined, along with how it is part of the new Lake Management Plan. Members were invited to offer a statement of support or opposition by using a form available at the display. Also available were copies of the map, condition report, waterway marker placement, sample ordinances for Towns of Bone Lake and Georgetown, and letters of support from Towns of Bone Lake and Georgetown.

**Communications** – Karen Engelbretson

The Bone Lake Management District provides many layers of communications to members including the Bone Lake website ([bonelakewi.com](http://bonelakewi.com)), the bi-annual Bone Lake Newsletter, Bone Lake eNews sent monthly, and a facebook page ([facebook.com/bonelakers](https://facebook.com/bonelakers)).

The hashtag #bonelakewi is being used for Instagram and Twitter posts although the District does not maintain Instagram or Twitter accounts. A list of volunteer opportunities was given for a newsletter proofreader, ad coordinator, and website contributor.

**Boat and Water Safety** – Mike Musial

Mike described how he constructs our buoys and that they can move in storms. Contact Mike if a buoy disappears or is out of place. A show of hands indicated no one wanted to hire more law enforcement for the lake.

## **Social Committee**

Sherri Singer

A spring social with a Kentucky Derby theme was held in May; 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade was held at Wilkins, the Sunken Island Party in July attracted over 100 people. An Octoberfest potluck is planned for fall.

Dave Smith

Dave reported on fireworks. There was not a large display of fireworks for 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2015. Donations for fireworks at the north end became insufficient after a private display at the south end took precedent with donations going to military philanthropy. That private display was not given this year so Dave asked if members would contribute to a display at the north end as in the past; members were in favor so Dave took collections at the meeting.

Member Bill Jungbauer suggested that the District sponsor the fireworks from District funds. The Chairman responded that the District cannot provide District funds for social activities and fireworks; in the past fireworks and social activities coordinated by District members have been funded by donations to a separate checking account maintained by Social Committee members with oversight by the District Vice Chair.

Jungbauer motion: BLMD should provide a legal opinion on whether district-funded fireworks are legal under Chapter 33. Motion was seconded and carried.

[Secretary's note: A legal opinion is defined as a written statement by a court, judicial officer, or legal expert as to the legality (or illegality) of an action, condition, or intent.

Source: <http://www.businessdictionary.com/definition/legal-opinion.html>]

## **Nominating committee and election of two commissioners**

Terms of Phil Foster and Bob Murphy are expiring. No new nominations received.

Motion to approve re-election of Foster and Murphy without secret ballot, seconded and carried. Foster and Murphy are each re-elected for another 3-year term.

## **Approval of Budget**

Motion to approve 2015-16 budget by Russ Herbst, seconded Judy \_\_\_\_\_, carried.

## **Volunteer Recognition** — Phil Foster

The District honored the following volunteers for their service to Bone Lake. Each received a ceramic platter crafted with the outline of Bone Lake.

Dave Smith

Wayne Wolsey

Ann Miller

Gail Heller and Tony Manns

Kirk Larson

## **Polk County Report**

Pat Schmidt, Polk County Supervisor, District 2

Supv. Schmidt reports that the highway department needs a new building. Shoreland zoning: Our land use zoning ordinance is waiting for DNR review. In the meantime, State Rep. Adam Jarchow introduced an amendment to the state budget bill that precludes Wisconsin counties from adopting their own shoreland zoning ordinance any more

restrictive than the state minimum under NR 115. Senator Sheila Harsdorf has stated she will work to change the amendment (Act 55). The Polk County Board of Supervisors will issue a statement of opposition to Act 55 that will be finalized at the August 18 meeting of the board.

Representatives from the Town of Bone Lake and the Town of Georgetown were not present.

**Audit of Books**

Frank Schlick provided the audit report stating there were no corrections and the books are the best they've ever been, suggesting we should be proud of our District Treasurer, Alex Chorewycz.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

Bill Jungbauer makes a motion to table the slow no wake zone initiative. Seconded. Motion is defeated.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Engelbretson, BLMD Secretary  
August 27, 2015