

**Bone Lake Management District
Commissioners Meeting
Saturday, June 17, 2023
9:00 a.m. Online via Zoom
Minutes FINAL**

Cary Olson called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Roll Call

- X Cary Olson, Chair
- X Shelley Rose, Vice Chair
- X Karen Engelbretson, Secretary
- X Alex Chorewycz, Treasurer
- X Mike Musial
- X Doug Route, Polk County Supervisor, District 2
- Andy Brown, Town of Bone Lake
- Jeff Traynor, Town of Georgetown

Guests present:

No guests were present

Cary Olson called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda JUNE 17, 2023 Commissioners Meeting

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes April 22 Meeting
5. Reports from Towns and County
 - a. Doug Route: Polk County
 - b. Town of Georgetown: Jeff Traynor
 - c. Town of Bone Lake: Andy Brown
6. Public comments
7. Treasurer's report
8. Grants report
9. Committee reports
 - a. Boating/Water Safety: Mike Musial
 - b. Watershed: Phil Foster
 - c. Waterfront runoff: Alex Chorewycz
 - d. Aquatic Plant Management: Cary Olson/Bob Boyd
 - e. Fisheries: Bob Boyd
 - f. Wildlife and Natural Beauty: Karen Engelbretson
 - g. Communications: Karen Engelbretson
10. Old business
11. New Business
 - a. Review and vote on purchasing a harvester
 - b. Discuss and approve 2023 budget
 - c. 2023 Annual meeting
 - d. 2023 volunteer awards
12. Adjourn

Approve meeting agenda. Karen: Modify Item 11.c. to add approval of Anna Turk's agreement to prepare annual meeting powerpoint. Shelley: Item 11.a. Do not include the vote on purchasing a harvester today; amend to be a discussion only. Karen: A review of and vote to approve the APM Plan Amendment will take place during Item 9.d.

Motion to approve all three agenda amendments: Rose/Olson. Carried.

Approve Minutes from April 22 meeting.

The minutes were amended on page 3 and page 5.

Motion: Approve April 22 minutes with amendments: Rose/Musial. Carried.

Polk County Report - Doug Route

Tourist rooming house update. Six conditional use permits were up for approval. Corporate counsel suggested since there's a lawsuit underway by Wisconsin Realtors Association, the committee should allow 120 days of tourist rooming house rental per year. State statute states 120 days rental. Two applicants showed up and were allowed 120 days. Another item we're working on is a 13 acre solar farm on I and H near the Georgetown Hall, feeding to Polk Burnett's grid. The property is leased for 25 years to Polk Burnett. Steve Stroshein, CEO of Polk Burnett believes the county ordinance is too restrictive for small farms. Work on the ordinance would make small farms easier to establish. The solar farm south of Range is 1000 acres. Solar panel life expectancy is 25 years.

Town of Georgetown - Shelley Rose

Georgetown is going to re-do the culvert on West Bone Lake Drive. A special license was granted to the winery on the southeast end of the lake. The revaluation of Georgetown properties: A group petitioned for a public hearing that the revaluation wasn't done in accordance with the law and all properties need to be reassessed. The meeting will be on June 26 at 4pm at Georgetown Hall. The petitioner will provide a presentation, and all other petitioners are allowed 15 minutes. Meeting is run by Dept. of Revenue. A reassessment of all properties will cost 1/4 to 1/2 million dollars. Cary

spoke to Andy Brown about this issue and Bone Lake Township does a revaluation on a portion of the Town every year. Doug Route: attended a presentation on the alum treatment at Big Round Lake. The reassessment has impacted the alum assessments for the alum treatment, because it has created a disparity in values from \$50 per ft to \$1500 per ft. Shelley agreed to post the newspaper notice of the meeting on BoneLakers facebook page.

Town of Bone Lake: Cary Olson: The original design for the north landing parking lot has been amended to increase rain gardens capacity and insure scheduled maintenance.

Public Comments: None

Treasurer's Report - Alex Chorewycz

Alex presented the Interim Financial Report included in the PDF of these minutes. Expenses include the Decontamination Station at the north landing, and one septic incentive. First half of newsletter expenses are shown.

Cary Olson: Nothing is shown for north landing improvement. Is the money reserved or where is it shown?

Alex: The approved budget does not have a dollar amount.

Shelley: Was it in the designated funds? The \$17,000 was projected to be spent in 2022, so it isn't in the 2023 budget. The number is sitting in the designated funds. There was a vote and the amount was approved. See annual meeting minutes 2022.

Alex: The \$17,000 is a net expense for the north landing improvement.

Cary: Town of Bone Lake is picking up the rest of the costs. It can be added into the budget for 2024.

Alex: It will show up as an actual expense.

Motion to approve Treasurer's Report: Engelbretson/Rose. Carried.

Grants Update - Cary Olson

Healthy Lakes Grant ends at end of 2023 for \$7,000

Bone Lake assessment and mapping: \$10,000 available.

Engaging homeowners in native plant restoration: \$4,300

Shoreline stabilization: \$10,000

Will have funds coming from the CD3 grant.

CBCW \$8,000 grant.

CLP is a three-year grant. We spent over the amount the first year, last year and this year was less. Next year we will not be spraying any beds less than 5 acres.

Move to accept grants report: Chorewycz/Engelbretson. Carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Boating Safety - Mike Musial

South end dock is in. Brochures will be replenished in landing boxes. Six new buoys this year and extras are stored on the small island. One had moved and was restored to its proper position. Mike reached out to the county's new water safety officer but he hasn't called back. No word on boating safety classes. A boating accident on Balsam Lake was anecdotally reported.

Cary: is there anything else we need to do on the south landing blocks?

Mike: Some repairs were made to settle the blocks flat. It's definitely usable. To do more would require heavy equipment. Georgetown helped with that last time. BLMD paid Georgetown to do that. If more needs to be done, we'll need to hire someone.

Shelley: Comment on south landing. The number of boats on the south landing and parking on the street and the driveway made the road and landing very crowded. We may need to designate some no parking areas.

Mike: There's a lot of powerloading there and a big mound.

Shelley: The congestion could be because of the north end decontamination station so people used the south landing.

Cary: It's something we need to discuss with Georgetown.

Watershed - Shelley Rose Shelly and Phil went to look at the Sandy Hook property where snowmelt runoff was funneled and gushing into the lake. A large farm field has a culvert going under the road into a pond. Another culvert goes under the drain field to the lake. Phil and Shelley have some ideas and will work to contain the runoff from the field. The Watershed Committee will work it.

Waterfront Runoff - Alex Chorewycz

Nothing to report.
North landing maintenance will be an item in the future.
No new septic applications.

Aquatic Plant Management - Cary Olson

Spraying was done. Steve Schieffer checked beds and didn't see any CLP growing. Bob Boyd will check beds again. Amendment to the Aquatic Plant Management Plan was drafted in response to DNR's change that in 2024, endofall treatment cannot be done on beds less than 5 acres in size. Bone Lake has only one bed larger than 5 acres. Beds cannot be grouped together, so the 2023 Amendment to the APM plan provides detail of how a harvesting program for CLP management would be implemented on Bone Lake. From the plan:

This plan amendment reflects a major change in how curly leaf pondweed is managed on Bone Lake with a shift from chemical treatment to harvesting. The plan amendment implementation is expected in 2024 or 2025 depending upon budgeting and logistics.

This plan amendment makes only one change to plant management goals and objectives. It adds an objective of phosphorus removal for curly leaf pondweed management. This objective was in previous Bone Lake APM plans, but was removed in the 2020 update because of the limitations of phosphorus removal with chemical treatment of CLP.

The 2020 plan stated that adaptive management would be used. From the plan: "other methods, such as harvesting, may be considered to meet curly leaf pondweed management objectives in the future." The 2023 amendment provides detail of how a harvesting program for CLP management would be implemented on Bone Lake.

Shelley: The original plan states harvesting is not recommended for controlling native plants.

Cary: Other area lakes are using harvesting to control CLP with significant reduction in the size of their beds: Blake is harvesting 80 acres, Apple River Flowage, Wapogassest reduced density, Balsam.

Mike: team goes out ahead of the harvester and targets the beds for best results because beds grow at different rates. Cut while turions are on the plant to stunt/eliminate turions. Most harvesting is done in May. Larger areas may harvest into July. Apple river may harvest the entire season. Conditions change from year to year.

Alex: how much can we get done here?

Mike: we may be able to do it all and do navigation channels in July.

Alex: we would have to get permits for harvesting?

Cary: Yes.

Karen: That's why it has to be in a DNR approved APM.

Alex: Page 1: highlighted paragraphs from May version. (sec. note: highlighted areas are above in bold). Are those the changes to the plan?

Cary: those are changes where we added harvesting.

Alex: are there further changes?

Cary: no.

Alex: Page 6, 5/22 version has a question.

Karen: Alex, you have an earlier copy of what I have on the screen.

Alex was looking at the 5/22 version. The meeting had the 6/11 version on the screen.

Cary: Shelley, do you need more time to go through the document?

Shelley: Yes. I haven't received all the documents, and I have questions. Why is DNR prohibiting less than 5 acre beds.

Cary: It goes back to a study ten years ago about the effectiveness of the chemical. Treatment of smaller beds causes drift of the Endothall with an effect on native plants. It's now DNR standards.

Karen: Since most of our beds are less than 5 acres, we need another option for treating CLP.

Mike: DNR is favoring harvesting now.

Shelley: DNR doesn't want to keep doing things year after year without improvement.

Cary: The last few years we spray beds but they don't get bigger or smaller.

Shelley: Is the CLP causing the same issues?

Cary: Yes, it causes significant navigation problems and contributes to the phosphorus load as the plant decays in the water. Even when sprayed the plants go to the bottom of the lake. With harvesting it is removed.

Karen: There has been a reduction in the turion count in the beds. I have photos of CLP in my bay before treatment, where it was topped out through the channel and into the bay. When the columnaris virus die-off happens, dead fish float on top of it. You couldn't swim or boat through there. I've noticed a change in native plants since spraying. As lead of the county-wide lake groups there have been several winters with a great deal of snow on top of the ice which precludes sunlight from getting through the ice. CLP grows under the ice. If it does not receive light, it doesn't grow. This year it's the same on Balsam. All they've found is dead, black CLP. It is assumed that last winter's snowfall has had an effect on the plants.

Alex: Are you looking for a motion to approve the amendment.

Cary: Yes.

Alex: is the final copy on the screen.

Karen: Yes, this is the 6/11/2023 version.

Alex: Are there additional edits or changes to the amendment?

Cary: Shelley needs more time to review the amendment.

Alex: Is the group here in favor of moving forward? Is there more time for Shelley to review, for me to review?

Karen: Suggest we postpone any vote on the amendment at this time to allow time for further review. After the board approves we need 30 days for public review. We can set up a special meeting for this vote, allowing 30 days July 1-Aug 1 for public review, comment. Public comment period closes and we can present at annual meeting for a vote. The annual meeting notice provides two weeks for people to review it. We can provide direction for members review. This can still move ahead.

Cary: This is an excellent suggestion.

Mike: What is the timeline?

Cary: We have to submit something to DNR in September.

Karen: The waterways commission grant? That's the grant for funding we would need to apply for in September. The fast track would be to approve the APM Plan Amendment and approve the harvester purchase at this year's annual meeting (that is a lot to put in front of members) then apply for grant funding in September, purchase the harvester and begin harvesting in 2024. Or we get the plan approved and apply for funding next year and begin harvesting in 2025. In 2024 we spray the one bed we would be allowed to spray.

Shelley: We have reserve funds to pay for spraying.

Karen: We do not have grant money remaining for spraying.

Motion to table the BLMD Board vote to approve the 2023 APM Plan Amendment for a period of one week:

Chorewycz/Engelbretson. Carried.

The board will schedule a special meeting for the vote prior to the end of July.

Cary: we want to be sure Cheryl is available for that meeting.

Karen: We need to meet before the 27th of the month. We will figure out a date for everyone's availability.

Mike: Can I cast my vote now? I will try to be available.

Karen: If we do this we can get this vote done now.

Alex: Shelley, would you be able to review the plan then and be informed for a vote at the special meeting?

Shelley: Yes

Karen: It's important that all board members review and approve this APM Plan Amendment so we take this action conscientiously. I don't think Mike can vote in absenteeism.

Friday the 23rd was discussed as a meeting date option. and Tuesday the 27th. All board members were good with these dates. Cary will contact Cheryl for her availability.

Shelley: I will try to get my questions to everyone.

All in favor of holding the special meeting on 23rd or 27th Motion carried.

Cary: Phil and Alex have put together numbers showing where the money will come from for the harvester purchase. Shelley can review.

Alex: I sent a second draft of the Treasurer's Report. What we're keying on now in this discussion is what is the out-of-pocket dollar amount the District provides. Phil put together a spreadsheet I can send out to everyone. I'll send the document to everyone and Karen will try to share.

Shelley: We have just one bid right now?

Mike: Yes, this bid is from Inland, and Aquarius, a different company, will send a bid, stating their pricing is higher but has more features. Area lakes prefer the Inland brand. Wapo has an Aquarius harvest. Only difference is size of cutter heads. Most wish they'd bought the big ones - 10 ft. the largest they produce. Apple River prefers the Inland also. As soon as I get the bid I will forward to Karen or share with everyone. I visited Inland and they handed me paper copies. I'm getting it also via email and I will forward. DNR wants to see more than one estimate. There is up to 50 percent funding with grants but there are limited funds spread over all applications. We may want to apply for the grant in the spring and receive better funding, rather than apply in September.

Alex: Here's a document Phil and I worked on, Tax Levy Use, showing the BLMD use of annual tax levy, other sources, but not grants (included in the pdf of these minutes). Newsletter ads is the only other significant source of income. Items in blue are what I've added. (a PDF of this document is included in these minutes). The Designated Funds includes \$90,000 for CLP control that could be used for a harvester purchase. Some assumptions aren't included in this document. Look at the notes on the side, BLMD would pay expenses but someone else would own it (Town of Bone Lake).

Cary: If everyone is comfortable with the cost of the harvester, we can move forward. Other logistics remain to be worked out.

Shelley: Send assumptions on document to Shelley.

Wildlife & Natural Beauty Committee—Karen Engelbretson

Planning a Discovery Day for children & their families, to sample aquatic macroinvertebrates, plants, and the relationship of these organisms to the life in the water and around the lake. Was in the newsletter and eNews, have 11 children/8 families so far. The committee met yesterday - not bad for a first attempt. We reviewed the protocol, 2 hours. Kids get a net to scrape the bottom and capture organisms, put them in a dishpan, extract individually, and look at them under magnification. Will also look at aquatic plants. Families get an Aquascope viewer, a long tube you can use to look beneath the surface of the water. The third activity would be a walk down the creek to look for birds and wildlife along the shore. Pontoons, tables. Let me know if you want to come. Every kid gets a net, magnifier, petri dishes, family gets an Aquascope, and laminated taxonomic chart, plant and bird charts. July 15 at the entrance to Fox Creek. 10 a.m. - noon.

Shelley: if you have room, post that you have openings for those who don't plan so far ahead.

Karen: Parents stay with their kids, so they'll learn about plants, the food web, too.

Underway on several projects: Sensitive area mapping, promotion of native plants, and bird list.

Communications

Have been in touch with the web developer and have a start on a few things. We can host all the documents with the hosting company, security is adequate. Working on an outline. Hopefully will have a sample for the annual meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Discuss and approve 2024 budget.

Alex presents the draft 2024 budget, some items in the color violet are not complete. Second column items, e.g. grants, shows what we've received, we need the number expected through the end of the year, and anticipated for 2024. Other numbers highlighted in violet were discussed.

Shelley: We need to show how Designated Funds will be used in the Budget.

Alex: You are keeping track of those funds, correct, Shelley?

Shelley: No, I am not.

Shelley: If we are going to purchase a harvester next year we need a different budget. Then we could potentially adjust the levy.

Alex: If all funds are "un-designated" we could buy a harvester out-right after a 30 percent grant. Leaving designated funds in place would require borrowing to pay for the harvester, or raise the levy. For the annual meeting, do we raise the levy?

Karen: No. It's not fair to raise the levy while we sit on all this money we haven't spent.

Shelley: No. The designated funds starting balance is about \$250K; now \$220K. \$90K for CLP treatment already earmarked.

Alex: \$90K for the harvester plus grant money may be enough to pay for it.

Cary: \$40K for a south end CD3 station is designated.

Alex: What I'm hearing is that we should not increase the levy.

Shelley: Not with this budget. Levy is 67K, expenditures are 71K, plus we have grant money, we have a net 0 which is where we want to be as a taxing district.

Cary: We work with what we've got here, and show a budget including a harvester.

Alex: I can put together a fourth column and plug in the harvester dollars.

Shelley: It would be difficult to approve the report if both scenarios are on the same page.

Karen: The financing including the harvester should be a separate document.

Alex: I will provide the completed budget next week for review.

Karen: As a board we have to approve this before presenting at the annual meeting.

Shelley: I would like to see a revised document.

Cary: Do we do it next week.

Karen: We could include a vote to approve the 2024 budget in the agenda for the special meeting next week.

2023 Annual Meeting

Karen pulled together logistics from last year and Anna Turk's service agreement for \$300 to produce the powerpoint presentation and a template for speakers, along with due dates, and extra services at \$85/hour if needed. \$300 includes a post-event google survey in addition to our paper survey. Questions in advance could be sent to a designated email. We will not have a Zoom component, making it simpler for everyone.

Motion to approve Anna Turk's proposal.

Cary: So moved. Second: Shelley.

Discussion: We should include Anna Turk's costs same as last year.

Chad Strege. AV tech at Bone Lake Lutheran Church will help produce the meeting. We can do Facebook live streaming. No voting, but people can comment. Need to make Chad an Admin on BoneLakers.
Karen presented the logistics document. Chad will improve the speaker in the fellowship hall.
Kitchen, refreshments, etc. same as last year. Will order again from Cafe Wren.
Timeline / schedule includes dates for approval of budget, and other dates. Karen will be away July 26 to August 1.
A brief preview of the event the night before or week before would be helpful.
Printing needs were outlined.
Mike Musial is the commissioner up for re-election this year.
Volunteers are listed. Still need some people as greeters.
Kitchen help and cleanup are needed.

Shelley: Need to contact Deb Dawson and designated her as nominations chair. Needs to ask 3 times in the meeting.

Karen, Couple of ideas: Last year we had negative comments about slowness of the meeting. Some suggestions include slide show before the meeting starts. from 8:30 until meeting starts, have a slide loop on repeat 5-10 min., displaying management plan goals, photos of the year to engage people with the screen and get them into the sanctuary. Get the management plan and goals in front of people. That's why we're here. Send your ideas, photos.

Shelley: We could ask the Owens and Boyd families for their 4th of July ceremonies, catching fish. Can we ask on BoneLakers for photos?

Karen: Ask Deb to do that as admin.

Shelley: Let me know if I can help with some of these things.

Karen: I will send you the document and we can talk offline.

Volunteer awards

Cary: we want to recognize the people that support us. If you know someone who has participated, or a long-term person we can acknowledge send it forward.

Shelley: Deb Dawson for her work on facebook and annual meeting.

Karen: Yes, Deb and Jeff Dawson.

Cary: I have the list of who has received an award.

Consider a special award for Dick and Sally Mackie.

Meeting adjourned 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Engelbretson
BLMD Secretary
June 27, 2023