



**MINUTES
DEVILS LAKE WATER IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING**

**DLWID OFFICE
May 1, 2008
6:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: Otis Winchester
Jack Strayer
Brian Green
Smokey Aschenbrenner
David Juenke

Budget Committee

Douglas Pirie
Mitchell Moore

ABSENT: None

AUDIENCE: Bill Sexton
Raylene Erickson PADL Recording Secretary
Tom Moore

STAFF: Paul Robertson

MEDIA: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chair Winchester.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Approval of the Minutes of the previous meeting was moved by Aschenbrenner and seconded by Juenke, with a minor change—Aschenbrenner was absent, therefore, he did not second the approval of the previous month's minutes.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion passed.

Financial Report.

Robertson pointed out some small changes in the report from the printed version.

There is \$267,000 remaining in the General Fund and \$127,000 in the Special Revenue Funds.

Green moved and Juenke seconded accepting the Financial Report.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

2008-2009 Budget Committee Meeting

Presentation of Budget Officer: Paul Robertson

Chair Winchester asked for nominations for Budget Chair and Budget Secretary.

Aschenbrenner nominated Brian Green to act as Budget Chair and Strayer seconded the motion.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion Carried.

Winchester appointed Aschenbrenner to act as Secretary for the Budget Committee.

Green announced that the Budget Officer, Robertson, would present the Budget, including the Budget Message and outline the Goals of the Budget.

Robertson stated that the General Message was on Page 3 that outlined the Goals of the Budget. He reminded everyone that the Budget is available on the website and that a second version would be presented with any changes, and the final version presented (online) after the final changes.

Robertson walked through the budget line by line. Following are some of the highlights.

Spending priorities:

One is the Lake Management plan.

(Moore asked how far into the future the plan carried. Robertson replied that it could be up to 25 years or the life of the District, or, more realistically, five to 15 years).

Investigate opportunities for purchase of Solar Bees.

Establish a Research center on Devils Lake.

Investigate grants for septic tank revitalization.

Develop strategy to remove dilapidated structures.

Educate residents with the best management practices for using fertilizers—phosphate free or organic phosphate fertilizers.

Ongoing:

Water quality monitoring for E-coli and cyano-toxins.

Lake level management for both winter and summer.

Intern program.

Emergency preparedness.

Site plan reviews for large developments.

Water right applications for irrigation of Chinook Winds Golf Course.

Boathouse and dock construction ordinance. (Strayer inserted an objection to this being a part of the District's plan).

Wetlands issues—soil removal and fill and other land/property issues.

Outreach programs:

Erosion prevention seminar sponsorship for \$500 to present free event for contractors and real estate people.

SOLV's Down by the Lakeside (scheduled for May 17 this year from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)

Get the Lead Out campaign—educating the public on using non-toxic weights for fishing.

Earthday Event—a two-day event.

Senior Fair in October

Lake Steward Award—this is the third year occurring during Community Days.

Excellent website that has become an enormous asset.

Partnering agencies and affiliations:

Investigate grants and additional funding.

General Fund: Page 6.

The District can anticipate an increase in tax funding of about \$6,000 from one year ago. There may be some reductions in dollars due to the interest rate reduction. There may be some growth in the District.

Robertson walked through the tables and explained them.

Table 1 is the General Fund's total resources--General Fund operates from taxes, interest and grants and donations.

Tables 1 through 5, Requirements for the General Fund and the worksheets were explained.

Per the Board's directive, all requirements are to be paid from current tax dollars, back taxes, interest and donations or grants.

Robertson spent some time explaining and walking the Board and Budget Committee through the expenditure items of the budget and explained the funds, including the Reserve Fund and the Improvement Fund.

Robertson stated that the District has not implemented a plan for a vegetated shoreline. Devils Lake needs a buffer—not just grass—and a means of reducing the level of phosphorous. Possibly changing storm drains to filter into constructed wetlands areas. The District is searching for funds for improving septic tanks and sewer system repairs. Robertson said he has allocated a \$25,000 expenditure to prevent phosphorous from seeking into the lake and for educating home owners.

Consulting on those grants will cost about 10% of the grant. Robertson reminded the group that the District is going to require support on this issue.. 10% to be used as consulting. Robertson said we are going to need some support on this issue. Approximately one percent would be needed for administrative cost.

Budget Committee Questions

Strayer said it appears that there are too many things on the plate for one person to complete. He continued that the Manager's time should be prioritized. Green asked if this meant the budget items should be prioritized and Strayer replied, "Yes.". Strayer asked if they should suggest the top two or three items.

Robertson said he would like to establish a free septic tank testing day, along with an incentive of a discount to assist in the replacement if a problem was discovered. This might generate more cooperation. Additional discussion ensued regarding testing the lake for septic tank pollution. Robertson explained some of the testing procedures.

Moore asked some questions on the Reserve Fund. The only absolute expenditure may be getting help with grants. The Management Lake Plan is the priority, explained Robertson.

Robertson said he spoke with Dr. Sytsma, who suggested that the District should create a "model" for pollutants and removal strategies. This would help determine if it is worth the funds. Rather than developing strategies, you would first develop a model. Robertson said he had not in the past approached the concept of modeling as a measurement tool.

Robertson said the Board has requested a Lake Plan for application of a grant to implement the Plan. He continued that he would like to create a model incorporating data from the history of the Lake. Dr. Sytsma estimated that a model would cost from between \$25,000 to \$50,000.

In closing, Robertson said he would petition the Board to look at modeling as being part of the Lake Plan. The public will require that dollars spent really make a change. And, it seems to make more sense to calculate expenditures rather than to just do something, such as removing septic tanks. The mathematics could inform us whether a project is worthwhile. Robertson said that the primary goal is to lower the levels of nutrients in the Lake. Is it worth placing \$100,000 into a small watershed issue? He continued that any modeling consulting expenditures would come out of the Improvement Fund.

Mitchell Moore moved and Green seconded acceptance of the Budget, with a few small changes, and recommended presenting it to the Board for approval at the next Board Meeting.

There was no further discussion, and the Vote was unanimous. The motion carried.

Robertson requested a short break.

Public Comment

None

Unfinished Business

Boat House/Docks.

On April 28 at 7:30 p.m., the Planning Commission of Lincoln County held a hearing after a workshop on the proposal with DSL and ODFW, PADL, contractors and others. The County suggested an ordinance similar to the one the District proposed—limiting setbacks, sizes and percentages. They left the issue open and instructed staff to review the footprints of the boat lifts in the maximum square footage. There was some concern about grandfathering existing dock boards. The Commissioner told Matt Spangler to research and another hearing would be held at Lincoln City in the City Hall. ODFW's Dan Avery, a newcomer who has been incorporating footprints for boats and boat docks, feels that the smaller the footprint, the better. NOAA expressed that their ideal footprints would be 144 square feet, and Robertson said that their rules state that if there is an endangered species present, building boathouses must cease.

The 350-square-foot print is the ordinance that ensued at the hearing; most of the existing boathouses fall within those limits. Robertson asked the County to place the restrictions into a hand-out brochure for the public.

Sexton stated that a 3-foot see-through dock would be nine times the cost of a wooden dock; it is safe. The goal is to allow light through it. Sexton said it now takes from three to six months to obtain a permit for a dock.

Robertson was asked if the District is concerned about erosion on the lake. He is concerned about lake levels that are causing erosion on the lake. Sexton feels that closer management of the lake level is needed with the boards to prevent erosion of the shores. The water level is 10.1 feet and the mean level is 10.4 feet. The boards go in on April 15 and come out of October 15. He would like to see the Board establish at permanent height of 10.0 feet. Robertson said 10'4" is the mean level and the campground is at 10-feet. Sexton said he would like to see the lake level at below 10 feet, otherwise there will be problems with stationery docks.

Discussion continued about the fluctuating lake levels.

Robertson said that Steve can make changes; however, it is difficult to maintain a 9'8" level all year long. During the summer, the lake will not be at 9'8".

Sexton discussed the project of working with PADL and the City to build a Regatta Grounds and a Holmes Road rinsing station to preserve water quality and to prevent invasive species. Funds are available. Sexton is asking for any for any donations to assist in the stations. The City will allow them to rinse the boats into the sewer. They are supposed to wash their boats in and out. After the boat is rinsed, the water is will

go through a grate over the manhole. Sexton is looking for \$8,000 to \$10,000 to assist in this project. PADL will provide the non-profit tax I.D. number for funds.

Native Revegetation: Jack Strayer

ODFW just completed their electro-fishing project. It was a cold miserable day and it was difficult to get a good reading.

Strayer said he found a Tenmile lake water quality watershed management plan that is over 250 pages long. It is led by the Department of Water Quality that analyzes water quality for the State. DSL is in charge of plants below the high water line. DSL has to approve plants placed in the lake. Anything below 10'4", which is the average lake level.

Relating to fishing in the ponds and lakes, ODFW takes heavy input from local people. So if we have a project, we need to involve PADL, the city and any groups in the area that will endorse what we are doing. The public involvement is also needed. Strayer met with someone the owner of Santiam Valley Farms, where they raise warm water fish and aquatic plants. She is researching plants to see if they can produce those plants and design enclosures in which to place the plants.

Sexton asked if there are any structures remaining in the lake. Strayer replied that algae are on the bottom, but there are few structures. If you look on the bottom, there is not much of anything but debris and lots of tires.

Boat Launch Signage.

Robertson said the signage is attractive. Parks and Recreation is entertaining allowing the District to place maps where people have more access. It would be placed on the sand where it doesn't block the views. Everyone would have to go by the sign where they would see information about the lake and river and not just about the ocean.

The Devils Lake Plan

Last month, two objectives were grant opportunities and cyanobacteria control. Robertson spent three days researching grant opportunities for the Restoration Plan, Solar Bees and renewable energy. The top ten or so were weeded down to five from those were listed. Robertson also qualified the dates that you could apply. Grants.gov has lots of resources available. Robertson said he will determine whether they are applicable and see if they are worthy of application.

On cyanobacteria controls, he spent the rest of the week building the vegetation management strategies. Basically, cyanobacteria are going to grow until the nutrients are removed. We have to fix the watershed issues and hone in on removing phosphorous from the system. Modeling can teach a lot about where to get the most bang for the buck. Nutrient control is priority. Increased development and lack of plants that use up the nutrients are problems. Nutrients go into the lake instead of into trees, because the trees have been cut down. It would cost from \$2,000 to \$10,000 to build some sand and plant water filters—four or five in watershed areas.

Tom Moore asked if Goal 17 covered some of the issues that the District is concerned with. Robertson said he would research this issue.

Robertson said he would like to go through some of the items in the Plan. He walked through the list of items, some of which were:

- Aeration;
- Eliminating phosphorous;
- Dredging to remove phosphorous (too expensive);
- Ultrasonic eradication (a group in the Netherlands has come up with ultrasound);
- Ultraviolet light to disrupt the cells and knock out the organisms;
- *Vacuum filtering (such as what Lake Oswego does); perhaps look at this near Regatta Grounds during the summer;

Robertson continued with a list of possible issues:

- Biochemicals;
- Herbicides that were discarded by the Board;
- Clay; Copper treatments used to kill phyto-plankton (it doesn't last);
- Alum has had a lot of success attacking the nutrients—good for two to eight years;
- Lyme or calcium carbonate; Iron has more benefit than calcium or alum;
- Water dyes; Barley straw decays and actually is a biochemical control that releases a chemical as it disintegrates.
- *Native revegetation competes for nutrients that would make cyanobacteria have to work for them;
- Silver carp is a biological control—they like cyanobacteria (these are the ones that fly out of the water). If a trout feeds on cyanobacteria, they pick up the toxins. These fish are used in China.
- Bio-filtration is zero muscles to feed on nutrients. Zebra muscle goes through nutrients really fast through a liter a day. Drawback: They grow on everything.

*Preferred items

For nutrient controls, the best items are circulation and native vegetation and the vacuum filter idea. Robertson doesn't like the idea of adding chemicals. Getting oxygen to the bottom of the lake is important; however, addressing the chemicals going into the lake is the most important.

New Business

None

Non-Agenda Items

None

Public Comment

Raylene Erickson mentioned again the \$3,000 grant that was offered for the rain garden. Landscape architect said they could do it near the City Hall. Robertson said it would be a good demonstration spot for the City Hall.

Announcements

Robertson will speak on KBCH 1400 am at 7:00 a.m. next Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

International Migratory Bird Day: Union 50, Saturday, May 10, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

SOLV: Down by the Lakeside, May 17, 2008. Robertson challenged the Board to bring two friends.

Adjournment

The Board meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Burt