



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

**DLWID OFFICE
January 8, 2009
6:00 P.M.**

- PRESENT:** Jack Strayer
Otis Winchester
David Juenke
Brian Green
- ABSENT:** Smokey Aschenbrenner
- AUDIENCE:** Raylene Erickson, PADL
Randy Weldon
Signe Grimstad, Auditor
- STAFF:** Paul Robertson
- MEDIA:** Green called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes from December

Strayer asked for a couple of small changes to be made to the December minutes. Juenke moved and Strayer seconded approving the December minutes with the changes.
Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Financial Report

Robertson pointed out a couple of small additions and changes he had made to the financial report. The Lincoln Storage invoice amount represents the entire year's storage. There will be no rent increases and one free month of storage as a result of paying in advance. Winchester moved and Juenke seconded approving the financial report.
Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Robertson read **Resolution 09-01**, which was dated 1/8/09 and appropriates funds for Lincoln Storage. No discussion. Green signed the resolution and it was approved unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Special Order of Business: Audit

Signe Grimstad referred to the report of June 30, 2008. She had few comments and said that the District has been very prompt in presenting the audits. She said this is the first year of implementation for additional standards. She suggested that perhaps the District should appoint an audit committee to ensure that there was an independent group of overseers for financial activities. She said she would then communicate with the audit committee, whom she suggested could be the treasurer or someone who is familiar with numbers. She said it would facilitate good communications since the administration of audits recently increased in regulations. Grimstad said the audit was clean and standard and everything appeared to be routine with nothing unusual. Robertson reported that the audit is now on the website. Green suggested an audit committee could be addressed during the next meeting of the budget committee. The Board thanked Grimstad and she departed.

Unfinished Business

Boat House/Docks

Robertson spoke with Jerry Warner and they will try to urge the county to complete the project soon. He reminded that the local rulings would supersede those at the state level.

Lake Level Update

January levels were very high. Robertson continues the recording of lake levels. He said that Sandpoint does not exist when the lake level is at the mean height of 10.45. He showed photos taken at various points around the lake. The river was dredged on December 11. Juenke asked if any homes had been flooded; Robertson said it could have happened. Flooding did occur in the wetlands; however, a relatively small amount of damage was observed around the lake. Flooding did occur at the campground—it is a wetland. In 1996, the water rose as high as Highway 101. On January 2, the lake level was 11.6 feet, a nearly one-foot increase from the day before; 10.4 is the mean level.

D River Emergency Dredging

An emergency dredging was conducted outside a regular permit that the City is supposed to obtain. The excavator was sliding on ice and the excavation took about an hour and brought the river to about four feet wide. The District's contribution was \$235. The City has applied for a formal DSL permit.

Blog

Robertson explained that a link could be created from the web site for ease of accessibility. It is currently at DLWID.blogspot.com. Green asked Robertson to place the blog issue on the agenda for next month and the Board will address it after research.

The Devils Lake Plan

Native Revegetation

Tetra Tech

Robertson said he had returned the scope of work to Tetra Tech; has not received an estimate of the cost for the reduced scope of work that includes the types of vegetation, how to plant it and where to obtain it.

DSL Removal/Fill

Robertson, Green and Strayer met with ODFW's Dan Avery and John Spangler regarding the permit. It seems unlikely that ODFW will recommend the project for potential and unknown impacts to Coho. Final decision will be from DSL.

Green said he felt that one of the issues of ODFW's opposition to the plan is that they are concerned that building small areas for concentrated plants might attract fingerling salmon that attract the bass. They did warm up to the SolarBees and thought they could improve slow lake wide recovery of vegetation which would disburse the bass to protect Coho. Robertson said he feels that they felt the SolarBees would foster new vegetation more evenly. Green suggested that they should determine measurable goals and objectives and decide what would be considered successful cover for an area. They want specifics, such as if you have cover after a certain period of time, it would be 60 percent successful—a goal. Strayer made the point that it would be only an arbitrary goal. It was suggested that perhaps Tetra Tech or Portland State might assist.

Strayer suggested that ODFW has been trained to be against warm water fishing. That's what the lake has been for 20 years, and it will come back as soon as the weeds return. Robertson said he has no opinion on that. Strayer said that if the Board explains the issues they feel are important and says that the negatives are not of great concern, they might get an approval. Robertson said that ODFW responds to public input; it would be smart to get the City, PADL, the *News Guard*, *Newport News Times* and support from the local community, and take it to the fish commission. Robertson said that the warm water fishing issue is not going to go away. Robertson said that if the District alters a system, ODFW is not required to monitor it. There was further discussion on salmon vs. Coho studies and the invasives and enclosures.

Green said he feels that ODFW is kind of warming up to the grass carp issue. Strayer said he thinks that Buckman is against anything that might help warm water fish. Robertson said that if there had been no public pressure to put bass in the lake, there wouldn't be any there.

Robertson said he feels the Board should wait for the Army Corps of Engineers and NOAA Fisheries to see if they will issue a permit. They are scientific entities that could influence the decisions and the District might not need proof. John Spangler said it would be a very intensive study. Green asked if DSL is going to wait for the Corps' opinion and Robertson said, No, but it is beneficial to have the Corps' opinion cemented. DSL is hoping that the differences with ODFW can be resolved. Robertson said that there is a six-month backlog. He said that he felt there is definitely support for the installation of SolarBees.

Robertson reported he is applying for four grants, two of which are due the first part of February. He feels that this is a more prudent use of his time. Green and Juenke said they are in favor of allowing the issue to rest awhile. In terms of revegetating the lake, conditions might be more favorable during the next growing season.

Strayer took a small plant to Robertson, who said it is duckweed that appears and disappears. It has a small root and three or four small leaves.

Robertson showed some graphs on Blue Lake documenting the decline of milfoil after the installation of SolarBees. The results appear to be favorable. The graph was created by Metro to measure the success of SolarBees over two summers. Joe Eilers is meeting with EPA in an attempt to obtain funding for the SolarBees. He will work on obtaining funding via the Clean Lakes Act. Green asked Robertson to obtain data from Eilers on additional grant issues. Robertson reported that he has found two additional grants that recently appeared on grants.gov.

Robertson has begun applying for a private grant of \$46,000 with the Compton Foundation, who has granted up to \$100,000 in the past. Submission date is in April. NOAA has made a broad announcement that they have some funds with a submission date of April 22.

In response to Weldon's question, Robertson explained the procedure for aerating the lake—a negative proposition due to cost.

Model DEQ 319 Grant

Robertson reported that this grant would be awarded; it was written model intensive. They might be willing to fund 60% of the amount requested. Eilers reminded Robertson that Jesse Ford from OSU is a researcher who has created a database for the forest service to assemble their lake data into a machine. He suggested taking the work that Kevin Erickson did and formulate it into a machine.

Part of the grant of the septic tank evaluation would entail the District contributing a match.

SolarBees

In response to Juenke's question, Green said Eilers is trying to help Robertson obtain grant funds. He feels they might be on the cusp of getting SolarBees fundable under the Clean Lakes Act. Green suggested he might reply to Eiler's last e-mail and ask for a figure since the District is trying to attract funds. Green said the grant money is worth exploring, but the sooner that this can be expected is next fall. Juenke agreed it is wise to ask Eilers to commit to a figure. Green said he would send him an e-mail and Robertson said he would ask Eilers to assist in the writing of the final grant verbiage.

New Business

Computer Data Backup

Robertson said he committed to \$100 a year to obtain an off-site data management system with a 10g back-up. He said he needed 25GB additional, so he purchased another \$150 worth of storage—a prudent purchase that can run continuously and now all the District's data is on the system. Green moved and Juenke approved the expenditure of the \$250 for 35 GB of storage.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Oregon American Fisheries Society Meeting & Presentation

Robertson reported that Eilers had requested him to present a report on grass carp and cyanobacteria of the Oregon Fishing Society of Oregon. Robertson declined due to time constraints; Eilers offered to write it if Robertson would co-author it. Robertson thus requested the Board's approval to attend the meeting in Bend and make the presentation to the American Fisheries Society of Oregon. Joe has shown that there were significant cyanobacteria blooms in the 50's and 60's; the grass carp has changed them and increased the free-floating cyanobacteria.

Robertson estimated expenses would be approximately \$350. Juenke moved and Winchester seconded appropriating funds for the trip to Bend.

Vote: Unanimous. Motion carried.

Green reminded the Board that Eilers had previously indicated that if the SolarBees did not sufficiently control the weeds, he would support an application for additional grass carp.

Devils Lake Radio

Robertson reported the District has an opportunity to obtain a low wattage radio that could be placed at Regatta and the state park to update the public via a broadcast. They would dial a designated number on their FM radios to receive information on the lake. Signs would be placed at the parks informing the public which station to dial into. The only expense would be building a box for the radio. It could be a useful tool for high water issues and other information. Juenke asked if it seemed practical to maintain and Robertson replied that it is simply a black box. The Board agreed it was a good project.

Budget Calendar

Robertson suggested that the Budget Committee meet in conjunction with the May 7 meeting. Three vacancies are on the committee. Pirie's, Sell's and Mitchell Moore's terms expire. Moore cannot make it to that meeting. It is required by law that the District attempt to move new people into the system; however, reappointments can be made if new people are unavailable. Robertson submitted to the media a request for interested people to join the budget committee. Green said he had a conflicting meeting and could not attend a May 7 meeting. Robertson suggested they schedule a regular meeting separate from the budget meeting. May 7 will be the regular meeting and May 11 will be the budget meeting.

Non-Agenda Items

None

Public Comment

Weldon stated that he and his friends are attempting to lower the lake level because of the water quality and their sport skiing. He expressed his frustration with the Board because he had obtained a requested petition with 25 signatures of lake front property owners expressing their concern with the erosion issue. He then took photos and brought them to the Board. He asked if it would be possible for the lake level to be lowered to a 9-foot level during the summer on a temporary basis. Green said the idea of the blog was one method of obtaining input from additional lakefront owners; 26 people is a significant group, but not a large percentage considering the lake front population. He would suggest waiting until the summer and continuing the discussion. Weldon responded that it would take a couple of months during the summer to curtail the erosion. Green said they would have to do it this next summer because lake levels cannot be adjusted once the SolarBees are installed. Green asked what date Weldon would want the lake to be lowered to 9 feet and Weldon said it depends on the weather.

Strayer said he felt the Board had decided to implement the blog and place doorknob notes on lake front homes prior to making a decision. Green asked how long it would take to get the blog activated. Robertson said it could be linked immediately. Green said he would give everyone an opportunity to suggest changes on the blog and to make it active by next meeting. He asked Robertson to place the issue on the agenda in February and a decision will be made by March.

Announcements

KBCH 1400 am: Tuesday, December 9, 7:15 AM

Next meeting: February 5, 2009

SOLV: May 16, 2009, Union 50

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Burt