

White River Flowage Lake Management District
Budget Hearing, Annual Meeting Minutes
Saturday, September 13, 2014 - Town of Dakota Town Hall

Budget Hearing:

The Budget Hearing commenced at 9:00 a.m. All members received the proposed 2015 budget with their meeting notification. Gordie Loehr asked a question about the Workers' Compensation. He was told that the State now requires it for Board Members, even though they are not paid employees. Marty Koslucher asked whether the tow vehicle insurance is dropped while in storage. Chairman Geier explained that coverage for the tow vehicle is dropped, but comprehensive coverage is kept on the harvester while in storage. Geier also mentioned that there was no chemical treatment budgeted for 2015, but the District will have to pay \$300 to the DNR for a five-year harvester permit. There were no further questions.

Annual Meeting:

Chairman Geier called the Annual Meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Carol Koester motioned to approve the agenda, Gordie Loehr seconded, and the motion carried unanimously. All members had received a copy of the minutes from the April meeting along with their meeting notification. Jim Herzog made a motion to forego the reading of the Spring Meeting minutes and approve them as written, Ken Ahlstedt seconded, and the minutes were approved by all members in attendance. Next, Bill Van Dongen summarized the minutes from the last Board of Commissioners meeting which included reviewing the budget, insurance costs, the harvester loan payment, and harvester operation. Then Secretary/Treasurer Fran Geier gave the treasurer's report, reviewing all major expenditures and deposits for 2014. Among the highlights: received \$36,817 for the balance of the DNR Harvester Grant, \$18,000 balance on the sale of the Aquamarine harvester, \$65,034.50 loan from Board of Commissioners of Public Land (BCPL), approx. \$11,600 in District fees and \$4,900 for the harvester savings account, \$40,139.15 was repaid to BCPL, and \$111,154.50 was paid to Aquarius System for the new harvester/conveyor system.

Chairman Geier reported the successful sale of the old harvester to Goose Lake Watershed District. The final payment of \$18,000 was received on April 30, 2014, when the harvester was taken out of storage and ownership transferred to Goose Lake. He stated that Goose Lake has been using the old harvester all summer with no problems reported. Geier also announced that the new Aquarius harvester was delivered on June 6. Aquarius Systems was paid the balance due of \$111,154.60 upon delivery. He stated that 59 loads were removed from the Flowage this year. The balance of the DNR Harvester Grant was received, a loan from BCPL for \$65,034.50 was received in May with \$40,149 of that loan being repaid in August, leaving a balance of approx. \$25,000. Geier noted that there was an issue with the new harvester while cutting at Silver Springs Lake when the front cutting blade fell off due to loose bolts, but it was an easy repair. The trailer conveyor Briggs & Stratton 8.5 hp motor blew up in August while the trailer was being powerwashed. Aquarius Systems replaced the motor when it was determined that the block was cracked and all the oil leaked out. The harvester operation is done for the season and all the equipment will be placed in storage at the County Fairgrounds. The storage fee of \$283.50 has already been paid.

Guest Speaker: Shawn Sullivan of the DNR did a 45 minutes slide presentation on the White River restoration project which uses dead Christmas trees and a small portable dredger to increase current flow. The presentation was well received and generated a number of questions from the District members. Sullivan stated that work was being done north of Cottonville, but will move into the north end of the Flowage next year. Trout Unlimited members were assisting in the project and donated \$14,000 to purchase the portable dredger.

Chairman Geier addressed the issue of the harvester contract with the Silver Spring Lake Association (SSLA). He stated that after the three-day cutting in June, some SSLA Board Members express dissatisfaction with the results and complained that they felt that the operators were not working for 2 hours out of each 8 hour shift. Geier reviewed the log book which lists number of loads and hours worked. In the 3-day operation, the log reflected that 11 loads (over 55,000 lbs.) of weeds were removed Silver Springs Lake. Geier noted that this was the most productive harvester operation at Silver Springs

Lake. President of the SSLA suggested amending the August contract by reducing the fee by \$990 (6 x \$165/hour). Geier explained to the President of the SSLA that the person who hauls the weeds away generally has nothing to do while waiting for the harvester to return, but must remain available. He informed the SSLA that there would be no reduction in the contract whereupon the President of the SSLA stated that they would not have the District do an August cutting and would make other arrangements. Several District members at the meeting expressed support for the Chairman Geier's decision.

Vice-Chairman Bill Van Dongen stated that the 2015 budget keeps the District fees and the \$70 harvester fee the same as 2014. The \$70 harvester fee was previously approved at the Spring meeting in April of 2014. The District agreed that the harvester fee will continue each year until the harvester loan is paid off. Robert Newman motioned to approve the budget as presented, Mike Woreck seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Geier asked if the District would be willing to make a donation to the Conservation Field Days at Lake Lucerne. He proposed a donation of \$50. Ken Ahlstedt made a motion to make a \$50 donation to the Conservation Field Days, Carol Van Dongen, and the motion carried unanimously.

Elections were held for two Board positions. Chairman Geier announced that Rob Trzecinski, whose 3-year expires, decided not to seek another three-year term. He asked for nominations from the floor, stating that he hoped someone from the Pine View would consider running for this Board seat. When no one from Pine View volunteered, Mike Woreck stated he was willing to serve. No other members offered to run for this vacancy. Mike Woreck was elected by voice vote unanimously. Chairman Geier then stated that Robert Hughes, whose term also was expiring at this meeting, is willing to serve another three-year term. No other nominations were received and Hughes was re-elected unanimously by voice vote.

White River Flowage Association: President Laura Soldner announced that the brat stand at Stone Ridge netted \$646. She also suggested adding the website's address to the District's letterhead.

Marty Koslucher made a motion to adjourn, Brian Soldner seconded, and the meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.

The Board of Commissioners met immediately after the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. Refreshments were provided by the White River Flowage Association.

Respectfully submitted,

Fran Geier, Secretary/Treasurer