

Bear Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2021 – Zoom Meeting

Call to order by Chairman: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Austin at 6:30 pm.

Board Members Present: Austin, Klein, Schulz, Thome, Mundt

Secretary's report and approval for Sept. 5th meeting minutes: Motion to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2020 Special Meeting was made by Schulz and seconded by Klein. Motion passed 5-0.

Treasurer's report: The Treasurer's Report was presented by Rick Klein. The savings account balance is \$23,446. The checking account balance is \$10,462. The dam trust account is \$6,844. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Thome and seconded by Mundt. Motion passed 5-0.

Clean Boats/Clean Water Inspections 2020: Mic & Nancy Austin conducted 184 boat inspections from Memorial Day to Labor Day in 2020. This included 398 people. 35% of these boats were on other lakes within the previous 5 days. Almost all of them had removed weeds before and after launching. The total cost of the inspections was \$6,115. We received a DNR grant for \$4000 and the balance of \$2115 was paid by BLPRD. Mic announced that Nancy and himself would not be doing the inspections in 2021. Motion to accept this cost by Klein. Seconded by Mundt. Motion passed 5-0.

Fish stocking update: 1500 fish were stocked by Silver Moon Springs Fish Farm on 10/23/2020 at a total price of \$4125. The DNR was notified of the stocking. These fish were considered in good condition and 7 reportedly died. \$4500 is budgeted for 2021 and will be determined at a future meeting.

Record storage: Records are currently being stored at Rothmeyer's Storage in Eagle River. A closer location is available at Assurance Storage on Highway D in Hazelhurst, in March 2021. To avoid a 6 month contract renewal, Mic will be removing the records from Eagle River and holding them until the space in Hazelhurst is available in March. Discussion was to have them digitalized in the future.

Floating Bog Near Outlet: Mic Austin followed up on a report from the Annual meeting of floating bogs in the Southwestern bay. Mic took pictures and distributed via email to all commissioners. Mic conferred with DNR Lakes Biologist Scott Van Egeren and biologist Dr. Dean Premo from White Water Assoc. They explained that high water along with high water temperatures cause the roots to weaken and these bogs will break free from soft bottoms. Both felt the bogs would break apart and sink from ice out and boat traffic in the spring. They both suggested a wait and see approach. Mic checked with the DNR and they said the bogs can be moved if needed, but not anchored to anything including the shore. It was agreed to wait and check on them in the spring.

BLPRD Zoom Account: This current meeting was held as a trial using Robert Thome's personal account. It worked out well, especially for those located in Southern Wisconsin. A motion was made by Mundt to open a Zoom account with unlimited time and unlimited guests for approximately \$158/yr. Seconded by Klein. Motion passed 5-0.

County Report: Robert Thome reviewed the County Report which was sent to all Commissioners and is available to the public.

Public comments: Becky Gaskill from Lakeland Times offered to take pictures and do a story if we wanted at our next fish stocking. Tom Church commented that he was pleased with the job done during the first meeting with new commissioners.

Next meeting date: Zoom meeting set for April 28th, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Adjourn: A motion to adjourn was made by Schulz and seconded by Klein at 7:22 pm.