



Please note: we are looking for volunteers to help with the Clean Boats Clean Water monitoring at the Flowage boat launches. If you can give an hour or two, especially during the weekends, please email Mary Van Vonderen at mlvanvonderen@gmail.com, and we will have our intern Eva contact you to discuss. THANK YOU!

Townsend Flowage Protection District (TFPD)
Board of Commissioner's Annual Meeting, June 1, 2019

Board members present: John Zimdars, Chuck DeMoulin, Steve Bruskiwicz, Mike Gabryszek
Board member absent: Carla Van Camp

Meeting was called to order by Board President, John Zimdars on June 1 at 9:00 a.m. at the Townsend Town Hall. It was confirmed that the meeting agenda was posted at the Townsend Town Hall, Townsend Post Office, Karla's Kafe and the website. A mailing of the agenda and proposed budget was also sent to property owners in the district.

Steve Bruskiwicz made a motion to approve the secretary's report of the 2018 annual meeting as was mailed to the property owners and posted on the website. Chuck DeMoulin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Sherman Laundrie and Mike Gabryszek audited financial books for last year and found all to be in line with proper financial practices. Motion was made by Steve Bruskiwicz and seconded by Chuck DeMoulin to approve the audit report. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Quarterly Treasurer's report summary was given by Mike Gabryszek. Steve Bruskiwicz made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Chuck DeMoulin seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Agenda topics:

Discussion/approval of 2020 Budget and Status of Eurasian water milfoil in McCaslin Brook and Townsend Flowage

John Zimdars explained the full 5-year budget before opening up for questions. John stated that the two goals of the TFPD are:

- 1) Protect the property values of the district
- 2) Provide a fully recreational lake for boating, fishing, swimming, etc.

The Townsend Flowage is challenged with the spread of Eurasian water milfoil, as confirmed by the past and present lake studies. Last fall the lake study confirmed that milfoil is spreading in both the northern and southern basins and the McCaslin River is pretty much full of milfoil. The Southern basin is worse off than the Northern due to being fed from the McCaslin River.

We have been managing the milfoil mainly by cutting it with weed harvesters. This method is confirmed by the WDNR to spread milfoil, as well as boat traffic itself.

The WDNR would like to see a whole lake management plan that includes a combination of weed harvesting and herbicide treatment. Inland Lakes District is planning on doing a whole lake herbicide treatment in 2020 and Brenda Nordin (WDNR) said that TFPD should do ours at the same time to get the maximum effect on The McCaslin River at that time.

A new weed cutter to replace the 60-year old cutter is planned for 2022. The 2023 plan includes a building on the recently acquired town property at the gravel pit.

In support of the planned purchase and weed control treatment, a per parcel increase from \$60 to \$150 is proposed for 2020. Along with the increase in assessment amount, the TFPD will apply for a grant of \$53,000 to help with herbicide treatment. The assessment will cover cost of future lake studies, herbicide treatment, equipment purchase and building on gravel pit property. John Zimdars stated this amounts to a tax levy increase from \$5.00 per month to \$12.50 a month per parcel.

Discussion followed regarding the plans and related comments:

Dorothy Laundrie questioned the effect of on herbicide effects on wells. DNR can best answer the question about the wells. Can eat the fish within 48 hours. As we approach the treatment, the TFPD will post answers from DNR on the website and include in a mailing.

Jeff Schroeter asked what parts of lake would be treated. John Zimdars responded that a whole lake treatment is planned for early spring to kill milfoil.

Kathy Marsh notes some property owners are creating beaches on their frontage, possibly exacerbating the weed problem. John Zimdars reminded that a DNR permit is needed for shoreline improvements.

Tom Sutheimer asked if herbicide for weed control is planned for Mosquito Creek, which washes into the upper basin and questioned whether the herbicide treatment would be effective.

Paul Zylich stated Eurasian milfoil is not native to area and there is really nothing that will stop it from taking root. Northern milfoil is native. The difference in look between Eurasian milfoil and northern milfoil is the long stems that spread out and lay across the surface impeding navigation.

Betty Zimdars recalls in the 1970s the lake had a "septic tank" look. Navigation was impossible.

Bruce Beno. Asked if budget includes money for continued weed maintenance. John confirmed.

Pat Krummel. Will the herbicide treatment be performed by a certified entity. John Zimdars confirmed the treatment must be done by a certified entity with proper permits. What happens to weeds after treatment. Since treatment is best accomplished in early spring when plants are small, most would end up on the lake bottom.

Jeff Schroeter questioned whether communications would be done prior to treatment. Yes, postings and notices of herbicide treatment would be made.

Sherm Laundrie stated he is opposed to herbicide treatment with a concern of its effect on his well.

Brian Pecho commented DNR would not put dangerous herbicides in the water. The Shawano Lake herbicide treatment has been very effective.

John Zimdars stated lake is cleaner now than in previous years as shown in the lake study. With septic systems being replaced as cottages change owners, etc., water quality of the lake is very good. But we have to control the weeds. Chuck DeMoulin confirms water quality has improved every year due to the actions of the lake district.

Richard Fischer asked, since the weed control holds the most benefit for people on water, of the 453 parcels in the District, how many are on the water and how many off the water. Has a tiered tax assessment or mill rate been considered. John Zimdars confirmed the mill rate was discussed and county decided to go with set rate per parcel.

John Nichols asked if any budget money has been planned for maintaining and operating equipment. Currently there are only 8 or 10 people that do all the weed cutting, at times 6-8 hours a day. John recommends having paid operators, cutting on a regular schedule. Chuck DeMoulin stated though the current budget cannot support a paid operation, it is a recommendation for the future.

Cathy Seibel reminded that even though the TFPD applies for grants, grant money is not guaranteed. John Zimdars stated the TFPD does have reserves. Budget being discussed and up for approval is for 2020. Future years are shown as a plan.

Kathy Ott agrees budget needs money for paid people to do cutting.

Buzz Severa suggested volunteer cutting hours and maintenance hours be documented so we have a basis for paid operators for 2020 budgeting.

Mary Lietz asked if the board has considered taking out a loan for items instead of paying all at once.

Dan Coopman stated that grant money from DNR, comes after the fact (for previous cutter).

Jon Marsh asked, with a planned purchase of a cutter in 2022, what is estimated for cost of cutter. John Zimdars stated, as shown in budget, but options add money to base costs.

Kathleen Marsh stated, everything is relative. Property values have increased because of the positive action of the TFPD. Money is well spent.

Adoption of Special District Tax Levy

Steve Bruskiwicz made a motion to approve the 2020 tax levy as proposed and presented at \$150 per parcel. Motion was seconded by Chuck DeMoulin. Motion carried.

Steve Bruskiwicz made a motion to approve the 2020 budget as presented. Motion seconded by Chuck DeMoulin. Motion carried.

Commissioner nomination and election.

The term of Steve Bruskiwicz is up in 2019. John Zimdars nominated Steve for a term of 2 years. Chuck DeMoulin seconded the motion. John Zimdars asked for any additional nominations from the floor. Hearing none, Steve Bruskiwicz was unanimously voted in for another 2-year term.

John Zimdars is an appointed member of the board by Oconto County, and presented a letter from the County stating same. Carla Van Camp is an appointed board member by the Town of Townsend.

Weed cutter update:

Call for volunteers for finalizing and launching. So far, John Zimdars, Red, Bob Kocken, Dan Coopman.

Paul Zylich asked if the weed cutter could be moved farther from dock to avoid crashing into pontoons etc. John Nichols stated it makes sense for the cutter to remain at the landing for ease of maintenance and fueling.

- “New” cutter needs a new valve (in stock), cutter head bent back, oil changed, then ready
- Both “small” and “big” cutters need oil change, then ready to launch

Pat Krummel asked if we still have access for dumping weeds at the gravel pit. Yes, we still have access and can still go thru property to get to the pit. Also asked that two new tires be purchased for the weed loading truck. Rich Schoonveld has info for resource for getting new tires.

Jeff Schroeter asked if the new building will be able to hold the 3 pieces of equipment. Budget cannot a building a building sized to handle putting all pieces of equipment inside, but will be used for storing maintenance supplies and work area for fixing and maintaining equipment.

Public comment:

Jeff Schroeter stated that \$150 is not a lot to preserve the quality of the lake. A healthy lake positively affects the town economics as well as property owners’ value.

Vicki Beyer requested that a DNR and county representative attend a future meeting. Yes, this can be arranged. Additionally, public meetings with DNR and county representatives were held this spring.

Kathleen Marsh announced a library tax force has achieved a tax savings for the community by working to remove the mandatory library tax for Brown County. The towns of Townsend, Lakewood, Riverview, Doty worked to reduce the library tax assessment to include only the Lakewood library.

2019 meeting schedule:

- September 21, 2019 Quarterly Board Meeting
- December 7, 2019 Quarterly Board Meeting and Christmas party

Public comment:

Mary Van Vonderen reminded all that pictures are needed for posting on the TFPD website and Facebook page. Also encouraged property owners to provide their email addresses for communication purposes.

Dorothy Laundrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dan Coopman seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

The meeting was reconvened by John Zimdars at 10:30 for the purpose of voting on 3 board positions: president, secretary and treasurer. Since the secretary position is not a board position, a vote was called for the positions of president and treasurer. Motion was made by Steve Bruskiwicz to appoint John Zimdars as President and Mike Gabryszek as Treasurer. Motion was seconded by Chuck DeMoulin. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Van Vonderen, Recording Secretary (non-board member)