



Townsend Flowage Protection District (TFPD)  
Board of Commissioner's Quarterly Meeting, December 7, 2019

Members present: John Zimdars, Chuck DeMoulin, Steve Bruskwicz, Mike Gabryszek  
Absent: Carla Van Camp

The Quarterly Meeting of the Townsend Flowage Protection District was called to order by Board President, John Zimdars on at 9:00 a.m. at the Lakewood/Townsend Rescue Squad Building. It was confirmed that the meeting agenda was posted at the Townsend Town Hall, Townsend Post Office, Karla's Kafe and the TFPD website.

Minutes from September 21, 2019 quarterly meeting were distributed to property owners via email, posted on the TFPD website, and were made available at the meeting. Motion to approve meeting minutes was made by Steve Bruskwicz and seconded by Mike Gabryszek. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report was given by Mike Gabryszek. Treasurer's report attached. Motion to accept the report was made by Steve Bruskwicz and seconded by Chuck DeMoulin. All were in favor. Motion passed.

### **Committee Updates**

**Fish Report**, Bruce Beno: Chuck Long from DNR attended the recent OCLWA meeting and confirmed that no walleye plantings – suspended until 2023. They are still planning to plant muskies and they may have done so already this fall.

In 2023 a decision will be made on future walleye plantings. Land owners are encouraged to plant habitats that attract and support fish such as "fish sticks" (basically a tree) which are the preference, not cribs. The DNR will do the anchoring of the fish sticks for the landowner. More information from Betty Zimdars and the materials she has available for land owners. Contact Betty Zimdars for more information.

**Clean Boats Clean Water Initiative**, Skip Haggstrom: reported on boat landing initiative. TFPD needs volunteers to be able to get credits from DNR for future grant opportunities. We continue to ask for volunteers, which involves spending just a few hours at boat landings on weekends during the boating season. Purpose is to hand out literature regarding preventive measures for weeds and zebra mussels.

In order to provide an opportunity for TFPD owners to gain information and volunteer, we will have an informational table set up at the annual meeting with information about the Clean Boats Clean Water program and how the TFPD could benefit by accumulating points for grants. If any TFPD property owner would like to attend the annual conference in Stevens Point in April, this training also counts for qualified hours.

Chuck DeMoulin made a motion to make log sheets available at the boat landings for recording eligible hours. Motion was seconded by Steve Bruskwicz. All were in favor. Motion was passed.

### **Weed Harvester Update**

10 foot cutter (upper flowage), needs chain on the apron. We have to purchase chain between now and spring. Chuck to measure to get ordered. John to order direct from manufacturer. We will have chain and ready to go in the water by spring.

9 foot cutter (lower flowage) need to change over to stainless steel chain (we have)

6 foot harvester (could be kept in channel by Rich Schoonveld). Will be addressed in spring.

New electrical service at the newly acquired TFPD land is installed. Maintenance on equipment will be done at the location in spring.

### **Lake Water Quality Testing**

After many years of diligent service, Larry Gofford will no longer be able to take care of lake water quality testing. Task will now be done by Dan Coopman and John Zimdars. Jack DeWolf volunteered to help with the initiative which tests water clarity, water makeup. Jack's experience in this field will be valuable. Testing is done 4 times a year.

### **Update on Oconto County Healthy Waters Cost Share Program**

The TFPD has received approval for a grant of \$7,000 to from Oconto County. The grant will be used to offset the cost of the whole lake herbicide treatment.

### **DNR Healthy Lakes Project**

The TFPD is applying for a DNR grant for 2020. This grant money is available for individual property owners to implement best management practices to protect and improve lakes, rivers and streams. Each practice may be eligible for up to a \$1,000 cost share for individual property owners. The grant is available starting in 2020, and has to be used by May of 2022. Betty Zimdars, Healthy Lakes Coordinator, has information

The number of hours that Betty and John Zimdars have spent in the grant writing process is phenomenal. Thank you so much!

Individual property owners can implement healthy water practices and receive grant money for projects such as:

- Fish sticks (basically a tree) to attract fish and protect shoreline
- Native plantings
- Rock and filtration to catch water before it gets to the lake
- Diversionary practices such as rain gardens

Deadline for property owners to apply for grant is February 1, but please let Betty know by January 5.

### **Approval of Lake Management Plan**

Michelle Laforge from Cason & Associates has provided a very comprehensive report. We have the final draft and once the final copy is approval by Brenda Nordin (DNR), we will have a copy available in the Lakewood Library. Also will be available on the website.

We have an open balance of \$4,575.00 due to Cason for data analysis.

**Plan highlights of Lake Management Plan**, summarized by John Zimdars:

1. The primary goal of the plan is to gather and summarize baseline information on the Townsend Flowage.
2. To use all available data in the planning of large-scale herbicide treatments
3. To update the aquatic plant management plan with current data
4. To provide information needed to make informed decisions regarding the future management of our lakes

#### Eurasian and other hybrid watermilfoil status in the Townsend Flowage and McCaslin Brook

- In 2015 the Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) was identified as encompassing approximately 16 acres
- In 2016 that increased to 77 acres
- In 2019 that increased to 161 acres of which 42 acres are dense and 55 acres moderately dense.

The report indicates that to begin to manage the proliferation of the EWM, it is strongly recommended that a whole lake treatment be conducted. It will be important to continue to selectively cut aquatic plants for navigation purposes in the areas of high traffic and waterfront access. A plan should also be developed to integrate other pest management techniques such as spot treatments and hand pulling.

The report further indicates that the Townsend Flowage has a very good water quality. This is measured by the amount of phosphorus in the water. Phosphorus is one of the most important water quality indicators. Phosphorus can come from external sources within the watershed (e.g. fertilizers, livestock, septic systems) and groundwater (surface water).

#### **Four Management Goals:**

Goal 1: Reduce aquatic invasive species growth

Goal 2: Manage the health of the native plant community within the waters of the Townsend Flowage

Goal 3: Encourage shoreline improvements on an individual riparian owner basis.

Goal 4: Continued participation in the Clean Boats, Clean Waters and Citizen Lake Monitoring Network programs

In summary, the Lake Management Plan strongly recommends that, to be most effective, the whole lake be treated with herbicide treatment.

Discussion was held regarding the availability of a Surface Water Grant from the DNR to assist in covering the whole lake herbicide treatment. The TFPD may be eligible for a 75%/25% match grant.

Steve Bruskiwicz made a motion to approve a Lake Consultation and Grant Writing Contract with Cason & Associates, LLC to apply for a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Surface Water grant for the control of widespread distribution of EWM/HWN for the Townsend Flowage and includes a follow-up report. Motion was seconded by Chuck DeMoulin. All were in favor. Motion carried.

In addition to the herbicide treatment, there will be select cutting in high traffic areas and waterfront access. Plus after herbicide treatment, there will be spot treatment and pulling. When we apply for grant, cutting maps will be reviewed.

Steve Bruskiwicz made a motion that the Townsend Flowage Protection District approves the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan for Explosion Lake, Horn Lake, Little Horn Lake, Reservoir Pond, McCaslin Brook and Townsend Flowage in Oconto County, Wisconsin dated November 2019. Motion was seconded by Chuck DeMoulin. All approved. Motion carried.

Steven Bruskwicz made a motion that the Townsend Flowage Protection District authorizes the President and/or designee to pursue the Surface Water grants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for the purpose described in the applications. This will include but not limited to the Lake Management Plan implementation grant. Aquatic Invasive Species grant and Healthy Lakes grant. Motion was seconded by Mike Gabryszek. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### **Wisconsin Lakes Partnership Convention – April 1-3, 2020**

Dan Coopman will plan to attend. Betty and John Zimdars are registered. This is a very informative conference and is open to any interested property owner.

#### Public comment

- John Zimdars made a motion to do a recognition for Larry and Alice Goffard who took care of the lake testing for many years. Chuck DeMoulin will purchase a plaque or other appropriate item from Global Recognition. Company. Skip Haggstrom seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Chuck made a motion to get a Fleet Farm gift card for the Krolls in the same amount as last year in appreciation for allowing the TFPD to park the weed cutting equipment and maintenance trailer on their property. Steve Bruskwicz seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.
- Jeff Schroeter commented he would like to be included in maintenance schedule in spring.
- Mike Malueg volunteered to help with weed cutting and as an electrician, can help with equipment maintenance.
- We will to move the maintenance trailer next spring currently at the Kroll land and the trailer near Rich Schoonveld, to the TFPD land.

#### 2020 MEETING SCHEDULE Discussion

- March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020
- December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Motion was made by Steve Bruskwicz to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mike Gabryszek. All were in favor. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Van Vonderen, Non-Board Member Secretary