

Flowage Preservation Alliance



Little Tamarack Flowage Baker Spring Lake District

NEWSLETTER: Annual Meetings - July 4, 2015 - Conover Center Meeting Room

FPA Minutes: The Flowage Preservation Alliance Annual Meeting was held at 9:00am, attended by over 50 people. President Rich Ruffalo led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance, especially important on this date. There was a moment of silence to honor members who have passed away during this year: George Bright and Tom Sloane.

Recording Secretary Joan Green was unable to attend, and arranged with Tom Christofferson to read the minutes of the previous Annual Meeting, which were then duly approved as read.

President Rich Ruffalo reminded the group of the importance of the Flowage Preservation Alliance, to continue to exist as a group, even though the Lake District has been formed. Major reasons that he cited:

+ The Alliance, as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has fund-raising abilities beyond the reach of the Lake District

+ The Alliance is a more inclusive group than the Lake District, including children and grand-children of cottage owners, fishermen who use the Flowage, and other Conover and Vilas County residents. Many friendships have been forged during this process, which will continue.

Tom Christofferson (at Joan Green's request) gave the Membership Report: There are 95 new memberships for 2015. This includes people who donated money last fall to the matching fund. We currently have 122 active members including renewals. Those who have not yet paid their 2015 memberships dues are urged to do so, to stay on the active list, and help defray the costs of printing, mailing, post office box rental, and other expenses.

Election: There were three openings for the Board of Directors, to serve for a three-year term. The Board had nominated Ron Schultz, Ken Gurski, and Bob Vogt. There were no other nominations. The vote was unanimous in favor of these three.

Jay Richman, who works at Hahn Printing, reported that the company will print either of the two Flowage T-Shirts for \$6.00, if you bring in your own T-shirt. One pattern is "Save Tammy", the other is the beautiful map of the Flowage in a circular pattern. (Hahn Printing is located in Eagle River, one block west of Shop-Ko.)

Treasurer's Report: Ken Gurski reported that the Alliance bank balance at last year's Annual Meeting was \$2,420.87. Since then, there were deposits totaling \$15,361.26, from membership dues and Challenge Grant donations of over \$13,000. At the June 28th Taste of Conover, the Alliance had a booth, and made \$125 on the 50/50 raffle, \$120 in donations, and a donated swim raft sold for \$325. Withdrawals totaled \$12,226.95. The major portion (\$12,000) was transferred to the Lake District to start conducting business for the reconstruction of the Flowage dam: legal, insurance, and engineering costs. Other expenses included postage, raffle permit, post office box rental, subscriptions, and government reporting fees. The current balance stands at \$5,555.18. The Treasurer's report has been audited and found to be in order.

President Rich Ruffalo reminded everyone that the Lake District Annual Meeting follows, including a report on the design of the dam reconstruction by Engineer Chris Goodwin.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Holloway (serving as Acting Recording Secretary in Joanie Green's absence)

Highlights of Lake District Meeting (9:30):

Ayres Engineer Chris Goodwin gave a presentation of the dam reconstruction design. Very little of the embankment will be affected, except the area where a pipe will be placed, from the Flowage under the embankment to the other side. This pipe will incorporate a "riser pipe" with "stop logs" to control water levels, which will act as an overflow, in times of unusually high water. It will have to be inspected and also maintained regularly.

An earlier 8:30 meeting was held at the dam, with the three property owners whose land contains the historical dam area (Lenz, Green, Pokorny). There Mr. Goodwin was able to listen to their questions and concerns, including consideration of moving the site of the "riser pipe" in response to a request from Ken Lenz.

The cost of the dam reconstruction is estimated by the engineers to be \$130,000. It is anticipated this summer and fall will see the completion of the design, and hopefully approval from the DNR including a construction permit. Bids will probably be let in January 2016 (off-season), to get the best prices. The worst of the construction "mess" will take about 30 days, and can be scheduled next summer or fall at the decision of the Lake District. The water level of the Flowage will not be affected during construction, due to a cofferdam included in the construction design. Mr. Goodwin spent some time answering questions from the floor, mainly concerning the construction and maintenance of the dam. Chairman Karl Jennrich expressed the District's thanks for Mr. Goodwin's attendance at this meeting on his July 4th holiday.

Treasurer George Holloway explained the budget for the coming year. The Lake District is using a conservative estimate of \$150,000 for dam reconstruction costs, added to the engineering design costs and other expenses relating to the dam. The funds - above what the District will have on hand - can be borrowed from the Wisconsin Commissioners of Public Lands, at 3.25% interest for 10 years, or 3.75% for 20 years. The Lake District will also apply for a 50% Matching Grant from the DNR Dam Safety Program.

George gave examples to explain how the funding could work. #1) If the DNR Matching Grant application is successful, the Lake District could immediately pay back a large amount of the loan, and pay off the remainder in as little as 5 years with a payment of principal and interest of approximately \$8,000 per year. #2) If no grant is available to us, the loan could be paid off in 10 years, with a payment of approximately \$15,000 per year. These are just examples - the terms could change according to the actual financial situation at the time, and the decision about the duration of the loan. However, either scenario is do-able. The Lake District voters then passed a resolution enabling the Lake District to borrow up to \$150,000 for the dam project. Other fund-raising efforts will be explored, such as large corporate and private grants available to the Alliance as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

The electors also passed a 2.5 mil tax levy for the coming year (same as last year), which will add approximately \$25,000 to the Lake District construction and operating funds.

Election Chairman Rich Ruffalo announced that one Lake District Commissioner's three year term has expired (George Holloway), and he was nominated for election to another three year term. There were no other nominations, and George was elected unanimously.

By-Laws for the Lake District were adopted by unanimous vote. These By-Laws cover some areas which are left up to the discretion of the Lake District (date of Annual Meetings, how to handle nominations, etc.) They also cover items which are required by Wisconsin Statute (who may vote, how voting takes place, how to elect commissioners, etc.) A copy was sent out with the Notice of the Annual Meeting. But anyone can request a copy - an email request is easiest littletamaracklakedistrict@gmail.com.

Qualifications for voting caused confusion for some people during the voting registration process at the Lake District meeting. Here is a brief outline of the Wisconsin Statute (also found in our By-Laws):

- U.S. citizen and 18 years of age or older
- Name appears as an owner on Vilas County's tax roll, on or before the third Monday of December of the previous year
- The person is an owner, but the name does not appear on the tax roll. Such a person must furnish proof of ownership, i.e. a copy of a deed
- Official representative of a trust, foundation, corporation, association, estate etc. owning property in the Lake District. Must produce proof of authority to vote on behalf of the entity. (Not necessary if the property owner is a living trust and the voter is the named owner of the trust.)
- In order to vote, an eligible voter must be present at the meeting at the time the vote is called. No proxies or absentee ballots are allowed

If you are unsure of the names on the tax roll of your property, visit Vilas County's tax roll webpage:

<http://webtax.co.vilas.wi.us/searchselect.cfm>. You can also contact Sherry Bierman, Tax Listing Coordinator, (715)479-3696 shbier@co.vilas.wi.us. For help in obtaining proof of your ownership of the property, if your name does not appear on the tax roll, contact Joan Hansen, Register of Deeds, (715)479-3661 johans@co.vilas.wi.us.

Highlights of Lake District Board Meeting (following the Annual Meeting):

Election of officers: All officers agreed to serve for another year - Karl Jennrich, appointee from the Town Board, Chairman; Clancy Senechalle Vice-Chairman and Secretary; George Holloway, Treasurer. The other two Commissioners are Rich Ruffalo; and Art Kunde, appointee from the County Board.

Approved a resolution to accept the Flowage Easements being transferred from Vilas County to the Lake District. This enables the Lake District to obtain ownership of the 1942 easements, which gave permission of property owners for part of their land to be flooded to create the Little Tamarack Flowage. (Very interesting history is contained in these Easements!)

Approved and adopted the Borrowing Resolution which was passed by the Lake District electors at the 9:30am Annual Meeting, to borrow up to \$150,000 from the Commissioners of Public Land.



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