

**MINUTES OF THE  
INLAND LAKE PROTECTION AND  
REHABILITATION DISTRICT  
AUGUST 24, 2020**

The annual meeting of the City of Antigo Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (AILPRD) was held on the above date at 6:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers, Antigo, Wisconsin, Chairperson Timothy Kassis, presiding.

Commissioners in attendance were: Rebstock, Fischer, Kassis, Bauknecht, Bugni (appearing via telephone), Balcerzak, and Henricks. Absent: Feller Gottard and Wagner.

Riparian owners and other voting members in attendance were: Mark Desotell, Kaye Matucheski, Sarah Repp, Dr. John McKenna, Elsa McKenna, Patrick McKenna, Elon Case and Florence Case.

Others in attendance were: None.

Chairperson Kassis reviewed the guidelines for voting eligibility.

Election of officers ensued: (Present officers being Tim Kassis, Chairperson; Tom Bauknecht, Secretary; and Barb Rebstock, Treasurer)

Commissioner Balcerzak moved, Commissioner Henricks seconded, to nominate the current slate of officers.

With there being no further nominations, John McKenna moved, Commissioner Balcerzak seconded, to accept the nominations of the current slate of officers and cast a unanimous ballot. Carried.

**DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS**

**1. Budget/Capital Improvement Plan and Expenditures**

**a) Spring Clean Up Expense**

Springbrook Clean-Up was completed in June during Mission Antigo week. Mission Antigo did an excellent job coordinating the clean-up and providing volunteers to assist.

Springbrook Clean-Up is scheduled again for 2021. The tradition of offering lunch for the volunteers will continue if it can be done safely.

In addition, approval to purchase trash pickers, trash bags, gloves, and other miscellaneous items used for the clean-up is requested. Advertising for the event and disposal fees are also included in the cost.

The clean-up will also include the Springbrook Walking Trail and Biking Path.

Fund Balance Applied **\$300**

Sarah Repp advised that Mission Antigo has taken the lead on this and it is going very well.

**b) Improvement of Water Quality Flow (Milfoil, Run-off Fertilizer Pollution)}**

Based on the previous final monitoring reports along with the continued success from previous years' efforts to treat Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) it was decided that the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Monitoring by Onterra for CLP would not be necessary in 2020.

Lake monitoring will not be necessary in 2021 as the conditions continue to show favorable results from prior lake treatments. The AILPRD should anticipate the need to update its management plan in 2021 allowing the system to be monitored as a whole and the updating of water quality data sets with an overriding goal of becoming grant eligible for 67% of the study costs. Grant applications will be due on December 10, 2020 with potential work starting in the spring of 2021. Any fees associated with the submittal of the grant application through Onterra will be derived from the reserve balance in this category.

Levy \$0                      Fund Balance Reserve **\$12,000 Lake Treatment**

For 2020, no funds have been expended to date; any funds expended before the end of the year will be deducted from the fund balance appropriation for 2021.

Levy \$0                      Fund Balance Reserve **\$5,000 Lake Planning & Monitoring**

Mark Desotell, Director of Administrative Services, indicated that the focus this year was the curly leaf pondweed. When speaking with Onterra, they do not anticipate treatment in 2021 but the fund balance will be left in reserve based on spring time testing.

Mr. Desotell advised the next step is to look at grants and the management plan. Any fees associated with that process would come from the fund balance reserve for Lake Planning and Monitoring.

#### **c) Hydraulic Study**

Updates to the existing hydraulic data base might be required in conjunction with future projects such as detention ponds, building construction, retaining wall replacement, bridge removals or stream rehabilitation. No specific projects are identified at this time for the 2021 calendar year.

Levy \$0                      Hydraulic Study Reserve \$8,800

Mr. Desotell advised that this amount is kept in reserve in case there are any developments that the City would plan that may impact the flood plain in the area. At this point the City does not anticipate any expenses for 2021. This reserve has been carried forward for the past number of years.

#### **d) Springbrook Boardwalk and Trail**

Although not completely funded through Antigo Inland Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District (AILPRD), the continued development of parks and green space along the Springbrook Trail has had many positive impacts for the community with highlights listed below.

In 2020, Peaceful Valley Park and Festival grounds has hosted, or will host, the following events that have generated awareness of the facilities, community and businesses.

- Park-n-Watch Movies on Fridays sponsored by community businesses and individuals
- Farmers' Market (every Saturday from June- beginning of October)
- Numerous family gatherings, birthday parties, business picnics and various celebrations

The 18-Hole Disc Golf course is a popular recreational pursuit and there are very few times that the course is not in use.

Crews completed a section of a raised boardwalk connecting various holes as well as providing additional trail connections and expansion of the Springbrook Trail and City Wide Bike Route.

The trail is also used for a number of local walks and runs.

Funding from Antigo Rotary Club and Inland Lakes allowed for construction of two bridges that span Springbrook; the bridges are key connections which will allow for continued trail expansion and year-round use of the trail system, which is also connected to the City Wide Bike Route.

Grant funding to expand the trail was applied for through the Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) grant as well as the Knowles Stewardship Grant.

The City was awarded the Knowles Stewardship Grant, and trail expansion from the existing paved pathway west of Byrne Road, connecting to the West Rotary Bridge, and continuing to Charlotte for which construction began at the end of July, 2020.

The results of the TAP grant are not yet known.

In 2008 the Antigo Inland Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (AILPRD) agreed to fund a 10-year loan for \$200,000 as part of the matching funds for the grant at \$20,000 per year plus interest. This debt was paid in 2018 and no further Levy is being sought.

Levy for Boardwalk - **debt paid in 2018, no further levy**

Upon inquiry by Kaye Matucheski, Clerk-Treasurer/Finance Director, Commissioner Balcerzak commented that this item should remain on the agenda to remind others that it has been paid off. It could be shortened, if necessary.

Commissioner Bauknecht noted that if something is needed in the future, it could always be added back in.

#### **e) Restoration of Native Species**

The City plans to continue the Springbrook Banks and Woodland Park restoration program as administered by the Parks Department and Timberland Invasives Partnership (TIP) to eradicate non-native plants and to restore wild native plant species. The program will focus on the removal of wild parsnip, garlic mustard, purple loosestrife, barberry, and other non-native species, and cattails. Removal of invasive plants and replacement with native species will promote wildlife while helping to enhance the waters of Antigo Lake and Springbrook. Work was completed in 2019 and 2020 through the TIP.

The removal/maintenance of cattails at the viewing stations (located in Basin #'s 1 thru 3) as identified in the Antigo Lake Comprehensive Management Plan was last addressed in July of 2016. Removal efforts were suspended for 2017; the cattail growth in these viewing areas was evaluated at the end of 2018 and an updated harvesting permit was granted in 2019 and 2020. Staff of both the Street and Parks crews will collaborate on removal efforts for 2020. An appropriate watercraft for cutting and maintenance of the cattails is no longer anticipated as being necessary, but harvesting in the viewing areas will continue in subsequent years as needed. If the AILPRD desires to remove cattails along other areas currently not listed in the management plan then an update of that document will be required by the WDNR. The need for a pontoon boat or upgraded harvesting equipment will be evaluated at that time.

The balance of the 2020 funding remains available to be allocated for the removal of non-native and invasive species along the corridor as the invoice for 2020 will be approximately \$3,000

The overall success of the cattail harvesting and invasive species removal will be evaluated for consideration of native species plantings in areas responding well to the eradication efforts.

The funding requested in this category will be for any combination of cattail harvesting, invasive species removal and native species plantings.

Levy **\$0** Fund Balance Applied **\$26,000**

For 2020 limited funds have been expended to date; any funds expended before the end of the year will be deducted from the fund balance appropriation for 2021.

Ms. Repp advised that the City has been partnering with Timberland Invasives to bring a crew in to work on eradication of invasive species along the trail. The cost is approximately \$2,500.

Upon inquiry by Elsa McKenna, Ms. Repp indicated that buckthorn and honeysuckle are very prevalent in the back area. Buckthorn is a big project to tackle and they are looking at safety issues first (such as wild parsnip).

Mr. Desotell noted that the work on the cattails are mainly on the viewing areas on the north side. The Department of Natural Resources has restricted cattail management to what is in the Management Plan. There is a possibility of applying for a grant in 2021 to update the Management Plan, cattail management will have to play a bigger role of focus.

Elon Case advised that he has been complaining about the cattails in front of his house for the past fifteen years. Mrs. Case noted that they moved in there sixty years ago and there were no cattails. There were no cattails in front of their home twenty years ago. Mr. Case noted everything was fine until they dredged the lake. At that point the flow of the current coming through the basins was changed.

Ms. Repp indicated that the City has to work with the Department of Natural Resources for permitting the removal of cattails and are very restricted right now on what the City can do. Property owners can apply for the same permits the City does and get approval for removal in front of their property.

Mr. Desotell indicated again that the City can only address what is in the Management Plan. He cannot promise that this area will be included but staff can take a look at it.

Mr. Desotell further explained the process of cutting the cattails.

#### **f) Basin Dredging/Analysis Program**

Because of the limited payback rate of return identified by the 2018 study no work has been scheduled within 2020 under this category. It is recommended that the AILPRD continue to consider levying funds in this category as City staff continues to investigate and identify the best management practices moving forward. Opportunities could range from specific projects designed to minimize incoming siltation or to the eventual dredging of particular basin areas as needed.

A more in-depth discussion regarding the costs associated with a preliminary engineering study capable of identifying potential upstream sedimentation control strategies will be presented at this year's meeting.

Levy **\$0** Fund Balance Applied **\$25,000** Fund Balance Reserve **\$45,000**

Mr. Desotell noted when the elevations were looked at from when the dredging was done numerous years ago to last year it was determined that the siltation was not as predominately attributable to hard sediments but rather soft sediments.

Mr. Desotell noted that discussions were held last year about doing something upstream of the basins. This is proceeding along after conversations with a property owner and design consultant.

Mr. Desotell noted that last year money was earmarked for a feasibility study. The study should also look at the old swimming hole area which is controlled by a dam structure for potentially the same thing.

Mr. Desotell would not commission a study at this point until more conversation was held with the Department of Natural Resources to make sure they feel the City would be going in the right direction.

Dr. McKenna noted that Shane Krueger had talked previously about the work he has done in Wausau. He felt it could be slowed down. Mr. Desotell noted that he has spoken with Mr. Krueger. This is still a possibility.

Upon inquiry by Dr. McKenna, Mr. Desotell indicated that \$25,000 was restricted to the analysis. There was a \$70,000 fund balance last year and the \$25,000 for the analysis came from that fund balance for that purpose. The amount cannot be moved for any other purpose without Inland Lake District consent.

#### **g) Restoration of Springbrook Flowage from Faust Dam to Seventh Avenue**

In 2018 MSA Professional Services provided a summary of the final Restoration Study report including their recommendation for potential future projects. No restoration funds are being requested to be spent for the 2021 calendar year. Potential grants will continue to be sought. In order to prepare for future grant matching requirements it is being suggested that \$5,000 be levied in this category in lieu of expending the dredging fund balance at this time.

Levy **\$5,000** Fund Balance Reserve **\$77,500** (includes funds moved from Lake Accessibility \$70,000)

Mr. Desotell recommends leaving the reserve until a grant can be found and use as matching funds.

Commissioner Bauknecht questioned if the 2018 study will still be relevant to which Mr. Desotell indicated that it may need to be updated.

#### **h) Trail Maintenance/Improvements and Future Expansion**

##### **SPRINGBROOK TRAIL & OUR COMMUNITY:**

The Springbrook Trail is an incredible asset for the community. Recreational pursuits can be enjoyed on paved or rough trail; creating inclusive and accessible recreational opportunities for the entire community and visitors to the area. Economic opportunities for our local businesses exist through tourism dollars.

Additionally, it is a sought after amenity for those considering relocation for a business or family. This project was constructed through the use of Grant, Lake District and Tax Increment Finance (TIF) dollars; maintenance and expansion efforts of the Springbrook Trail will continue to benefit the community.

##### **MAINTENANCE:**

The current trail system is over 11 years old and requires annual maintenance (woodchips, crack sealing, boardwalk board replacement, blacktop replacement, sealing, etc.); the use of inland lake funds in combination with general operating funds allows for

maintenance of a recreational trail, which enhances the opportunities for public enjoyment along the three Lake Basins and watershed area. Areas that show signs of needed repair are noted and addressed during the construction season.

**2020 Maintenance:**

While the following have not yet been addressed in 2020 it remains a priority to address them with any funds expended before the end of the year to be deducted from the fund balance appropriation for 2021.

- Sealing the trail, or portions of the trail to extend the life of the blacktop.
- Making necessary repairs during the construction season that may have occurred over the winter months such as cracking and heaving.
- Continuing the trenching along the trail to prevent root damage.

**EXPANSION:**

Staff would like to maintain the current trail system at the highest level possible while also expanding. Expansion provides the opportunity for, as stated in Wisconsin State Statutes Section 33.22:

*(4m) "A district may undertake projects to enhance the recreational uses of a lake within its jurisdiction, including recreational boating facilities as defined under s. 30.92 (1) (c).*

*(4r) "If authorized by an annual meeting of a district, the district may appropriate money for the conservation of natural resources or for payment to a bona fide nonprofit organization for the conservation of natural resources within the district or beneficial to the district."*

The proposed dollars levied through Inland Lakes will be used to maintain and expand the areas along Antigo Lake and the Springbrook Waterway, which allows the public to recreate and enjoy the natural resources along the lake basins and waterway.

**2020 Expansion:** Trail expansion funds would not be used beyond the Langlade County Fairground property boundary.

Staff is requesting the remaining fund balance after expending approximately \$5,000 in 2020 and \$5,000 levy to be used to maintain the current trail system and expand in approved areas. This is anticipated to be a continued request annually.

Levy **\$5,000** Fund Balance Applied **\$5,000**

Ms. Repp indicated that this is to maintain the trail over the years. There are some areas that have cracked and heaved. The Knowles Stewardship grant was awarded so the trail will be able to be expanded to the north.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Kassis, Ms. Repp indicated that the area is ready to be paved.

Mr. Desotell indicated that with more miles of trail added, maintenance costs will increase yearly. There will have to be a balance with the amount of money expended by the Inland Lake District for trail maintenance.

**i) Lake Accessibility**

In 2018 the City of Antigo applied for a Knowles Stewardship Grant to provide 50% of the costs associated with the expansion of the existing bicycle/walking trail system from the North end of the elevated boardwalk through the County Fairgrounds to North Avenue. The estimated project cost of \$200,000 requires \$100,000 in local matching dollars. The following amounts are being recommended for 2020.

- \$35,000 from the City Timber Sale
- ~~70,000 from the Inland Lake District (2019/2020)~~ No longer needed, because the grant was received.
- \$48,000 from the City's Budget - Donations/Expendable Trust (2020)
- \$25,000 from funds redirected from the Park, Recreation & Cemetery CIP Budget (2019/2020)

\$108,000 total funds

In 2018, the levy included a portion of funds to be dedicated to the bicycle/walking trail and this debt was paid off.

The grant was received, so 2020 levied funds and fund balance were redirected to the Restoration of Springbrook Flowage to continue building funds for this work to be completed.

Levy \$0 Fund Balance Applied \$0 (moved to Restoration of Springbrook Flowage)

Ms. Repp indicated that this item can be removed from the agenda for future years as a grant was received and no Inland Lake District funds expended.

**j) Any Other Budgetary Items** Arising from Discussion (No action may be taken on these items.)

Upon inquiry by Mr. Desotell, Ms. Matucheski indicated that the \$25,000 expenditure for the study will need to come back to this committee for review. Therefore, a special meeting may need to be held at a future date.

## 2. Adopt Budget and Tax Levy

Commissioner Bugni moved, Commissioner Bauknecht seconded, to accept the levy and budget as presented.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Kassis, Ms. Matucheski indicated that this levy is 12 cents less. This budget has a 2.69 cent levy so it will drop approximately \$3 on a \$100,000 house. Last year was 14.69 cents.

Carried with 14 aye votes and 0 nay votes.

## ANY OTHER BUSINESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO BE CONSIDERED

Dr. McKenna commented that there are positive comments with regard to the trail. As citizens, the trail is a great asset. Ms. Repp does an excellent job.

## ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Bugni moved, Commissioner Henricks seconded, to adjourn at 6:51 pm. Carried.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Thomas Bauknecht, Secretary