

**MINUTES OF THE
INLAND LAKE PROTECTION AND
REHABILITATION DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 5, 2019**

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, Feller Gottard, Bugni, Balcerzak, and Henricks. Absent: LeBrun

Riparian owners and other voting members in attendance were: Mark Desotell, Kaye Matucheski, Sarah Repp, Joe Jopek, John McKenna, Elsa McKenna, Shane Monte Krueger, Mary Krueger, and Travis Krueger.

Others in attendance were: None.

Kaye Matucheski, Clerk-Treasurer/Finance Director reviewed the guidelines for voting eligibility.

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

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

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Budget/Capital Improvement Plan and Expenditures

a) Spring Clean Up Expense

Springbrook Clean-Up was scheduled for the week of June 10, which was Mission Antigo Week. Mission Antigo did an excellent job coordinating the clean-up and providing volunteers to assist. Lunch for the volunteers was provided on Tuesday, June 11, following the Arbor Day celebration and planting, which Mission Antigo also assisted.

Springbrook Clean-Up is scheduled again for 2020. We would like to continue the tradition of offering lunch for the volunteers.

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**

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

Based on the 2017 final monitoring report 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 2019.

Lake monitoring will not be necessary in 2020 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 2019, 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 2020.

Levy **\$0** Fund Balance Reserve **\$5,000 Lake Planning & 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 2020 calendar year.

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

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 our community with highlights listed below.

In 2019, Peaceful Valley Park and Festival grounds has hosted, or will host, the following events that have generated awareness of our facilities, community and businesses.

- Antigo Garden Club Plant Sale
- Farmers' Market (every Saturday from June- beginning of October)
- Antigo Head Start - Stand for Children Day (in conjunction with Unified School District of Antigo (USDA), Read to Succeed, and Optimist Bike Rodeo as well as many other sponsors and guests)
- Relay for Life
- Badgerland Classic
- CoVantage Loan Rally
- Halloween Bash
- Winter Fun and Family Wellness Day
- 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. Development will continue with the addition of raised boardwalks 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:

- Healthy Ways Spring and Fall Walks

- Hike for Hope
- CROP Walk

Funding from Antigo Rotary Club and AILRPD 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 in 2018 through the Transportation Assistance Program (TAP) grant as well as the Knowles Stewardship Grant; the applications were denied. The next available application cycle(s) will be monitored by staff and the information will be resubmitted for consideration by the grant agencies.

In 2008 AILRPD 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 fund balance was paid down in 2018 and no further Levy is being sought at this time.

Commissioner Balcerzak noted the highlight in this section is that the boardwalk is paid for. This is one of the greatest things the City has done.

Joe Jopek is adamant that something needs to be done upstream to reduce the sedimentation and flow of chemicals into the lake. This act passed in the 1970s is to rehabilitate and protect the lakes, that was the priority. There are grants available to go upstream and work with landowners to try to utilize conservation practices.

Mr. Jopek indicated that the basins were dredged in 1991 and they are basically back at ground zero.

Commissioner Kassis noted that the Lake District has worked with the farming community north of town as well as the County. There is a problem that needs to be addressed. Mr. Desotell and Ms. Repp have been working with the County. The problem is not being able to work outside of the Lake District. There have been a lot of positives.

Mr. Desotell spoke about the Bathometric study which looked at diversions to basins which needs to be explored further. This may be a solution.

Mr. Jopek noted that the City should check with others to see if the Lake District can spend outside of the District on projects. There is money available in the priority watershed program.

Commissioner Henricks questioned if Stewardship funds were available which may be able to be utilized.

Mr. Desotell indicated that the best way to do this would be to make it part of the management plan.

Monte Shane Krueger noted that he believes the District to be on the right track as he works with others on sedimentation ponds to stop their lake from filling in. They have been working on Lake Eau Claire for the past six years. They mechanically removed approximately 20,000 yards of sediment at a time. This is proving to work. He believes there are two or three spots in the City that would be easy for mechanical removal of sediment. He will give Mr. Desotell the contact information.

Mr. Desotell noted this idea catches sediment before it gets to the basins and he agrees with this. This should be addressed in an updated management plan.

Commissioner Balcerzak noted that the Lake District is spending funds on recreation and funds should be spent on water quality.

Mr. Desotell indicated that the watershed area is 1,136 acres to 1 surface acre of lake, which is a tremendous amount. He reiterated his thought about dealing with it at the head of the basins rather than the whole watershed.

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

e) Restoration of Native Species

We plan to continue the Springbrook Banks and Woodland Park restoration program as administered by the Parks Department and Timberland Invasive 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 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. Staff of both the Street and Parks crews collaborated on this year's removal efforts. 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 2019 funding remains available to be allocated for the removal of non-native and invasive species along the corridor.

The overall success of our 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 **\$29,000**

For 2019, 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 2020.

Sarah Repp, Park, Recreation and Cemetery Director, advised that the fund balance will have some removed this year. She has been working with Timberland Invasive Species.

Mr. Desotell indicated that the cattail removal has been done this year and was completed in-house. They are restricted to only cut the area in the plan. This will have to be in the management plan for approval by the Department of Natural Resources.

Mr. Desotell indicated that staff did request additional areas for cutting cattails and were turned down as they were not identified in the management plan.

f) Basin Dredging/Analysis Program

Because of the limited payback rate of return identified by the 2018 study no work has been scheduled within 2019 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.

Levy **\$0** Fund Balance Reserve **\$70,000**

Mr. Desotell recommends earmarking some of the reserve balance for a study for mechanical cleanout of basins.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Rebstock, Mr. Desotell indicated that the watershed area is too large to address with the farmers, he suggests looking at the basins.

John McKenna moved, Commissioner Tom Bauknecht seconded, to authorize Mark Desotell to use up to \$25,000 of the fund balance reserve to do a study and work on addressing sedimentation.

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 2020 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 expanding the dredging fund balance at this time.

Levy **\$5,000** Fund Balance Reserve **\$2,500**

Mr. Desotell advised staff is looking at creating a low flow channel to keep water moving and creating deeper pools. The Lake District needs to levy funds to apply for grants for matching funds. This would be a future goal.

Upon inquiry by Commissioner Bauknecht, Mr. Desotell indicated that the study would still be relevant and when the management plan is done it would include this as a priority.

h) Trail Maintenance/Improvements and Future Expansion

SPRINGBROOK TRAIL & OUR COMMUNITY:

The Springbrook Trail is an incredible asset for our community. Recreational pursuits can be enjoyed on paved or rough trail; creating inclusive and accessible recreational opportunities for our 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 our community.

MAINTENANCE:

The current trail system is over 10 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 our community to maintain 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.

2019 Maintenance:

While the following have not yet been addressed in 2019 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 2020.

- We plan on sealing the trail, or portions of the trail to extend the life of the blacktop.

- We plan on making necessary repairs during the construction season that may have occurred over the winter months such as cracking and heaving.
- We plan on continuing the trenching along the trail to prevent root damage.

EXPANSION:

We 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 AILRPD 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: Boardwalk expansion off the second bridge will continue with any available funds after sealing and repairs. Expansion funds would not be used beyond the Langlade County Fairground property boundary.

We are requesting \$5,000 of the fund balance and \$5,000 levy to be used to maintain the current trail system and expand in approved areas. We anticipate continued requests annually.

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

Upon inquiry by Travis Krueger, Mr. Desotell explained grant applications that have been applied for and the proposed trail expansion.

Mr. Krueger noted that there is a problem with the County’s fence being on the Krueger property which they have informed the County of.

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 and account for the fact that we may not receive Stewardship funding:

- \$35,000 from the City Timber Sale
- \$70,000 from the Inland Lake District (2019/2020)
- \$65,000 from the City's Budget – Donations/Expendable Trust (2020)
- \$30,000 from funds redirected from the Park, Recreation & Cemetery CIP Budget (2019/2020)

\$200,000 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. Previous requests were for \$25,000 but with \$45,000 this year, the expansion would be completed without the grant.

If the grant is received, the 2020 levied funds would be redirected to the Restoration of Springbrook Flowage to continue building funds for this work to be completed.

Levy **\$45,000**

Fund Balance Applied **\$25,000**

Mr. Desotell explained that if funding was received from the Stewardship grant, the \$70,000 would not need to come from the Lake District.

Commissioner Balcerzak recommends putting the \$45,000 levy into basin dredging if the Stewardship grant is awarded.

Mr. Jopek questioned if downstream meets the intent of the AILRPD to utilize funds.

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

Monte Shane Krueger advised that the NRCS is a group working with farmers to control erosion and they are upstream giving grants. There are other organizations helping to keep the lake clean.

Upon inquiry by Elsa McKenna, Ms. Repp noted that the cross country ski trail will be groomed again this year. Mr. Desotell indicated that the grooming costs are absorbed within the Recreation budget not Inland Lakes.

2. Adopt Budget and Tax Levy

Ms. Matucheski indicated that after approval of the expenditures tonight the actual levy will not change but the expenditures will change to \$136,135. This equates to approximately 15 cents per thousand which is approximately 1.2 cents less than last year.

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

Carried with 16 aye votes and 0 nay votes.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW TO BE CONSIDERED

There was no other business to be considered

ADJOURNMENT

John McKenna moved, Commissioner Henricks seconded, to adjourn at 7:00 pm. Carried.

Thomas Bauknecht, Secretary