



TOWNSEND FLOWAGE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Annual Meeting

August 17, 2024

9:00 a.m.

Townsend Town Hall

Members present: John Zimdars, Jim Biever, Mike Gabryszek, Mark Clements, Chuck DeMoulin

The Annual Meeting of the Townsend Flowage Protection District (TFPD) was called to order by Board President, John Zimdars on August 17, 2024 at 9:05 a.m. at the Townsend Town Hall. It was confirmed that the meeting agenda was posted at the Townsend Town Hall, Townsend Post Office, Laona State Bank and the TFPD website along with being mailed to property owners.

A motion was made by Chuck DeMoulin to approve the 2023 annual meeting minutes. Mike Gabryszek seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Audit Report conducted by Terry DeMoulin was read by Treasurer, Mike Gabryszek. Mike Gabryszek also presented the August 1st Treasurer's Report. Cathy Seibel made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Barb Kaker seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Kids fishing tournament: Mark Shaw advised the committee is looking for volunteers for next year. Sherm Laundrie inquired as to where the money in the account will go. In the past donations were made to two other fishing tournaments. Mike Gabryszek reminded everyone that the Lake District does not have control over the kid's fishing tournament.

Discussion and adoption of 2025 Budget & Tax Levy. Betty Zimdars reviewed the budget. Cathy Seibel noted that donations and kiosks were budgeted for in 2024 and asked if the district received anything or if people just did not donate. Betty advised that donations typically are slim to none. Dale and Cathy Ott collect from the kiosks once per year. In past years the kiosks brought in \$200-\$250. In 2023 the kiosks brought in around \$500. Jack Dewolf made a motion to accept the \$82,000 2025 budget and \$150 tax levy. Cathy Seibel seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried.

Update on EWM. On the south end we have had three breakdowns and had to rebuild the head. The motor bracket broke and John Zimdars had to redesign that and have it welded back together. Mike Semler asked how many times the weed cutter go out this year? Chuck DeMoulin advised that they harvested 72 loads equaling around 1000 cubic yards of weeds. Volunteers donated 200 man hours so far this year. Bev Bodart advised there a sign-up form on the website. On the north end seven people have volunteered. Kathleen Marsh asked when the cutter on the southern end is going back in? John Zimdars advised it is fixed and back in the water now. Chuck DeMoulin expressed his gratitude to the volunteers who cut and

perform maintenance in the spring and when the cutters break down. Rusty Semler stated he has been trying to volunteer for weed cutting or help fixing things. Mike Malueg stated cutting and training are dependent on wind and boat traffic. Bev Bodart asked if property owners can only volunteer for their own end of the lake. John Zimdars advised that is what most people want to volunteer for. Mike Semler asked if there is a calendar to show when volunteers are signed up. It is felt that that is hard because you are dependent on weather. Cutters are trained and asked to not cut within 20ft of shore. Mike Gabyszek advised that cutting is normally done Monday - Thursday only and not Friday-Sunday due to boat traffic. It was asked if the cutters could be used on the opposite end if needed. The time it takes to travel back and forth and weeds collected during the travel make it difficult. It was also asked if volunteers could be trained on both ends of the lake. Mike Malueg stated the cutters are different so it is difficult to have them on the opposite machine. The DNR does give us a map on where we are supposed to be cutting. John will work with Brenda to recreate the map to reflect where the weeds are now.

This week Brenda was out from DNR doing a weed survey. Bev Bodart road along and provided an update. When the DNR was out in June for the shoreline review they documented each property including the number of docks, boats, trees down, and amount of shoreline cleared. They went out last week Tuesday and Wednesday for the weed point-to-point survey. They evaluate depth but they are coming back in November to do a better depth study when the weeds are gone. Each time they go to the same spots when they do a survey to see how the weeds change. This year they found 25 different types of weeds in the lake. They do document the amount of Eurasian Milfoil in each area of the lake. If while testing an area with the rake it doesn't come up on the rake, they document that there was a visual of Eurasian Milfoil. Brenda stated we work with Jim Scharl from Wisconsin Lakes and Ponds on grants. We applied jointly with Inland Lakes and we get 40% and 60% goes to Inland Lakes District. Grants are a point system applying jointly enhances the number of points.

Brenda did reiterate that when you constantly treat EWM with the same chemical that it becomes ineffective which is why there are gaps between treating. The flowage has both Northern or native milfoil and invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). We have more EWM than Northern. Brenda is aware of the issues in the Townsend Flowage. The reason that we have seen a spike in weed growth is due to our winters being mild where there was not a lot of snow. This allowed the sun to go through the ice and the weeds were able to begin growth early. Study results are expected in January. The DNR evaluated 300 spots during their survey of the lake. Some spots had seven different weeds in one area. Jeff Schroeter asked if the East side of the lake is being considered for cutting. Jack Dewolf stated he has removed 8-10 pickup truck loads of weeds on the southern end of the flowage. With the dump only being open a few days a week he inquired about the best practice for managing large amounts of weeds. Chuck DeMoulin advised property owners should still take them to the recycle center to dispose of them. Jon Marsh advised that the long green grass is wild celery and that comes up every year at certain times per year. John Zimdars stated that it will come to the surface both from boat traffic and on its own.

John Zimdars summarized a letter from Jim Schaarl regarding the timeline for grant submission. A joint grant will be submitted in fall of 2024 with the intent of doing a whole lake treatment in spring 2025. [The letter can be viewed in its entirety on the website.](https://www.townsendflowageprotectiondistrict.com/services)

Rick Bodart asked if there is anything property owners can do to put pressure on the DNR to get the grant. Betty Zimdars advised it is a statewide committee that decides. There is a ranking

committee that looks at certain factors and then ranks each facet of the grant application. Any help property owners can provide in getting donations is helpful so we can check the donation box. Chuck DeMoulin stated to encourage your Town Board to get involved and back the lake districts grant application. Mark Shaw brought up that he felt the best lake weed prevention happened when we drained the lake in 2012. He felt that for 8-9 years after that it seemed like the weeds were better. Chuck DeMoulin advised if we do the complete the lake treatment plan you will see great progress. Jon Marsh said in response to the draining of the lake that we had to get the County who controls the Dam to okay to do the draining. Because of the early snow it did not freeze as well as we hoped. Ed Erickson stated this time they will use a different herbicide that will not be impacted by the rain and will not be time released. Since 2017 other lakes that have used the new chemical ProcellaCOR and have seen very good results.

Bev discussed different volunteer opportunities on the website.

Commissioner nomination and election. Kathleen Marsh nominated Mike Gabyrsek. Ed Ericson seconded the nomination. John Zimdars asked if there were any other nominations three times. John Zimdars made a motion for a unanimous voice vote for Mike Gabyrsek as the commissioner. All were in favor. Motion passed.

Recognition of volunteers. The Commissioners thanked all of the volunteers who have donated their time over the past year. Jim Biever recognized the efforts Bev Bodart put into the creating the new website. Bev Bodart also mentioned the webcam that they added.

Discussion on Christmas party. Chuck DeMoulin will look for places to have the Christmas party if there is interest. Interest was expressed. The party will be held on December 7th if we can find a location. Chuck will check with Old Town Hall.

2025 Annual Meeting – August 16th, 2025.

Public Comment:

Kathy Marsch compliment Townsend Town Board on the wake boat ordinance.

Bruce Beno asked if anyone still had OCLWA raffle tickets. John Zimdars advised that all tickets were already turned in.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Rick Bodart and seconded by Cathy Seibel. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Renee Vande Voort
Non-board recording secretary