



Townsend Flowage Protection District (TFPD)
Board of Commissioners
Annual Meeting, August 27, 2022

Members present: John Zimdars, Mark Clements, Mike Gabryszek, Jim Bieber, Carla Van Camp

The Board of Commissioners Annual Meeting of the Townsend Flowage Protection District was called to order by Board President, John Zimdars on August 27, 2022 at 9 a.m. at the Townsend Town Hall. It was confirmed that the meeting agenda was posted at the Townsend Town Hall, Townsend Post Office, Karla's Kafe, TFPD website, Laona State Bank, Townsend, emailed and mailed.

A motion was made by Jim Bieber to approve the 2021 annual meeting minutes. Mark Clements seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Audit of the 2022 budget was postponed. Budget audit will be conducted and results reported at the December meeting

Quarterly Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer, Mike Gabryszek. Jim Bieber made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. 13 seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Mike Vande Walle asked if the amount planned for the future new building account is under new equipment. In the budget, there is a line item for equipment and a new building.

Mike Vande Walle asked about budget for the kids fishing tournament. Answer: Kids fishing tournament budget is separate. The tournament expenses of \$8,000 were covered by donations. No tax money from the Lake District tax levy goes towards the fishing tournament.

William Nedd asked where the residual funds go. Answer: They may at some point go to another charitable organize if funds are available.

Update on EWM Treatment & Testing:

- Jim Scharl of Wisconsin Lakes and Ponds Resource gave a presentation regarding the milfoil treatment in early 2020. Both Inland Lakes and the Townsend districts were awarded a grant from DNR to be used toward the treatment at up to 75% of the cost. Survey shows the treatment of milfoils, and other native was effective. While some Eurasian milfoil has been found, it is significantly reduced and controllable, with future reduced treatment efforts and costs. Initial plan was for the grant to be available for 2 years, but it is now expected to expand the life of the grant out to 3 years because it has been less costly to control. A report at end of this year 2022 will be done. Beginning of 2023, we will apply for a grant from DNR again, to keep milfoil in check.
- Jeff Schroeter asked if the survey was only a visual. Answer, combination of visual and samples. Scharl asked Schroeter to get him his address and pictures to address the situation at his location.

- Mike Vande Walle asked if the treatment has gone up Mosquito Creek and beyond? At the culvert, there is a mass of weeds, and in fact, the culvert is jammed with weeds, to the point a boat with motor cannot get through it. Jim Scharl will take a look further into this but stated they did go through this location and found a lot of native milfoil (not Eurasian) and weeds.
- Jon Marsh stated he heard a rumor that DNR was going to withdraw herbicidal treatment of aquatic invasives. The answer is they are working on updating rules. Rule update is being considered and the proposal rewritten for possible implementation.
- Jim Biever stated some of the native species have overtaken certain areas and within permit, they can be cut. Discussion followed regarding cutting lanes and areas.
- John Zimdars stated he talked to Brenda Nordin of the DNR about cutting permits. With the proposal of putting GPS units on weed cutters, they would know whether the district cutters are cutting outside of the permit area. At a cost of about \$1000 per machine for a GPS, this requirement may be coming.
- During discussions, a question came up regarding future treatment. We did whole lake treatment in 2020. Will we have to do another whole lake treatment in the future? Jim Scharl does not foresee having to do that.
- After the survey this fall, Jim will come back to the group with another update. Of note, grant deadlines are September for the grant process dates of February or March for the following year.

Discussion and adoption of 2023 Budget and Tax Levy: Betty Zimdars explained highlights of the 2023 budget. Tax levy remains at \$150 per parcel.

Mike Vande Walle stated signs or kiosks can be made by students at Wabeno High School, where a department within the school has equipment to make signs – metal, banners. Contact Brian Van Eperen. Board will check into that possibility for future sign needs.

Motion to adopt the 2023 budget and tax levy was made by Jon March and Cathy Seibel seconded it. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Commissioner nomination and election. Jim Biever nominated by John Zimdars to remain as board member at large. John Zimdars asked for any other nominations for commissioner for the 3-year term on board commissioner. Hearing none, Jim Biever was approved as board member for the 3-year term.

Update on Slow No-Wake: With more education and signage with the financial help from the grant from the county, there seems to have been an improvement of compliance in the brook, but not as successful in the rest of the lake. Discussion followed regarding the various compliance issues still being observed as well as suggestions for further education and signage. Suggestions included adding buoys and/or placing buoys farther out ahead of the no wake zones. However, you cannot place buoys in the water without a permit. Individuals can call the warden and he can advise what can be done in specific areas.

Rick Bodart stated a significant problem exists near Hillcrest and Wendts Sand Bar. Signs are needed before the no-wake begins, as boaters are seen going full speed and abruptly slowing when they get to the buoy, resulting in significant shoreline damage. Suggestions given in addition to placing buoys out beyond the no wake zone actually begins, to adding LED flashing lights to no-wake signage.

Biever stated that reminders should be given to properties being used as rentals or Air BNB and they should have copies of the rules posted on their properties.

Utilizing the District Facebook page for further awareness is also a good communication tool.

Mike Morgen states it could be there is confusion about the understanding of what “no wake” is. There is a video on Facebook showing this but more promotion of this as well as continuous education may help and should be done.

2022 Kids Fishing Tournament Update: Betty Zimdars gave update. Held July 1 this year, and it is typically the first Saturday in July. The committee starts fund raising shortly after the first of the year for the July event. If you see things at Christmas time you think might be good for donating, pick them up and let Betty and/or a committee member know. The tournament had 173 kids register this year. Available for kids ages up to age 16 (under 16).

William Nedd brought up the serious parking situation on the road near his property, just across from Wendts Sand Bars during the Kids Fishing tournament in particular. Pedestrian safety is a major issue. It would be ideal to have volunteer people, properly outfitted with safety colors, to slow traffic in the area for the duration. A discussion with Oconto County about help with this could be done. Possibly use excess funds to pay people to help with safety in this area, may help to solve the problem. Also, for the duration of the event, perhaps it could be marked as a temporary no parking area. Mike Vande Walle said possibly fire department personnel could help. Carla VanCamp will look into putting up “no parking” signs on that side of the road during the event. On another note, the tournament committee is looking for more volunteers.

Discussion on Christmas Party with a possible date of December 3. Mike and Heidi Vande Walle volunteered to chair the Christmas party organization committee. William Nedd made a motion to go ahead with plans to have a Christmas party this year on December 3. Rick Bodart seconded the motion. All in favor. Motion carried. More to follow as soon as venue is secured.

A Summer Meet and Greet was suggested as a possible get together also in the future.

Public Comment: Carla Van Camp suggested a Summer Meet and Greet could be held on her property.

Future meeting dates: The 2023 Annual Meeting will be August 26, 2023

Next Quarterly meeting will be held December 3, 2022, 9 a.m. at the Ambulance location.

William Need and Chuck De Moulin volunteered to help with the organization of the Christmas party.

A motion was made by Jim Biever to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Frank Briski. All were in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 10:35 a.m.

Public comment:

2023 board line up will remain the same, voted unanimously by the board. Election officers. Jim, Mike seconded.

Respectfully submitted by
Mary Van Vonderen, Non-board Recording Secretary