



Townsend Flowage Protection District (TFPD)  
Board of Commissioners Quarterly meeting  
June 3, 2023

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

The Board of Commissioners Quarterly Meeting of the Townsend Flowage Protection District was called to order by Board President, John Zimdars on June 3, 2023 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, and TFPD website.

A motion was made by Jim Bieber to approve the March 11, 2023 meeting minutes. Carla Van Camp seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

Update on EWM Treatment & Testing:

A map is available showing the treatment which will be accomplished in about 2 weeks. Wisconsin Lakes and Ponds will be doing the treatment. Milfoil has greatly expanded in the lake. John will work with the DNR and WL&P and see if we can expand the treatment areas. The District applied for a treatment permit for specific areas last year, and we will see if we can now get that expanded. A one-acre minimum area is needed for treatment, and there is over an acre affected. It is likely we will be doing a lot more cutting this summer.

Report from Fish Committee – Jim Bieber

Jim gave a report on the DNR activities and has preliminary information. Fike netting started in April at 7 locations for 11 days. The net pulled in 1,644 fish, with pan fish being the majority, crappies running second, along with northern and muskies. From the DNR's preliminary, yet-to-be audited data, we are disappointed in the low number of walleyes netted, especially since the DNR has stocked between 6,000-7,000, 6 to 9 inch walleyes in the flowage every other year. Normally we could expect to come up with 1.5 walleye per acre, but we are at .2 per acre and therefore they will likely stop stocking walleyes. 28 walleyes were captured/1 recaptured (tagged). They electroshocked a seven-mile stretch of shoreline, two nights, but numbers are not yet compiled and no official report is available yet. Chip Long of the DNR will be at the annual meeting in August to give a preliminary presentation. He will have a complete report at the spring 2024 meeting, which will then be posted on the website. Regarding the low numbers of walleye, the factors point to habitat, fish beds, being some of the main issues, along with predation (walleye being consumed by predator fish) so no natural reproduction is happening. Bruce Beno and Jim Bieber are resources for more information. The preliminary information will be posted on the TFPD website. The walleyes caught were of large size, beautiful in color. They will spawn, but they likely will not make it. More information at the Annual meeting with Chip Long's report. It

should again be noted when the preliminary report is posted, this is not audited data, only preliminary, raw data.

#### Healthy Lakes Presentation – Jim Bieber

So far, there have been more than 30 projects completed on the flowage utilizing the healthy lakes grants. Jim Bieber gave a case study presentation of the project he had done on his property at the bottom of Red Maple Lane. The details will be posted on the website, but in general, he qualified for and received 2 grants out of the 3 grant requests that were submitted. The project involved a water run off diversion and retention pond. Jim has a map, pictures, and details in his presentation which will also be posted to the website.

Betty Zimdars added an informational comment: For property interested in the possibility of investigating the possibility of a project, the grant does not cover rock on shorelines but could cover a project for rocks 5-10 feet from shoreline. Projects must involve controlling water runoff. If interested, contact Betty and she will arrange for Brady from the County to come and take a look at the project. He will put a plan together, and it will be submitted to DNR. Once the overall concept is approved, he will then add details to the project for the property owner to submit to a landscaper. Early submittal to the DNR is by September and a late submittal date is November. Projects must run through the TFPD. Once the project is approved, the property owner pays the landscaper, and submits the project costs to the TFPD, who submits it to the DNR. The reimbursement is paid to the TFPD who in turn pays the property owner.

#### Oconto County Lakes and Waterway Association (OCLAWA) Update

OCLAWA has the following upcoming events for interested parties:

- Invasive Species Training and Education Day, June 10, Lakewood community center , 1-3 p.m.<sup>th</sup>,
- Snapshot Day, August 19: This is a tour of several surrounding waterways to view the various lake health points of interest
- Fall meeting, August 26
- Lucky 13 Raffle -We got \$250 to help pay for Slow, No Wake Signs. The money funds other local waterways initiatives also. Jim Bieber has tickets.

As a reminder as to the value of OCLAWA to the TFPD, they can be thought of as our voice for healthy lakes concerns here in northern Oconto County.

Motion for Approval of Authorizing Resolution for the TFPD to apply for and obtain a cost-share grant from the WDNR for the purpose of Surface Water Grants. Carla Van Camp made a motion to approve, Mike Gabryszek seconded. All were in favor. The motion carried. We will be applying for a grant for surveys and treatment.

#### 2023 Remaining Meeting Schedule:

August 26th, 2023 (Annual Meeting) Town Hall  
December 2, 2023 Ambulance Building

#### Public Comment

Mike Vande Walle asked if the area where there are high instances of milfoil can be buoyed off to prevent boaters from possibly spreading the invasive milfoil. It is unlikely that the DNR would allow buoys for this. Discussion followed. Basically, the only way to avoid spread is treatment and cutting.

Christmas party plans were discussed. Motion was made by Jim Biever to again have a TFPD Christmas party the evening of December 2. Mike Gabryszek seconded the motion. All were in favor, Motion carried. Mike Vande Walle will again be in charge for making arrangements.

Motion was made by Jim Beiver to adjourn. Mark Clements seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned 9:36 a.m.

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