Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

UMESC (Upper Midwest Environmental Science Center)
2630 Fanta Reed Road
French Island, WI 54601

Budget Hearing 6:45 p.m.
Annual Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Present: Marc Schultz, Sue Schultz, Tim Miller, Dales Hochhausen, Kathryn Lammers, Chad Knapmiller, Mike Schultz, Karen Schultz, Tony Christnovich, Amy Cooper, Vicki Burke, David Heath, Jeff Reabe, Marcie Reabe, Kay Ward, John Ward, Mark Tierney, Mike Wellik, , Randy Hines, Sheryl Bollum, Duane Bollom, David Ford, Fritz Funk, Amy Hanson, Leif Hanson, Paul Jahimiak, Janet Jahimiak, Mark Knapmiller, Pam Knudtson, Ruth Nissen, Barbara Friell

Call to Order – Chairman Marc Schultz called the Budget Hearing to Order at 6:50 p.m. and presented the following 2018 Proposed Lake Onalaska District Budget 2018-2019. The Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District’s Proposed 2017-18 Budget was approved.

<table>
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<th>EXPENSE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Social</td>
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<tr>
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Annual Meeting Agenda
Item 1: Call to order - Introductions at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Marc Schultz.

Item 2: Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes approved.

Item 3: Treasurer’s Report

Item 4: Budget Adoption

Treasurer’s Report approved.

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<th>Description</th>
<th>Sub-totals</th>
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Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District
Treasurer’s Report-annual meeting
September 05, 2018
12 month report
BMO Harris Bank for District
M&I Bank changed ownership to BMO in 2012-2103
### Balance

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**Item 4: 2018-2019 Budget Adoption**

The proposed 2018-2019 Budget was presented and approved.

**Proposed Lake Onalaska District Budget 2018-2019**

#### INCOME

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**Item 5: Fred Funk Landing**

Tony Christonvich presented an update regarding his work on finalizing the Fred Funk Landing Project. He also provided visuals prior to the meeting and during his presentation.

A Social Event was held at Red Pines. The purpose of the Event was to continue to promote Lake Quality and Access, discuss the prevention of excessive vegetation in the Lake, ways to repair one’s Shoreline and the Backyard Tours planned for June 6th with representation from the DNR (Department of Natural Resources), USFWS (United States Fish and Wildlife Services), USCOE (United States Corp of Engineers), USGS (United States Geological Services), and the La Crosse County Zoning Department.

**Item 6: Update on Vegetation Cutting and Removal**

Chad Knapmiller, owner of Schafer’s River Rentals shared the results of the Survey he had prepared and distributed prior to the Annual Meeting. The Survey was included in the Lake District Mailing and also sent via online using the Lake District Email List. See Survey below.

**Attn: Lakefront Property Owner**

As you are aware aquatic vegetation is a continuing issue for property owners as well as boaters on Lake Onalaska. Over the past two years Schafer’s River Rentals has been exploring solutions for this problem. We believe that we have narrowed down the most sustainable method to mechanical harvesting of the aquatic vegetation to help shoreline owners with this issue.

To create a sustainable business model, we would appreciate your honest participation in the short survey provided. These questions will help determine the financial viability of the weed harvester as well as some other services that would support its operation. If you have any further questions or would like to learn more about what we are trying to do feel free to stop in or call the shop!

Included with this letter is a prepaid envelope that you can use to return the completed survey! If it is more convenient feel free to complete the survey online at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7JKBK6T](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/7JKBK6T)

Thanks,
Chad Knapmiller
Schafer’s River Rentals
(608)781-3100

1. Do you operate watercraft on Lake Onalaska?
   - Yes
   - No
2. Do you have a dock?
   - Yes
   - No
3. Do you consider aquatic vegetation an issue in front of your property?
   - Yes
   - No
4. Does aquatic vegetation prevent you from using/enjoying the lake?
   - Yes
   - No
5. Homeowners are permitted to have 500 Square feet mechanically removed from their waterfront. Is this a service that you would consider paying for?
   - Yes
   - No
6. The cost for mechanically cutting is estimated to be around $500 per cut, with a discounted rate for multiple cuts per season. At this rate would you still be interested in this service?
7. In addition to the harvester we are also considering offering additional services. Please indicate any of these services that you would be interested in:

a. Dock Installation/Removal
b. Dock Repair
c. Dock Cleaning
d. Shoreline Cleaning

8. Feel free to add any questions comments or concerns on the back of the page

Survey Responses were as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<td>*41 responses</td>
<td></td>
<td>51</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>** 25 Responses</td>
<td>67</td>
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<td>92</td>
</tr>
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</table>

* Dock installation/removal
Dock Repair
Dock Cleaning
Shoreline Cleaning

** Item 7: Lake District Funding
Item 8: Public Comment provide some temporary relief of the heavy vegetation in the Lake Onalaska. An estimated $50,000 to 100,000 would be needed for areas used by the public.
Item 9: Speaker Ruth Nissen – Friends of the Refuge – Mississippi River Pools 7 & 8 Past, Present & Future

Item 10: Agency Reports

U. S. Geological Survey – Randy Hines

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Shawn Giblin

Water Quality Shapes the Health of the River. This article was written by Shawn and published in the July/August, 2018 Big River Magazine.

David Heath
Public Fish Regulation Survey Summary. The plan is to go forward. Wi and Mn did 6 May 2018 public meetings to rewrite angling regulations in both states. IA is not involved at this point. Had on-line and paper public opinion survey available until July 31, 2018. These two states received over 850 responses to this 77-question survey. The survey did not provide any regulation suggestions but rather asked what the public wanted for fish regulations. Goal is to achieve uniform regulations on both sides of the river. The public survey results have been compiled. The next step is to go back to the public fall/winter 2018 and get feedback on specific regulation suggestions generated by DNR’s. Finally, in April 2019, these questions will appear on the Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring Questionnaire where they will be voted on by the public.

Jim Fisher WDNR

United States Fish and Wildlife Service – Tim Miller

United States Army Corps of Engineers
Ray Marinan

The Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Lake Onalaska Protection and Rehabilitation District
LAKE ONALASKA PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
September 2019 Meeting

U.S. Geological Survey, Upper Midwest Environmental Sciences Center - Science Update

Upper Mississippi River Restoration Program (UMRR) - Long Term Resource Monitoring (LTRM) Element:

- US Army Corps’ Federal-State Partnership program aimed at restoring habitat and monitoring the ecological health of the UMR; USGS has science oversight for LTRM element of UMRR.
- Continue to monitor Fish/Veg/Water Quality annually with 6 State operated field stations
- Next round of systemic Land-Cover/Use Maps targeted for 2020
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service plane & new cameras; summer peak vegetation (August); entire UMR and Illinois Rivers
  - online 2021-2025 = 6 Key Pools (4, 8, 13, 26, Open, and LaGrange-IL) first; Pool 7 (~2022), HREP pools and IL Waterway (pre & post closures)
- Budget & Support:
  - 2017-2019- President’s/Congress/Final budget = $33.1M full authorization
  - 2020 proposed – President’s/Congress = $33.1M full authorization
  - Measure of success = model for national-international restoration-partnerships

Characterizing ecological-hydrological processes in the UMRS to inform large-river management

- Floodplain-River Connectivity
  - Leverage the floodplain inundation model along with other existing UMRR datasets to:
    ▪ learn about how connectivity influences ecosystem dynamics
    ▪ contribute to the improved health and resilience of the UMRS by developing concepts, maps, and models relevant to management activities.

- Nutrient Cycling - Pool 8 Nutrient Processing
  - Phosphorus is retained on the floodplain when P is taken up by biota or incorporated into the soil
  - Nitrogen is more mobile and removal enhanced by drying/wetting cycles

- Floodplain Forests
  - Dispersal, growth, and mortality affected by flooding
  - Can guide the selection of floodplain forest restoration projects that maximize restoration value
- **Sedimentation Rates in Backwaters**
  o Since 2017 have been revisiting backwater sediment transects in Pools 4, 8 and 13 surveyed in 1997-2002 to determine average rates and patterns of sedimentation over a 20-yr period.
  o Results of this work will improve predictions of management actions and restoration projects intended to maintain the habitat diversity within the UMRS.

- **Freshwater Mussels**
  **Quantitative Sampling** (COE-funded)
  o FY19: quantitative sampling for native freshwater mussels at ~300 sites in each of Pools 8 and 13
    ▪ data will be used to estimate the distribution, abundance, diversity, and recruitment of mussels to inform management decisions
      • status and trends of mussel resources
      • baseline data to evaluate the effects of water level management on mussels.
  o FY20/21: assess geomorphic indices to predict the distribution, abundance, diversity, and recruitment of native mussels across 6 pools (3, 5, 6, 8, 13, 18)
    ▪ inform management decisions related to design and implementation of habitat restoration and enhancement projects to benefit mussels.

**Ecosystem Services** (USGS Mid-Continent Region funded)
  o FY19: Compile data on freshwater mussels, nutrients, and fishes in one pool of the UMR to assess if restoring mussel assemblages may also improve water quality and aquatic ecosystem health.
  o FY20/21: Identify, quantify, and value key ecosystem services (e.g., biofiltration of nutrients and sediments) provided by mussels and conduct a cost effectiveness analysis between biofiltration by mussels and human-built infrastructure (e.g., WWTPs) in select reaches of the UMR.

**USGS RESEARCH:**
**Migratory Songbirds:**
Assessment of floodplain forest habitat use by neotropical migratory birds; Pool 4, 8 completed in 2017, Pool 26 & Open River in 2018; Pool 13 in 2019; comparison of habitat use, density and distribution with 1990 survey data. FY20 Flood effects

**Invasive Species:**
**ASIAN CARP**
- Pool 19 – USGS research on-going to understand the Life History of Asian carp on the UMR **(tagged 100+ carp over past 2 yrs = mostly Silver carp & some Bighead carp)**
  • Tagged fish in Pool 19 to evaluate behavior of the leading edge of dense carp population
  • Carp moving between IL and UMR
  • Reproduction beginning above L&D 19
- Lab & Field Trials - - Continue to examine possible control techniques & technologies as part of integrated pest management

  • **CO2 Barrier** -
    o Fox River near Kaukauna, WI – CO2 Barrier Testing (August 2019)
    o large-scale commercial barrier testing; potential for IL River barrier use (multiple technology systems)

  • **Sound Barrier** -
    o FY19: deployed on CAWS/Illinois River at electric barriers (spring 2019) in support of ACOE maintenance
    o Fall 2019 - Lake Barkley Dam barrier evaluation; sounds/bubble/light design w/ contractor; partners Kentucky F&G, USFWS, Army Corps, USGS
    o FY20: L&D 19 plans underway to deploy

  • **Microparticles** -
    o Antimycin registration with EPA has lapsed; USGS has acquired rights to product and working with new Companies to manufacture for continued use in microparticle for selective toxicant control of silver and bighead carp.
    o Field study in Iowa USFWS hatchery ponds with dye-loaded microparticles to assess baiting and delivery systems on targeted Asian carp feeding behavior and unintended exposure of non-target native fish.

**ZEBRA MUSSELS** -

- **Dubuque Mississippi River Museum** -
  • Assay trailer placed at Museum to assess the use of copper sulfate (EarthTec QZ) to prevent zebra mussel veliger (juveniles) attachment on native mussels in support of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Genoa Hatchery mussel propagation cages maintained in the harbor.

- **Lake Minnetonka** -
  • Lake applications of copper sulfate in St. Albans Bay to evaluate the ability to prevent zebra mussel veliger (juvenile) attachment to substrates. A 10-day application period was evaluated for target zebra mussel effects and unintended consequences on native invertebrates, fish and mussels.