



5621 Town Hall Road, Delavan, Wisconsin 53115
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Office Hours: M – F, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Minutes

The Town of Delavan Lake Committee held its monthly Meeting on Wednesday, February 3rd, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at Town of Delavan Town Hall, 5621 Town Hall Rd., Delavan WI 53115. Agenda provided phone information for call -in and Zoom attendance.

Committee Members:

Mary Knipper – Chair (voting)	Dan Lemanski – Citizen Member (voting)
Katherine Gaulke – Co-Chair (voting)	Leo Dietlin – Citizen Member (voting)
Richard Beers – DLSD Rep (voting)	Ron Henriott - City of Delavan Rep (voting)
Jim Wolfram – Citizen Member (voting)	Bruce Lechner – City of Elkhorn Rep (voting)
Bill Thummel – Delavan Lake Improvement Association (non-voting)	
Brian Holt - Walworth County Soil & Watershed Protection Producer Group (non-voting)	
Jim DeLuca – DLSD Administrator (non-voting)	

- 1) Chair Knipper called the **meeting to order at 7pm**
- 2) **Roll Call** by Chair Knipper
In person: Richard Beers, Katherine Gaulke, Mary Knipper, Ron Henriott, Jim DeLuca, Bill Thummel, John Olson
By Zoom: Dan Lemanski, Leo Deitlin,
Absent: Jim Wolfram, Bruce Lechner, Brian Holt
Guests: Mayor Ryan Schroeder, Don Holtz, Charlie Handel (DLSD), Glen Dichow, Adam Lasch, Ted Kasch (Zoom), John McCarthy (Zoom)
- 3) Chair Knipper declared a **quorum for doing business**
- 4) Motion by Knipper with a second by Lemanski to **approve the agenda with one edit**, move #13 presentation to before #11a. Motion carried 6-0.
- 5) Motion by Beers with a second by Dietlin to **approve the minutes as written from the 1/6/21**. Motion carried 6-0.
- 6) **Comments and suggestions of citizens present** regarding Items on the Agenda – **None**
- 7) **Communications**
 - 1/28/21 **Heidi Bunk regarding BMP2** – she has approved the project deliverables as submitted by the Town of Delavan and proceeding with the final payment and project closeout. She has provided her approval and payment is being processed. Bunk did pose the question to Olson “...expecting that the vegetative swale would have tall grasses, which is why I didn’t think that the pictures you submitted had a vegetative swale. Will you be allowing the grasses to grow taller, or will it be mowed regularly?”
 - The **Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will host a virtual public meeting to discuss proposed changes to the DNR’s rough fish removal program..** The meeting will be held

via Zoom on Feb. 10 at 6:30 p.m. Anyone interested in rough and detrimental fish removal who would like to participate should contact David Rowe at David.Rowe@wisconsin.gov or 608-228-6163. Thummel expressed interest in attending. Knipper requested he report back to the group.

- **Wisconsin Water is Week March 8-12, 2021**, register for Wisconsin Water Week at <https://wisconsinwaterweek.swoogo.com/wisconsinwaterweek/>. The **2021 Wisconsin Lakes and Rivers Convention** will be a virtual event and it is now part of a larger (the first ever) Wisconsin Water Week. Knipper encouraged Lake Committee members to attend this virtual event.
- 1/15/21 message from John Doherty via the Town website; "I have Condo at the Delavan Club & have a boat slip. The Lake Outlet is getting shallower every year. There must be over 300 boats in the outlet and it is getting harder to get boats out of the slips in shallow water. What are the plans to make the outlet deeper?" Knipper invited him to the this and future Lake Committee meetings.
- 1/28/21 email from John J. Piotrowicz; Lakelawn boat slip patron had a question about if the Town required any permits; Knipper redirected to DNR website, the Town does not have any additional permits to boat on the Lake.
- 10th Annual Conference **Red Cedar Watershed Conference: Land, Water and People Coming Together! Thursday, March 11, 2021 from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm** will be a virtual event. Knipper forwarded this conference information to Brian Holt
- Gaulke updated the Lake Committee that she, Knipper and Beers met with Fay Amerson, Matthew Weidensee, and Sheril Oldenburg Walworth County Land Conservation Division virtually on Jan. 13th to discuss the previous dredging permits and what will be needed permit-wise for future dredging projects. She will update the dredging timeline with this information.
- Gaulke updated the Lake Committee that she, Knipper, Beers, and DeLuca met with Theresa Alvarez, Susan Eichelkraut, Travis Motl, Michelle Scott, Craig Helker, and Jerry with the DNR virtually on January 15th. The meeting has been transcribed if anyone would like to read it. It was a productive meeting where Alvarez promised to send an email with a checklist for the project and a calendar on dates where dredging could be proposed. As of this meeting, no email received from Alvarez by Knipper, Gaulke, or Olson. Knipper is followed up with an email to Theresa on Feb. 3, noted the list of follow up items that were action items for the Lake Committee to receive prior to this meeting. Lemanski inquired; dredging methods preferred by the DNR – Knipper noted DNR preferred hydraulic; Beers explained that there is lots of hard pan and to make the design contours mechanical will be needed; Gaulke stated her takeaway was that the DNR was fine with a mechanical to get the ponds back to efficiency; and then move to hydraulic; they just oppose doing mechanical every year.
- Olson stated no additional communications received by the Town.

8) DLSD (Delavan Lake Sanitary District) Updates

DLSD Administrator DeLuca gave an update. The DLSD February Lake Report is on file with the Town. DeLuca pursuing a Waterways Grant to do a modification to the barge to do a pump surface removal of algae, blooms, duckweed, etc. Needs a letter of support from the Town (property owner of Community Park). Goal is to reduce the presence of large algae mats. Committee reviewed a map of the focus test areas around the Community Park. Heidi Bunk, DNR has approved testing 75feet out from the shoreline. If it works, look at other areas on the lake to address the presence of algae mats with this method. Gaulke motion with a second by Deitlin for the Town to provide a Letter of Support for the Waterways Grant to modify the barge and test it out at the area by the Community Park; motion carried 6-0. Adam Lasch present to learn about bio bags filled with the algae blooms.

9) DLIA (Delavan Lake Improvement Association) Updates

DLIA Board Member Bill Thummel gave an update. Brian Smetana has identified 2 more farmers that might want to participate in the DLIA cover crop program and he might have found some additional grants to help fund this project too. Thummel stated Lake Side Tackle has agreed to manage the carp removal derby again in 2021; this is a DLSD, DLIA, Town, and Friends of the Park partnership; last year spent \$3 a carp caught. Gaulke reminded the Committee that they had previously approved helping fund the DLIA cover crop program in 2020 so that more farmers could be added to the program. The Town is still waiting for the 2020 invoices from DLIA to pay. Thummel to look into the invoices.

10) Walworth County Soil & Watershed Protection Producer Group Updates

Holt not present. No update. Knipper will follow-up on the status of hiring the watershed coordinator for the Walworth County Soil & Watershed Protection Producer Group and see if there are any updates on the group.

13) New Business: (a) Discussion/possible recommendation: Review/presentation of 2007 Mound Road Dredging overview *moved up during agenda approval

Presentation 2007 Mound Road Dredging Overview by Don Holst, former Town of Delavan Resident. He provided a synopsis of materials, and a general overview of the ideas to restore the Mound Road Basins based on his experience with the 2007 project. The presentation slides are on file with the Town.

Holst reviewed Mound Road Complex Topography map from a Berrini report; very flat area. Original plans did not work and the water made its own paths; to remove the hard pan and soft pan dug trenches at the site.

Holst was under the impression the Town/DLSD is looking at tankers, which is not the case. He removed this point from his presentation.

Holst sees issues with the water table and rain events with being able to dry out the ponds with a mechanical dredge; and that it would be difficult to dig 10ft down in the ponds with mechanical equipment; ground is unstable and thinks the trucks would not be able to move in/out and around because of ruts and mud. Holst recommends hydraulic and focus on only removing the soft sediment. Based on Holtz's review of Dale Robertson's data he believes a simple methods of soft removal would get the lake back to 2011 levels. Knipper stated that the DNR has noted its preference for hydraulic method. Holst thinks committee should have a point person and only go with hydraulic. Lemanski volunteered to be the Town dredging point person. Gaulke raised concerns about selecting a volunteer to be the "point person" until a clear understanding is written on what this volunteer would do. What would they have the authority to do? How would updates be given to the Lake Committee and Board? What are the expectations of this point-person? How will they work with the Committee chairs and Administrator Olson? The point persons right now are Administrator Olson and the two Lake Committee chairs Knipper and Gaulke. Beers and Deitlin also expressed concerns about what the role of this volunteer would be. Knipper stated she would work on a policy to provide more direction for approval by the Lake Committee.

DeLuca provided feedback on Holst perceptions of the current dredging project; DeLuca stated the goal is to get the basins back to the 9 feet of depth in original plans (finish grade to the bottom) using mechanical; full pond minus the donut; then it would be easy to do maintenance with hydraulic equipment. Center is the hard pan that needs to be removed; DeLuca and the experts DLSD has spoken too, believe that hydraulic is not powerful enough to remove the middle hard pan; need a long reach backhoe – need to get it designed with a ramp or slope for the hydraulic maintenance program; keeping up with it avoids the headaches we have now with the packing. Holst est. 40K yards of material; DeLuca

not excavate the donut, stick to the middle – Berinni’s report was 17K yards of material. DeLuca these are basins that were designed to be maintained; need to clean up the shorelines of the basins. DeLuca need a tabletop with engineers for a certified engineering plan to look at the options. Walter and Sons consulted with DeLuca. Gaulke reminded Holst that the Town is working to form a long-term collaboration with the DLSD for dredging so that it continues and doesn’t fall behind again.

11) Healthy Lake Development Updates – a. Dredging permits, planning, and equipment

Gaulke pointed out the presentation and questions raised are exactly why we need a Project Engineer to evaluate the methods, land contours, and give the Lake Committee their professional input; Berrini does not have the PE qualifications. Knipper would like to have a special meeting with a presentation from the professional engineer as stated in Knipper’s 2/3/21 memo to the Lake Committee is on file. Gaulke stated both Allied Technologies and Batterman have declined to bid the Professional Engineer and Analysis requests, leaving just the Baxter Woodman quote. **Motion by Beers, second by Deitlin to proceed with Baxter & Woodman to analyze the different dredging methods being considered by the Lake Committee. Motion carried 5-1 (Lemanski ddissent).** Knipper to organize a special meeting with Baxter Woodman to present their evaluation of the dredging methods under consideration.

11) Healthy Lake Development Updates – b. Dredging/lake maintenance intergovernmental agreement(s)

No updates, waiting for more details from DNR permitting, review by CEP, and dredging process selection

11) Healthy Lake Development Updates – c. SEWRPC Comprehensive Lake Plan update

Knipper stated she spoke with Justin at SEWRPC. He is looking for the methodology of Lake and Ponds for the review of the pellet process. She put him in touch with Lake and Ponds to work directly on this request by SEWRPC. Knipper reported that there was not additional reporting by Justin.

12) Old Business – a. Town Lake Report, Lake Quality Report, Website

Knipper spoke with Town attorney regarding liability concerns raised about having a volunteer update the Town’s website. Knipper gave the Town attorney the presentation from January plus two additional slides. Dichow and Knipper added more slides on process flow, accountability, approvals. Attorney stated he did not have any real concerns but did caution about using copy written information and how its presented (citations); Knipper and Olson will work on a website procedural policy for the Town Lake Report.

12) Old Business – b. UW Whitewater Study – “What is the Value of a Clean and Healthy Delavan Lake” status

Gaulke updated the committee that on January 13th she, Beers, and Dietlin met with Russel Kashian, UW Whitewater. They had a discussion about the "what is the value of a clean and healthy lake" report. Lake Committee has requested more meaningful data on property values in relation to lake health. Kashian stated will take 3-4 months to make the updates requested. Gaulke will follow-up.

12) Old Business – c. Buoys & rafts documentation / DNR permits

Knipper provided an update. The DNR buoy permit has been applied for by the town, and the drone map for buoy placement was provided to Travis by the town Clerk. She has notified the 4 buoys permits that they have been denied and that we’ll be getting back to them. Knipper and Clerk to follow-up with DNR; would need to have feedback from DNR by March for the Clerk to send out timely letter. Need to re-implement the numbering systems for the buoys. Gaulke to reach out to Chief Clark.

12) Old Business – d. Delavan Lake monitoring, water quality assessment, and water quality goals update

Knipper gave an update following a call with Dr. Dale Robertson. The new USGS water quality outlet monitoring station is up and running. Robertson is working on the modeling for the new goals. Knipper gave Robertson the minutes showing the proof that the Town of Delavan has approved the project. Knipper to follow-up with Robertson to schedule a date for the presentation of the 2020 Delavan Lake monitoring data to the Lake Committee.

14) Lake Account Balance, Budget, and Capital Budget Planning

Knipper gave an update that since the Town Treasurer has been very busy with taxes, she has not been able to update the Lake Account balance revisions requested in the January 6 Lake Committee minutes. Balance from December 2020 was \$418,244.

15) Monthly Bills to approve

Transcriptionist Mary Beers submitted an invoice for \$50.40 – 42 auto minutes of DNR January 15 telecon , Motion Gaulke, second Dietlin to pay the invoice; motion carriers 5- 0; Beers abstain

16) Comments and Suggestions of Citizens Present

Dietlin requested the special meeting on dredging date selection happen ASAP to give ample time to plan to attend.

Henriott inquired on the status of the lighting ordinance. Olson stated lighting ordinance is with the planning commission; City of Delavan would like to review and give feedback on the lighting ordinance; would like to see more joint partnerships between Town and City. Henriott is retiring from the Council April 16th. The Committee thanked Henriott for his service to the City and to the Committee.

Gaulke thanked Mayor Ryan Schroeder for attending the Lake Committee meeting.

17) Date of Next Meeting: Lake Committee March 3rd @ 7pm

18) Motion to **adjourn** by Henriott second by Beers; motions carried 6-0

Prepared by KRG 2/6/21

Revised MLK 2/09/21