

### ***Big Cedar Lake Board of Commissioners***

Christopher C. Genthe, Chairperson; Christina Fiasca, Treasurer; David Baldus, Secretary; Jeff Braun, Commissioner; Matt Haldemann, Commissioner; Linda Bott, Town of West Bend Representative; Keith Stephan, Washington County Representative.

### ***Little Cedar Lake Board of Commissioners***

Mary Therese Breger, Chairperson; Mark Wagor, Treasurer; Pamela Tukesbrey, Secretary and Town of West Bend Representative; Brian Treinen, Commissioner; Pamela Konrath, Washington County Representative.

### ***Silver Lake Board of Commissioners***

James Ketter, Chairperson; David Anderson, Treasurer; Jamie Loiacono, Secretary; Steve Lindley, Town of West Bend Representative; Chris Swartz, Washington County Representative.

## ***TRI-LAKES MEETING MINUTES***

***January 16, 2024, 6:30 PM***

***Town of West Bend Town Hall***

***6355 County Trunk Z, West Bend, WI 53095***

#### **PRESENT:**

**BIG CEDAR LAKE:** Christopher Genthe, Christina Fiasca, Dave Baldus, Jeff Braun, Matt Haldemann, Linda Bott, Keith Stephan, Water Safety Patrol Chief, Jeff Rollins, and Office Administrator, Julie Riley.

**ABSENT:** None

**LITTLE CEDAR LAKE:** Mary Therese Breger, Mark Wagor, Pamela Tukesbrey and Pamela Konrath and Brian Treinen

**SILVER LAKE:** James Ketter

**ABSENT:** David Anderson-excused, Jamie Loiacono-excused, **Chris Swartz?**

Julie Ihlenfeld (Clerk, Town of West Bend) conducted the Zoom portion of the meeting.

Representatives from the WDNR and SEWRPC, as well as other residents and property owners from the three Districts were also in attendance.

#### **1. Pledge of Allegiance**

Christina Fiasca called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and asked those in attendance to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. Roll Call and introduction of Commissioners present from the three P & R Districts, Town Representatives, and Washington County Representatives.**

Genthe asked Commissioners representing the three lake district boards to introduce themselves.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the Tri-Lakes P & R Districts Commissioners Meeting of January 25, 2023.**

Breger moved and Fiasca seconded the motion to approve the Minutes of the January 25, 2023 Tri-Lakes Meeting of Commissioners. The motion passed unanimously.

### **4. Discussion of issues, problems, and proposed actions common to the three lakes, including:**

- Operation under the Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement:
  - 2023 Summer Water Safety Patrol
    - LCLPRD would like communication prior to the start of summer patrol in regards to discussion of patrol coverage and expectations

Breger noted that Water Safety Patrol Chief Jeff Rollins carried through the requests from last year, and the only challenge has been staffing the water safety patrol. The commissions are all aware that recruitment has been a challenge and that the BCLPRD has been providing patrol coverage to the best of their ability.

Resident Frank Carr asked for the commission to explain how the Intergovernmental Agreement works among the three PRD's, that folks may not understand what an Intergovernmental agreement is and how they work. Genthe and Rollins explained. Resources are shared among the three lake districts and Big Cedar Lake sends an invoice to Little Cedar and Silver Lake for services provided. Patrol reimbursement is provided to all three lakes by the WI DNR individually but forms are prepared by the BCLPRD. Harvesting resources are also shared when possible and invoiced appropriately.

- LCLPRD would like Patrol Schedule communicated prior to the period beginning

Breger requested that the patrol schedule continue to be communicated prior to the period starting.

- Review of 2023 Public Works and Weed Harvesting operations

There was little discussion.

- Review and discuss weed harvest drop locations

There was discussion. Breger noted that the weed harvest drop locations would remain the same, but that an additional weed harvest pickup collection area has been added. The LCLPRD has purchased a conveyor trailer and expects delivery in spring. This will provide a more efficient option for weed offloading. They currently utilize the CBAI launch which only allows for

bi-weekly access. They will still request the use of the Dodge RAM 2500 truck for use during 2024 weed harvesting operations.

- Report and planning for 2024

For operations, Rollins reported that the public works hiring process will begin around March. Water Safety Patrol is hiring and postings are online on a law enforcement specific recruitment website.

Breger noted that the Aquatic Plant Management Plans for Little Cedar Lake and Big Cedar Lake are being drafted at the current time. The Mechanical Weed Harvesting Plans (valid for a 5 year term) will be applied for once the APM is completed, and can be expected prior to June 2024 from the lake biologist.

Rollins reported that in spring prior to the fishing season, opening the first Saturday in May, that BCLPRD will contact Little Cedar Lake and Silver Lakes to schedule installation of buoys, piers, etc. Coordination of scheduling that will take place similar to last year.

- 2024 Clean Boats Clean Waters AIS Grant Applications for Big Cedar and Little Cedar

Breger requested that Big Cedar Lake plan for 200 hours of boat inspection coverage at the Little Cedar Lake public landing at Ackerman's County Park. They have applied for a CBCW Grant and require at least 200 hours be provided. Big Cedar Lake has also applied for a CBCW grant that requires 200 hours of boat inspections and will be able to share the pool of boat inspectors for coverage. Washington County also provides a considerable amount of hours on weekends during the summer. Ketter from Silver Lake has applied for a CBCW grant this year, and will also require a substantial amount of boat inspections for 2024.

- Update on the status of the Comprehensive Plans for Big Cedar and Little Cedar-Justin Poinsett-SEWRPC

Justin Poinsett from SEWRPC provided a powerpoint presentation. He reviewed the Lake Planning which included establishing a community vision and goals for the lake, assessing the current conditions, modeling conditions using projected land use, management practice, and climate information, recommending programs and practices to maintain or enhance lake conditions, and the identifying grant programs to fund recommendations.

He also reviewed the type of Lake Plans available. All of the plans include options for enhancing the lake quality and projects that are eligible for grant funding.

The process/timeline for Developing Lake Plans includes the following: Scope of Project, Applying for Grants, Collecting the Data, Writing the Plan, Reviewing the plan (the PRD's and the WI DNR), and then publishing the Plan.

In fall of 2023, SEWRPC had worked on drafting Aquatic Plant Management Plans for both Big

Cedar and Little Cedar Lakes. Once these are completed, the Mechanical Weed Harvesting Permits can be applied for. At the 2023 Tri-Lakes Meeting of Commissioners, pursuing WDNR Surface Water Planning Grants were discussed. It was determined that it would be beneficial for each of the lake district's to apply for separate grants and that the plans would be completed separately. SEWRPC has developed scopes of work for each comprehensive plan.

In-kind and financial support provided to the Big Cedar Lake District by Washington County, Cedar Lakes Conservation Foundation, Town of West Bend, Cedar Lake Yacht Club, Big Cedar Lake Property Owner's Association, and the Big Cedar Lake Thursday Night Fishing Club is greatly appreciated to help out with the costs of the Comprehensive Plans.

Big Cedar Lake has applied for a Surface Water Grant that will include 2 phases of a Comprehensive Plan. Phase One will include Watershed Inventory, Groundwater, Septic Systems, Stormwater Management, Pollutant Loading and more. Phase Two will include Water Quality, Shoreline Conditions, Aquatic Plant Management, Fish and Wildlife, Recreational Use and more.

Little Cedar Lake has also applied for a Surface Water Grant that will include 2 phases of a Comprehensive Plan. Phase One will include Water Quality, Fish and Wildlife, Recreational Use and a Lake User Survey. Phase Two includes Watershed inventory, Septic Systems, Stormwater Management, Pollutant Loading, Shoreline Conditions, Aquatic Plant Management and more.

There was discussion. The Starry Stonewort Aquatic Invasive Species locations in Big Cedar Lake and also in Gilbert Lake were discussed. These findings are a result of the data collection that took place over summer of 2023 and will be incorporated into the APM recommendations.

- 2023 DNR Enforcement Statistics and other pertinent information-DNR Conservation Warden, Steve Swiertz

DNR Conservation Warden, Steve Swiertz, provided an update to local conservation efforts by the DNR. He shared information on his background and also that his area of coverage includes Pike Lake and South in Washington County. Zach Feest, is the Northern Washington County Conservation Warden. Feest was unavailable for the meeting.

He reviewed the types of enforcement that Conservation Wardens are able to cover. They work with local agencies and also the Water Safety Patrols on Big Cedar, Little Cedar, and Silver Lakes to ensure safety on the lakes. He provided information on Ice Safety for winter, and also a year in review for 2023. Common citations while boating were failure to wear life jackets, registration, and intoxicated drivers. The lack of ice in the late part of 2023 and early 2024 has proven to be a quiet start to the year.

Ketter requested information that the DNR could provide to folks on the status of ice on bodies of water. The WI DNR wants folks to know that "NO ice is SAFE ice". Swiertz emphasized that folks need to exercise extreme caution in winter months. The best way to find out the status of ice is to talk with folks locally. There is no exact formula for conditions of ice and snow combinations and safety on a lake.

Swiertz also noted that the WI DNR has been fully marking all of their vehicles with identification.

- Status Report on proposed legislation in regards to wake sports in WI (update only/no discussion)

Joe Garstecki who resides on Little Cedar Lake and has been following the proposed legislation, provided an update. He shared information on the efforts that he and others have put in regarding the concerns of the use of ballast or enhanced wake operation of boats in Wisconsin. Advocates for the proposed regulation of certain activities have attended many meetings and have also gone to the State in order to bring up the future of WI Lakes if nothing is done. There are proposed bills in the Senate and the Assembly (LRB5069/1 and SB680 and AB656) at the State level currently. He noted that the subject has been addressed greatly all over the country. At this time, due to the time of the year, action may not be taken before this coming summer. The commissions will be following the status of those bills and will share information as it becomes available.

- Fireworks concerns in the three lakes vicinities and Town ordinances

Troy Zagel, Chairperson for the Town of West Bend was present, and was able to address the concerns. The Town of West Bend currently has an ordinance prohibiting fireworks. The only permits that are issued are for commercial and insured fireworks displays. Permits are NOT going to be issued for single person requests. If folks are putting on fireworks displays during ANY time of the year, they are doing so illegally.

Ketter noted that folks that decide to shoot off fireworks illegally should keep in mind that their neighbors may have veterans, animals, etc. living with them that do NOT do well when explosives are going off and can have dire consequences.

A question in regard to enforcement of this type of violation and how it can be enforced was brought up. The Town of West Bend has been pursuing the possibility of the Town working with the County in regard to coverage and enforcement of current ordinances. Updates can be found at the Town website at <https://townofwestbend.com>.

- Discussion of issues associated with Public Access, including status of boat launching and car trailer parking facilities at each lake.

Rollins explained that Big Cedar Lake has continued to have issues with folks parking in undesignated places. The BCLPRD Water Safety Patrol is able to enforce parking in the parking lots off of Gonring Drive, and to enforce violations on the water. Streets around the lake continue to be a challenge with enforcement. Baldus noted that the BCLPRD did at one time have an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Town of West Bend to help with parking enforcement around Big Cedar. The Towns of Polk and West Bend, are in fact, the government entities that need to provide enforcement in relation to parking. The Town of West Bend will

pursue following up with Polk on this topic.

Parking at Little Cedar Lake's public access area, Ackerman's County Park, are patrolled by Washington County as it is a County park.

Breger noted that Ackerman's Park hosts community events frequently and enforcement for parking issues has not necessarily been addressed by the WSCO. Konrath suggested that the County be contacted again. The suggestion of including the Parks Department be included was brought up.

Ketter mentioned the lakes having a carrying capacity and therefore there are a certain number of parking spaces to accommodate visitors. Folks that live on the lakes are frustrated with the lack of parking enforcement and health and safety of the lakes due to boat traffic.

Frank Carr asked about the status of the parking lot lease on Gonring Drive on Big Cedar Lake. Genthe provided an update. The draft is being processed at the WI DNR and will be forwarded in the coming weeks.

There was discussion on parking on County Road K, in the Town of Polk and folks accessing Big Cedar Lake without a public access area. There are many safety concerns with an establishment located on the South end of Big Cedar Lake and how the parking issues may affect the establishment. Konrath suggested contacting the county and the Town of Polk for discussion at one of their meetings.

- Concerns of vandalism at Washington County Henschke Hill public launch area including restrooms

Ketter explained the vandalism that occurred at the Henschke Hill public launch area on Silver Lake in the restroom building. He explained that he was very concerned with the amount of time that it took the county to make the repairs. It took at least 3-4 months. The lack of keeping up the area is concerning.

- DNR's aquatic weed harvesting regulations and fees

This item was discussed earlier under "Update on the status of the Comprehensive Plans for Big Cedar and Little Cedar-Justin Poinsatte-SEWRPC"

- Update on water quality protection and improvement projects on each lake

Genthe provided an update for Big Cedar Lake. The BCLPRD has contracted with USGS for water quality monitoring again for this year as in years past.

Breger provided an update for Little Cedar Lake. They reimplemented the Citizen Lake Monitoring Network for data collection and sampling. There is a group of volunteers that spearheaded the efforts. The last time this information was gathered was in 2016. Water

quality and testing takes place on Little Cedar Lake when available. Use of monitoring equipment continues to be a challenge. The comprehensive grant funding scope may provide additional recommendations in the months to come.

- Stormwater management issues in each of the Lake's watersheds

Town of West Bend Chairperson, Troy Zagel, provided information on local projects around the three lakes in Washington County that the Town is addressing. One of the projects was near Hacker Drive and should improve and reduce sediment near there. On Silver Lake, the pitch of the road on Bauer Drive was changed. The project hasn't been fully completed, but should be in spring.

Haldemann noted that there was discussion with sediment on Little Cedar Lake beyond the dam at last year's meeting. Breger explained that the Comprehensive Plan will help the LCLPRD plan for future projects and available funding for those projects. They have been able to take on smaller projects, but are definitely in need of proposals and funding to work on larger scale projects. The "Cedar Creek" project mentioned last year, is very large and beyond the scope of the LCL comprehensive plan alone. A drone study was completed and documented as well. Many groups would like to see improvement to the "outlet" from Little Cedar Lake to reduce problems with large rain events and runoff issues, but funding is the issue.

Baldus requested that AIS control tools and signage be followed up and placed on all public launch areas on all three lakes if not already there.

Ketter asked how the CD3 Boat Cleaning Station on Big Cedar Lake was working out. Baldus explained that the BCLPRD has been happy with its use along with having boat inspectors to provide awareness to all lake users. Spreading AIS is a main concern since Starry Stonewart has been spreading around lakes and rivers in Southeast Wisconsin. He noted that the BCLPRD has a permanent version of the station, but that there is a mobile type of unit that was suggested to the County that may also help in reducing the spread of AIS.

- Exotic species control; Zebra Mussels, Purple Loosestrife, Buckthorn, Garlic Mustard, Yellow Water Iris, Eurasian Milfoil, others

Breger expanded on some of the projects that Little Cedar Lake has been managing including harvesting beetles that assist in the reduction of Purple Loosestrife. They have been working on this project for over 2 years. The WI DNR has assisted in the efforts. Identification and education of exotic species of vegetation proves to be the best activity for management/containment of these invasives. Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) is also a type of vegetation management that Little Cedar Lake will be including to keep the populations of SSW at bay as well.

Genthe asked Justin Poinsett from SEWRPC if some of the management/containment strategies that Little Cedar Lake has used could be an option for Big Cedar Lake as well. Starry Stonewart has been found at multiple shallow points in the south basin of Gilbert Lake and also on the northeast side of Big Cedar Lake in approximately 16 feet of water. Poinsett explained that



recommendations will be coming from SEWRPC as they are currently working on the Aquatic Plant Management Plan and will be putting together management strategies that are more specific to Big Cedar Lake.

- 2024 hourly rates for employees

Ketter explained that Silver Lake is pleased with the seasonal work of installing buoys and other equipment, and also with the suggestions from the Water Safety Patrol Chief to offer the weekend incentive rates that were approved for 2022 for patrol. The BCLPRD will be discussing and possibly approving the proposed pay rates that were discussed in January's monthly meeting during closed session. Once approved by the BCLPRD board of commissioners, patrol and public works rates will be forwarded to the Silver Lake and Little Cedar Lakes Commissioners for review prior to the start of the season. Water Safety Patrol Chief Jeff Rollins will meet with both lakes in approximately April or May to discuss needs and expectations of both of those lakes for patrol and harvesting services.

- 2024 Boating Safety Classes

Julie Riley explained that the BCLPRD is planning to host two sessions for the summer of 2024. One session will be held prior to Memorial Day Weekend, and the other in June after most schools are out. The sessions consist of (3) 3-hour classes to total 9 hours. After completion, students receive their boating safety certificates. The cost of the session, per the WI DNR is \$10 per student. The in-person classes are beneficial to host as they provide hands-on experience for students. There is also an online version through boat-ed.com for a fee. Adults, children and their parents are encouraged to take the in-person class, and anyone born prior to January 1, 1989 must have completed a boating safety course. However, anyone can take the course as a refresher as well.

Ketter requested that the instructors include a personal watercraft section with the safety course. Waverunners continue to be a top violator on Silver Lake with rules that are broken and citations written in regards to distance from shore, and more. He mentioned that there are also youtube videos on safe operation that he feels would be helpful to be shared.

- Other topics raised by the Commissioners or other attendees of the meeting

There was none.

## **5. Adjourn.**

Mary Therese Breger made a motion to adjourn. Jim Ketter seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Prepared and submitted by Julie Riley on behalf of David Baldus, Secretary.