

Call to Order 10 AM

Commissioners present: Greg Horeth, Grant Horn, Margaret Shoptaw, Scott Uhler, Alex Abendshien, Bill McCormick and Dan Schultz

Roughly 35 owners attended via Zoom and 35 in-person.
Greg introduced the town hall style meeting.

Commissioners Introduced themselves.

Questions from the riparian owners:

What is the status of the dredging project? Is there a smaller scale project?

Grant: Gave a brief history of the dredging project. Updated all on consideration of the 50 yard individual permitting process being considered on a larger scale and working with the DNR for potential.

What happened with the drawdown?

Greg: Our Lake Management Plan indicated that only one or two types of weeds would be impacted. It would be most effective if it was for an 18 month period. A short term drawdown was discussed and is part of the LMP as an option. Right now, it is not something that the WWMD is not considering but may possibly consider in the future

When will dredging be started?

Grant: If we are able to move forward with the smaller scale project discussed earlier, the desire would be a possibility of starting in October and November of this year. Many items will still need to be put in place before we can commit to this which would also include the commitment on the part of the riparian owners to approve it. This plan is very preliminary.

Why not dredge during a drawdown?

Greg: DNR has concerns about any work that impacts the base of the waterway. .

Is the new plan hydraulic or mechanical?

Grant: The plan right now is mechanical. If there is a more cost effective way, we will do that. Mechanical dredging does not need to be dewatered.

Did we buy the Eco Harvester?

Bill: It is under construction. I will be doing a location review with the DNR around May 17 to determine locations to be used for the demo. DNR demo is scheduled for June 2. Back up day June 3. DNR representatives of dredging and mechanical harvesting will be present for the test run. DNR will test clarity of water during the test. Permit may take 2 weeks if its deemed mechanical harvesting, longer if it requires a dredging permit.

Is it used on other lakes in Wisconsin?

Bill: Yes. 5 years of use in the state. The DNR has multiple water use managers in WI. This is the first Eco Harvester in our area. Our DNR rep needs to sign off on this permit.

Greg: Our DNR rep has been supportive of our efforts to acquire the Eco Harvester. We have tried to work with the DNR to be a beta site for the rest of the state.

Will the weed cutter be coming down to the dam?

Bill: Keep in mind this is a Harvester and not a Cutter. It will be used around the entire waterway in navigational lanes. Difference in cutting vs. Eco Harvester. Cutting only available in water of 3 ft. or deeper.

Buena will be treated with Procillacor to treat the invasive species, EWM(Eurasian Milfoil). 54 acres. It will be used as a study site for the DNR. No other herbicides will be allowed by the DNR during this test. Could be a navigation challenge. We obtained a special one-year permit to cut weeds in Buena this year, despite the shallow conditions.

How much water do you need for the EH?

Bill: 12 inches of water when empty. 18 inches when full.

Are lily pads considered weeds?

Bill: Yes. The DNR will look to see it in the demonstration. Lily pads can only be pulled in the navigation lane.

What is the latest on the additional boat slips by the library launch?

Greg: That is a village topic. We don't know.

Village also added a launch fee.

WWMD has no authority for that.

Tom Hinz stated state representatives have indicated there are no permits right now for this and has not been presented to the DNR for consideration and approval.

There is no parking there. Area would have to be dredged. Still appears to have considerable work to do

Is there any update on the special projects on the list regarding run off?

Scott: The DNR has asked us to update the applications. It may be 1 more year before they can be approved.

Tom Hincz Chad Sampson of Racine is completing run off projects. There are grants available. Grants available for rip rap projects. Chad Sampson and the Fox River commission meet monthly to discuss runoff. Chad is an excellent resource and should be contacted if any owners would like to consider approaching the county for shoreline work at their homes

How will the Waukesha water from Lake Michigan affect our waterway?

Greg allowed Gary Bluemel to address this. Water will be sourced from Lake Michigan and be returned to Lake Michigan. It is possible in the Fall we will have lower water than in the Spring.

Is it illegal to pull weeds by his dock since it raises a lot of muck?

Bill: That is a good point. Regular activities kick up muck. That will be addressed at the meeting with the DNR.

What is the black substance floating on the top of the water?

Greg: Algae. Not toxic. We are on alert for Blue-Green algae. If found, we would alert everyone.

Alex: While water warms, it brings up some of the bottom that has decayed from the previous year as it churns.

Greg: Introduced Lynn Baumann and the role that the Event/Volunteer committee will be playing on adding some activities on the waterway. Mentioned pollinator seeds to be handed out.

Is the lime-green algae the same as blue-green algae?

Greg: No.

Can they mark the center channel buoys of the river in conservancy bay?

Greg: Waterford Police (WPD) will be placing the buoys this week following the DNR required GPS coordinated buoy locations.

Alex: The river coming into Conservancy presents some challenges so it is recommended to stay on the center channel buoys and if possible keep your boats on plane

Is the no-wake gone in the river from conservancy to the bridge?

That is gone. No wake begins just south of the bridge launch.

From the audience, Doug stated the DNR in the 90's suggested no wake in the river to avoid the channel getting bigger and shallower.

Greg: WWMD addressing the conservancy bay sand bar. Due to the number of boats, people are drifting, swimming and beginning to clog the channel obstructing traffic down and up the river in Conservancy

Grant handed out a survey and cover page.

Meeting adjourned. 11:11 am.



Waterford Waterway Management District
Ecosystem Restoration Project Committee (AKA Dredging Committee)
PLEASE READ BEFORE TAKING THE SURVEY

Where We Have Been

Since 2011, the WWMD has intended to dredge sediment from the shallow areas of the river, lakes, and bays of the Waterford Impoundment north of the dam and south of Bridge Road. It was determined that if 500,000 cubic yards of muck and silt were removed from the navigation channels, then all owners would have approximately five feet of depth in the navigation lanes connecting them to the river and lakes. From there the plan hatched to dredge all 500,000 cubic yards. In 2018, an RFP was submitted, but only a single bid was received for removing 10,000 cubic yards and the price was \$2,000,000, which killed the project as it was too much for too little. Countless methods were considered on how to pump, dig, or extract the sediment, where to dispose of it, and how to dewater it. A firm price for the entire project was never determined, but rough estimates ranged between \$12 million and \$32 million. There are just under 1,000 riparian owners on our waterway, so simple math says the $\$32,000,000 \div 1,000$ equals \$32,000 per landowner. Even if financed over 10 years this is nearly \$4,000 per year per owner.

The Big Question

One of the big questions has been “who should pay for it?” Of course we’d all like to say the DNR, the state, or somebody else, but there is no reality to that. The WWMD does work hard to get grants from any sources available, but to think that these grants would exceed more than \$200,000 per year is likely also not a reality. The question also is asked if owners on Tichigan Lake or other areas who have no need for dredging to get their boats from their pier to the lakes and river should also be responsible?

Are We Giving Up On Dredging All 500,000 Cubic Yards?

While we continue to consider the ecosystem restoration project in its entirety and a way to implement it that is within the requirements of the department of natural resources, a smaller scale concept has been developed with in the past few months. The survey you are about to complete is for the recently conceived smaller project, but we will continue to investigate the potential for dredging the remaining areas that are not included in the smaller project.

A Smaller-Scale Plan

This new plan falls under a DNR permit that may not require significant engineering services as previous plans had. It will be different from previous dredging plans as this dredging would take place from each owner’s shoreline out to the navigation channel, directly increasing the depth next to affected-owner’s piers and shorelines, down to the hard bottom, where previous plans were nowhere near the piers or shoreline. The new plan would be carried out over the course of three years, removing 30,000 cubic yards per year during the fall when the waterway is less active. Approximately 446 properties out of nearly 1,000 have been identified as areas to be dredged. Each would have 50 cubic yards of sediment removed annually for the next three years. Initial financing talks and conversations with dredgers lead us to believe that it will cost directly-affected owners less than \$700 per year each year for ten years.

Changing our world. One drop at a time.



ESR COMMITTEE (AKA DREDGING COMMITTEE) SURVEY

PLEASE CIRCLE YES OR NO

1. Do you feel you have adequate depth in front of your property for navigating a motorized boat or watercraft now and for the foreseeable future?

if yes, please skip to question 6

YES **NO**

if no, please proceed to question 2

2. Would you be in favor of a dredging project that dredges from your shoreline the hard pan bottom if it were to cost you less than \$700 per year on your taxes each year for the next 10 years?

if no, please skip to question 5

YES **NO**

if yes, please proceed to question 3

3. If your pier and/or boat lift is not removed annually, are you physically able and willing to assist with removal of muck, silt, and sediment under your pier and/or boat lift if a mechanical tool to do so was made available to you, understanding that a dredger cannot dredge under your pier and muck eventually settles to the lowest point?

YES **NO**

4. If necessary, would you consent to the WWMD filling out an individual permit on your behalf, representing you as the riparian owner, for WI DNR General Permit 20, or provide your signature for approval?

YES **NO** Your Name: Your Address:



YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE SURVEY, THANK YOU!

5. Considering previous dredging plans showed that the amount needing to be dredged from our waterway navigation channels only may exceed \$4,000 per property owner per year and does not address the depth at your shoreline or within 10' of your pier, does that change your mind?

YES **NO**

6. Are you willing to contribute annually for the next 10 years \$100 or less per year on your taxes towards dredging parts of the waterway that do not have adequate depth now for boating even though your property already has adequate depth, while those who don't have adequate depth would potentiall pay four to six times that amount?

YES **NO**

if no, proceed to question 7

7. Do you use your boat outside of Tichigan Lake on the River or take it on any of the bays, and if some of those areas will be more navigable does that change your mind about spending \$100 per year for ten years to increase depths by dredging?

YES **NO** Your Name: Your Address:



YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE SURVEY, THANK YOU!

