

CITY OF DELAFIELD LAKE WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Call Meeting to Order

K. Attwell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was not recited as there was no flag in the meeting room.

Roll Call

Present

Kent Attwell
Jerry Bills
Jerry Dunnick
Gayle Gaborsky
Dave Greenway
Lou Scopp
Don Tills

Absent

Jerry Burg
Lynn Morrison
Gary Pratt
Dan Sisulak

Also present:

Tom Hafner

1. Approve minutes of October 13, 2010

D. GREENWAY MOVED TO APPROVE THE LAKE WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 13, 2010 AS PRESENTED. L. SCOPP SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

2. Citizen's comments pertaining to items on the agenda

There was no one present wishing to speak at this time.

Without objection, K. Attwell proceeded to Item 4a.

3. Old Business

- a. Update on Bleeker and Nagawicka Park Sign making and Waukesha County approval, art work given to Tom and he is working with Waukesha County for approval

T. Hafner explained Waukesha County Staff was working with City Staff regarding the signage for Bleeker Street Boat Launch and Nagawicka Park depicting the watershed boundaries. Size and cost of the signage would be reviewed and information would be shared with the Committee at a later date. He anticipated the signage could be placed within the next few months.

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- b. Update and possible action to send letter regarding City letter sent September 14, 2010 on Nashotah run off corrective actions to slow water down by rebuilding on Nashotah agenda

L. Scopp provided an update on the corrective actions taken by the Village of Nashotah Board members regarding slowing water in the runoff area. While no formal response had been received from the Village at this time, many discussions and actions had taken place. County Staff had surveyed the agricultural area and found it to be in compliance, individuals living near the retention ponds were sent letters requesting assistance, and leadership of a group of residents in Lake Country Estates was being reestablished to deal with this runoff concerns.

Discussion ensued regarding the process followed in the past in this matter and how it could be handled in the future. L. Scopp stated he would share this information with members of the Village Board and provide an additional update at the next Committee meeting. K. Attwell will draft a short letter regarding concerns and share it with the Committee and City Staff prior to sending it.

- c. Review process for moving forward with Goose round up, on City Council consent agenda for approval November 15, 2010

K. Attwell reviewed the process for moving forward with the Goose Round Up and noted the plans would be on the Common Council agenda for the November 15, 2010.

- d. Status of Lake Level meter on website. Need to increase funding to \$1500 to complete

T. Hafner stated he spoke with Staff members of the company that handled the City's data system and remote telemetry sites. A proposal was shared for programming to allow data reflecting the Nagawicka Lake level to be displayed on the City's website to allow all to determine the status of Slow No Wake for boating use.

K. Attwell noted that the Committee had authorized \$500 to be spent toward this action; however, the proposal required an additional funding of \$1000.

Committee members questioned whether there would be historical archiving allowed for comparative purposes. It was recommended that City Staff consider adding a link to another web page to allow the historical data to be accessed in the future.

J. DUNNICK MOVED TO APPROVE FUNDING OF \$1000 FOR PAYMENT OF THE PROPOSAL ALLOWING THE LAKE LEVEL METER TO BE PLACED ON THE CITY'S WEBSITE. D. TILLS SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

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- e. Update on Zastrow's Bay North East finger Dredging project tentatively scheduled for Spring 2010 construction

K. Attwell explained there was another group of private property owners that would be applying to dredge the Zastrow's Bay "north east finger" area. This group had completed calculations for the sediment removal and would be asking to go out another forty feet into the lake with a request to dredge to the natural lake bottom depth of 8.5 feet. Pam Anderson was assisting this group and was expecting to file the Chapter 30 permit application by year end. Cost for the project was approximately \$60,000. In response to questions from Committee members, K. Attwell explained that it seemed easier to get bids on smaller project areas and there were smaller companies willing to work on the small dredging areas. He anticipated that if this project were approved, work could be completed in one week's time as the dewatering project area would be easier than the Anderson dredging project.

- f. Update on Plan B Committee, status of price inquiry by Tom for just sediment trap

Mike Hausman, member of the Dredging Plan B Committee was present to provide an update on the discussions and actions of that Committee. He noted estimates for the sediment trap portion of the overall lake dredging project had been requested of City Staff. The Committee's work also continued to focus on the research associated with the amount of sedimentation in that area of the dredging project.

4. New Business

- a. Goose Round Up Options presentation by Mike Jones from Waupun Division of DNR, review of data and possible recommendations or action

Mike Jones, Wildlife Biologist, from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service and Wildlife Service, was present to provide information to the Committee on options available to deal with the geese population in the area. There were many options available to the public in dealing with nuisance wildlife, specifically geese; however, the roundup was typically considered the last step in the process. In past years, the goose population had increased, primarily in southeastern Wisconsin. As a result, many more agencies and municipalities were going through the process for goose removal. He then outlined the changes made to the criteria related to goose roundup. One of the criteria included the necessity for an open public meeting to consider options for best management practices of the geese. He noted that despite no one from the public being in attendance this evening, this meeting satisfied the necessary criteria set forth by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on this topic.

He then explained there were two distinct goose populations. One was the "migrants." These geese were present as a result of traveling from Canada to warmer climates. With the increased open water as a result of climate changes,

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the geese no longer migrated as far south as they used to and frequently could be found in Milwaukee or Chicago for the winter months. The second goose population was the "giant" subspecies that were present year round. These geese live and breed in the area producing nearly two pounds of fecal material daily. They averaged five young per nest with one brood per year. Life expectancy was approximately 20 years. This species of goose was well adapted to living in an urban setting and as a result, numerous problems had begun to arise. Conflicts with humans were noted with unusable parks, aviation concerns, rural agricultural crop damage and disease transmission through fecal material. While there were considered certain connections between geese fecal material and E Coli., there was no scientific link proving the theory that the goose fecal material alone caused E. Coli outbreaks.

Hunting was considered one effective way to reduce the goose population. Hunting for migrants and hunting for giants were two distinct hunting endeavors with different timelines allowed and differences in bag limits noted. M. Jones shared a graphical depiction of the current goose population, noting that despite hunting efforts, the population is considered high and stagnant. Geese return each year to the area where they were born and learned to fly. Often one year old geese migrate and return as non-breeding juvenile geese. At year three, geese are of breeding age and as a result, some areas find it beneficial to hold the Goose Roundup in two consecutive years.

Geese desire water next to mowed grass, making golf courses and mowed lawns and parks exceptional food sources. Geese can be aggressive when nesting and it was important to enforce the feeding ban as once human feeding was established increased opportunity for accidents while driving, biking and walking were noted. In addition, the shared food from humans in parks, and trash cans were considered more harmful than helpful as they provided little nutritional value to the geese. Congregating wildlife was considered to be unhealthy and allowed for the spread of various diseases, as well as being disruptive to natural geese living patterns with birds acting as decoys for migrant birds and attracting still more geese to already overpopulated problem areas.

Habitat alterations were considered simple and easy to implement, such as placement of split rail fencing near a water source with two wires strung across the bottom of the fencing to prevent the geese from leaving the water and getting to the nearby vegetation. Another alteration was the placement of tall native grasses and plantings at the shoreline as it did not allow the geese to view predators. Other abatement methods, such as scare devices like coyotes, pyrotechnics, and trained dogs were also helpful in certain situations. Goose repellent, motion sensor water sprinklers, swans, decoys and goose distress calls were also noted; however, effectiveness was considered short term at best. Other methods considered favorable for larger expanses included an overhead grid of fishing lines over a small pond and electrified fencing. Natural predators such as raccoons, skunks, foxes, and coyotes were helpful for control of the geese in natural areas.

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With regard to management, the DNR had ultimate permitting authority while the US Fish and Wildlife Department had certain regulations related to permitting and population control. Feedback from the DNR indicated a preference for oiling eggs as a first step to controlling the goose population; however, egg oiling of nesting sites on natural vegetative islands was prohibited. Egg oiling can be done in conjunction with the Goose Roundup process. In order to proceed with the Goose Roundup, a federal roundup permit was required. The overall plan for goose control from the DNR included a desire for population management through hunting, reducing nesting success and removal of the adult birds as a final step.

In response to questions from the Committee, M. Jones stated egg oiling could be done on a voluntary basis and should be done in the spring time. Goose Roundup implementation typically took place in late June or July when the adult geese were molting and were flightless. Humane procedures for removal were outlined and any geese collected were tested for contaminants well in advance of the roundup as part of the overall goose removal plan permitted by the DNR and implemented by the USDA Fish and Wildlife Staff. If no contaminants were present, the geese were humanely removed and distributed to food pantries. The Goose Roundup program had helped 60 communities deal with geese issues and over 4000 geese had been distributed for consumption at food pantries and animal sanctuaries. Recommendations for goose management include a reduction in the available food, provide limitations for getting from the water to mowed grasses, consider seasonal timing of actions for goose management practices, solicit public involvement with awareness of laws and regulations to avoid permit violations, consider reducing the goose populations rather than eliminating them and be proactive in dealing with the goose issues at hand. Discussion ensued regarding the next steps necessary to proceed with the goose management and Roundup program. M. Jones stated he would assist the group in moving forward; however, Brad Coele, DNR Staff, should be contacted for discussion of any available grant opportunities. M. Jones noted no available DNR grant opportunities were available to the City of Delafield at this time. Access to the websites, <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/LR/Urbanwildlife/grants/html> and www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage was encouraged. In addition, the migratory helpline at 1-800-433-0663 was available for further questions.

Without objection, K. Attwell moved to Item 3a.

- b. Review and possible recommendation or action to Delafield City Councils budget discussion on maintaining space holder in the 2011 budget for possible construction of the sediment trap or shoreline dredging

K. Attwell explained the Common Council was considering removing the monies set aside in the 2011 budget for possible construction of the sediment trap or shoreline dredging. While this amount was considered a "place holder" for the project, concern was expressed for removal of the monies within the budget. If the money was left in the budget, there was an option to borrow the funds if

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needed for the dredging project. If the money was removed, it would be impossible to work on the project during the year.

J. BILLS MOVED TO REQUEST THE COMMON COUNCIL TO MAINTAIN THE SPACE HOLDER IN THE 2011 BUDGET FOR POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SEDIMENT TRAP OR SHORELINE DREDGING. G. GABORSKY SECONDED THE MOTION. THERE WAS NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.

- c. Update on NR 115, Waukesha County anticipates final approve by February 2012, per Sandy Sherer, at that time Delafield may want to consider updating our code with some of their best ideas

D. Tills suggested the Committee review the state mandated NR 115 stipulating various zoning requirements for certain types of municipalities with regard to impervious surfaces and storm water runoff management. Waukesha County Staff was currently reviewing the law to determine applicability to various areas in the County. Once this was completed and municipalities were informed of their responsibilities relative to the rules, it might be prudent for the City to review its ordinances to determine how NR 115 could impact the City code. Discussion ensued. The Committee agreed to wait until such time as implementation measures were outlined by the County prior to revising the City Code on these matters.

- d. Anderson Dredging portion of completed, encourage everyone interested to stop by and take a look dewatering process. Project will be complete by October 23, 2010

K. Attwell stated the Anderson dredging project was almost complete. The project completion deadline was November 23, 2010, not October 23, 2010 as was stated in the agenda. He encouraged all interested parties to stop by and view the dewatering process.

- e. Newsletter Article by Friday Nov 19th to Gina, need to discuss topics (Opt in letter for goose round up)

Due to budget cuts, the City newsletter, The Communicator, would only be distributed twice a year instead of the normal quarterly publication. K. Attwell suggested the Committee consider adding an "Opt in" form for the Goose Roundup to the upcoming newsletter. The Committee indicated consensus for doing so. G. Gaborsky will work on the "Opt In" form.

5. ADJOURN

J. BILLS MOVED TO ADJOURN THE OCTOBER 13, 2010, LAKE WELFARE COMMITTEE MEETING AT 8:15 P.M. G. GABORSKY SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL WERE IN FAVOR. MOTION CARRIED.