

# BEAR LAKE BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

Thursday January 14, 2021, 6:00PM

Virtual Tele-Meeting held via Zoom as permitted by Governor Whitmer's  
Executive Order #2020-75

### MINUTES

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**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order by Kim Arter at 6:03PM

#### ROLL CALL:

- **Present:** Kim Arter, Darrell Van Fossan, Brenda Moore, and Doug Brown
- **Absent:** Steve Johnson
- **Also:** Dr. Jennifer Jermalowicz-Jones of RLS, Jeff Connors and John Tuchy of EverBlue, and Tracy DeMarse (NM City Treasurer)

**MINUTES:** Brenda Moore made the motion to approve the minutes of September 10, 2020 with grammatical corrections. Darrell VanFossan supported the motion. The motion carried by voice vote. The minutes will be placed on file.

#### REPORTS:

- **Restorative Lake Sciences** – Dr. Jones reported that overall 2020 was a good year for the lake. The year started with heavy rain in the spring but the summer had a long hot dry spell. This helped with the algae. Phragmites had a natural die back because the lake was high for a very long time. Treatment for milfoil could be very selective this year and the water was quite clear by the end of the season. It's possible that there could be an earlier treatment this spring due to the mild winter thus far. Brenda Moore thought this was a great summary of the 2020 Report and would like a similar "Executive Summary" at the beginning of the report along with a trend analysis so that it's easier for the general public to understand it. Dr. Jones noted that the next reports will be different due to State requirements and will include the summary as well as the trend analysis. Darrell Van Fossan asked about the nutrient concentration that was in the report. Doug Brown asked if the nutrients may be coming from the celery flats that are now flooded. Dr. Jones noted that it takes many years for the nutrient load to go down. She noted that in 5 years the numbers are still high, it will need to be looked into. Darrell had a resident on Fenner's ditch ask about treatment. Dr. Jones discussed the need to talk to EGLE as the area is an active recovery site. Dr. Jones discussed getting an article published in the newspaper to get some public backing.
- **EverBlue** – Jeff Connors began discussing the long permitting process. They began in July but didn't really get going until November. It was noted that EGLE is being particular with approving permits so they wanted to be prudent in the details. As of today, the permit has been submitted and a copy forwarded to Kim Arter. John Tuchy continued explaining the permit process and expects some follow up questions by EGLE. There is a 30 day review process for EGLE, then there is a 30 day public notice process where the residents will be notified. John also noted that EGLE has been finding ways to delay or deny permits. He expects more questions from EGLE and some peer review as well. Brenda Moore recommends that we be pro-active with the State to head off any problems or questions. Brenda suggested to talk to our Representatives and Senators. Not to strong arm EGLE but to help keep the process moving. John noted that the Grand Rapids office will be the first point of contact and then it will move on to Eric Calabro in

Lansing. Doug Brown offered to reach out to Senator Bumstead's office. Kim noted that she has already been in contact with his office and is willing to share the contact name for Doug to take over. Kim discussed the upstream projects that EGLE is working on at the Zeypher site. They are tracking to see if petroleum is migrating through Bear Creek. John Tuchy noted that if the normal permit process is followed, the permit should be ready in April and the aeration units could be installed and running at the end of June.

- **Treasurer** – Darrell Van Fossan reported that only 21% of last year budget was spent because the aeration units have not been installed. Darrell reviewed each budget line item. Darrell believes that the 2021 budget will be \$2,000 in the black and noted some other possible savings. Darrell reviewed the budget adjustments that need to be made throughout 5 categories.

**Brenda Moore made the motion to amend the budget with the recommendations from the Treasurer. Darrell Van Fossan supported the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**Brenda Moore made the motion accept the annual Treasurer's Report and put it on file. Darrell Van Fossan supported the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.**

**COMMUNICATIONS:** Kim Arter relayed that the recording secretary has submitted her resignation and the Board will need to appoint someone new. Kim also share the 2021 Meeting schedule. Darrell noted that the April meeting is during spring break and the November meeting is on Veteran's Day.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:** Kim Arter requested guidance on replacing the Recording Secretary. Does the Board want to advertise or does anyone have a person they know that would be interested. Brenda Moore asked if we have to actually type up meeting minutes or can we use the recording. Kim Arter noted that she will ask the attorney if recording the meeting would be sufficient. Tracy DeMarse commented by the recording would not be sufficient. Kim asked Tracy if she would be willing to do the BLLB Meeting minutes. Tracy said she would be interested and noted that between herself and the City Clerk, we could do the minutes.

**Darrell Van Fossan made the motion to appoint Tracy DeMarse as the Recording Secretary. Doug Brown supported the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Kim Arter presented the proposed 2021 RLS Contract in the amount of \$22,000. Darrell noted that the contract appears to be the same as last year. Dr. Jones explained that the scope is the same each year unless EGLE makes a modification in their requirements.

**Brenda Moore made the motion to approve the 2021 contract with RLS. Darrell Van Fossan supported the motion. Roll Call Vote: Brenda-Yes, Darrell – Yes, Doug – Yes, Kim – Yes. Motion Carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**BOARD COMMENT:**

- Brenda Moore - let the Board know that her title has changed to Water Resources Commissioner to better reflect the scope of the department. She also let the Board know that the Deputy in her department has left and she is hiring. Finally, Brenda noted that the Ribe Drain is formally done and won an innovations award through the State. There will be some water testing done next year.

- Darrell Van Fossan - asked if the website was still going to be maintained by Laketon Township. Kim answered that Laketon will still be maintaining the website for BLLB.

**ADJOURN: Brenda Moore made the motion to adjourn at 7:26pm, Doug Brown supported the motion. Motion carried by voice vote.**

Respectfully Submitted:  
Tracy DeMarse  
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Bear Lake Lake Board on May 13, 2021.

Signed:\_\_\_\_\_