

GREEN LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Green Lake Sanitary District was called to order by Commissioner Bates on Wednesday October 18, 2023 10:00 am at the American Legion 518 Water St Green Lake WI 54941 and via Zoom

Present: Ken Bates, Justin Ellis, and Nick Vandervelde

Others Present: Lisa Reas, Administrator, Paulette Z Janssen Administrative Assistant, Dallas Lewallen, Plant Operator, Thad Majkowski representative for Cedar Corp, Rick Manthe representatives for Stafford Rosenbaum and Mark Stanek representative for the WDNR. 110 people signed in.

Written notice of this meeting was given to the Green Lake Reporter, The Ripon Commonwealth. The News Release was posted at Fortifi Bank, the Green Lake Post Office and the GLSD Office.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

M/S (Ellis/Vandervelde) to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2023 regular meeting minutes. Motion Carried 3-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

M/S (Ellis/Bates) to approve the September Treasurers Reports. Roll call vote: Ellis=yes, Bates=yes, Vandervelde=yes. Motion Carried 3-0.

GLSD Board Comment

Commissioner Bates explained that public comment will be held in the middle of the meeting and each person will be allowed 2 minutes.

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Plant Operator's Report

The plant operator's report was discussed (see attached).

WPDES New Permit Project Work/ Land Application

Mark Stanek, WDNR wastewater engineer, gave an update on the GLSD's WPDES permitting and an overview of the work the GLSD has done to meet our compliance requirements.

Discussion: Sugar Loaf Sewer Extension

Reas reported that the Sugar Loaf Sewer extension is complete. Reas also reported that we continue to get calls that the residents can't get contractors to respond.

Discussion: Future Sewering Plan

Discussion/Possible Action: Extending the Lateral Connection Period

Reas recommended that we extend the lateral connection period to 2 years for all systems in a newly sewer area and up to 5 years with homeowners with systems that are 20 years or less in age.

The board directed Reas to investigate what other municipalities require. The commissioners were open to the extension period up to 10 years.

Discussion/Possible Action: Additions to the Preliminary Feasibility Study

Reas commented that staff have been busy responding to calls, emails, and requests for more information on the proposed projects. The public comments provided to the District continue to list the main concerns to be costs, connection timeline requirements, prioritization matrix, and when the final version of the study will be completed. She stated that it would be beneficial to gain further information regarding some of the study areas.

Reas recommended breaking Area 8 into 2 parts: the lakeshore areas and the separate backlot areas. She referenced GLSD concerns about prioritizing sewerage closest to the lake and associated water quality concerns. She mentioned that the Terrace Area (Sewer Service Area 3) is similarly situated with the associated questions regarding backlot impacts and many undeveloped parcels.

Reas stated that as the wastewater from Area 8 would be sent to the City of Green Lake for treatment, a formal wastewater partnership would be required. She stated that while the City expressed interest in working with the GLSD, no agreements, rates, or contracts were discussed before the potential for sewerage was provided to the public. Reas commented that the wastewater partnership agreement would impact the Town of Brooklyn and the County and that, while such agreements among municipalities are common, it would require significant time to put together. She stated no sewerage of any of Area 8 would happen until such a partnership could be formally created which could take several years.

M/S (Ellis/Bates) to forgo sewerage Area 8 at this time, reevaluate Area 8 in 10 years but have a wastewater agreement with the City of Green Lake in place before bringing it back to the board, and institute and follow GLSD future sewerage policy. Roll call vote: Ellis-yes, Bates-yes, Vandervelde-yes. Motion Carried 3-0.

Reas recommended forgoing sewerage in Area 6 (Sandstone) at this time. Nearly all parcels in this area are large lots; many of which would require laterals in excess of 750'. The GLSD had previously declined to sewer in that area since the parcel sizes do generally allow for septic system replacement. She stated that this may change over time as further development of parcels occurs with larger homes and accessory structures added. Reas did suggest that for this study, it may be beneficial to have a basic estimate completed by Cedar to see what the

cost would be for finishing the sewer line on Spring Grove Road as some of the parcels there are smaller, and the lateral connections would be significantly shorter. This limited area does have narrow parcels and depending on the costs, may find landowner support.

M/S (Ellis/Bates) to forgo sewerage the Sandstone Ave and Woodbine Ave in Area 6 at this time and additional request to have Cedar Corp provide a cost estimate to sewer Spring Grove Rd to Horner Road. Roll call vote: Ellis-yes, Bates-yes, Vandervelde-yes. Motion Carried 3-0.

Reas continued her recommendations further addressing backlot and large parcels. She recommended the board forgo sewerage the parcels along the south side of County Rd K, between Dodge County Park and Blackbird Point which is in Sewer Service Area 4. The District declined to sewer these parcels 25 years ago when the lakeshore parcels were provided service. The recommendation was based on parcel size, distance from the lake, and roughly \$52,000 estimated assessments. Reas stated that McAfee Rd, which is also in Sewer Service Area 4, has limited sewer service currently. She further recommended getting a cost estimate from Cedar Corp. for the GLSD to finish the sewer line on McAfee Road which does serve several small parcels.

M/S (Bate/Ellis) to forgo sewerage County Rd K in Sewer Service Area 4 for 10 years. Explore the cost of sewerage McAfee Road only. Roll call vote: Ellis-yes, Bates-yes, Vandervelde-yes. Motion Carried 3-0.

Area 3 (Terrace), Bay Road and Sugar Loaf Road will be discussed in further meetings.

Area 9 will also be discussed in further meetings.

Discussion/Possible Action: Revisions to the Future Sewerage Prioritization Matrix

There have been several questions about the matrix. Reas stated that board members had provided feedback regarding weighting backlot areas differently than the lakeshore areas. She also commented that the matrix data has not been fully updated in several months, making recent septic system updates a critical piece of information. She recommended having Cedar Corp complete the final prioritization evaluation and formally include it in the study and pointed out that there would be an associated cost to that work as it was not outlined in the initial study agreement.

Discussion/Possible Action: Cost Estimates from Cedar Corp to amend the Preliminary Feasibility Study

Reas was directed to address the updates to the study for each Sewer Service Area and the matrix.

Discussion on Developing a General GLSD Sewerage Policy/Ordinance

As the District considers options whereby it would decline to provide sewer service to certain areas at this time, it would be beneficial for the lake and the residents of these areas for the GLSD to do two things: 1) work with the county to ensure that the septic systems in those areas are functioning properly, and 2) institute a "GLSD Future Sewering Policy". This policy would provide residents with specific timelines on when potential sewerage may arise again. I would recommend the District put in writing that we will reevaluate unsewered developed areas every 10 years and that a petition for the District to reevaluate sewerage signed by 10% or more of an unsewered area would supersede the 10-year policy. Additionally, if there were any studies or reports that indicated septic effluent was of a greater concern than currently believed, the District could reevaluate at that time. Barring lake or groundwater concerns, at the 10-year reevaluation, there would be no requirement that the GLSD provide sewer service, but an updated feasibility study would be done to provide the GLSD, and residents of the area(s), updated potential costs. Bates will work with staff on a draft of this policy.

Discussion: GLSD Rate Review

Reas reported that Ehlers is continuing work on the Rate Review.

Discussion: Update Resolution 93-09 GLSD Sanitary Sewer Collection & Transportation Assessment Resolution and Order 94-13 Wastewater Management & Service Charge Order

Reas reported that we continue to work with Cedar & Stafford to update Resolution 93-09 Sanitary Sewer Collection & Transportation & Order 94-13 Wastewater Management & Service Charge Order.

PUBLIC COMMENT (held for 60 minutes)

Ed Fisher emailed comments to the GLSD (see attached).

Tom Rueping commented that Sandstone Ave doesn't need to be sewerage because of the lot sizes. Feels that homeowners will not sign easements if the sewer line is run closer to the homes.

Fran Hill thanked the board for listening to the people and not sewerage Area 6.

Dan Hill thanked the board for not sewerage Area 6.

Andrew Zeratsky thanked the board for listening to the people and not sewerage Area 8. He also commented on water quality.

John McAfee has concerns about land application such as the odor and soil saturation of the wastewater.

Mary Beth Pederson would like the GLSD to do a survey of the people on Spring Grove Rd. She is not in favor of having sewerage in her area. She has spoken with 7 of the owners and they are not in favor of sewerage.

Marty Valasek thanked the commissioners for serving on the board. He asked if there was cost sharing. He suggested that the cost be spread out to other areas in the township.

Dave Hudzinski thanked the board for not sewerage area 8. Said his main concern was the cost of sewerage.

Brian Daley commented that Sunnyside doesn't need to be sewerage. He made several comments about the Lake Management Plan. He ran out time for all of his comments he also emailed his comments to GLSD (see attached).

Christine Hauk commented on that her septic system is fine. Also commented on the pollution in Silver Creek.

Chad Ehrenberg thanked the board for tabling the sewerage of Sunnyside.

Ben Kinan made everyone aware of what a failing on site system is, and that age is not one of them according to state statute.

1. The discharge of sewage into surface water or groundwater.
2. The introduction of sewage into zones of saturation which adversely affects the operation of a private on-site wastewater treatment system.
3. The discharge of sewage to a drain tile or into zones of bedrock.
4. The discharge of sewage to the surface of the ground.
5. The failure to accept sewage discharges and back up of sewage into the structure served by the private on-site wastewater treatment system.

Commented that age of a septic system should be taken out of the study. Also stated that no one can say how long a private on-site system will last it depends on how the system is used.

Mike Ehrenberg said that if and when they are hooked up to the City of Green Lake there needs to be agreement between the City and the Town of Brooklyn. Suggested we do an RFP for the update of the Matrix to save money. Also thanked the board.

NON-POINT

Big Green Lake Management Plan/Grants

Discussion: Watershed Coordinator Position – Hannah Vorrie

Hannah's report regarding projects she is working on with Green Lake and Fond du Lac County was discussed (see attached).

1. Discussion/Possible Action: Rick Ehrenberg BMP System (waterway) Cost-share Agreement

M/S (Ellis/Vandervelde) to approve Rick Ehrenberg BMP waterway Cost-share Agreement in an amount not to exceed \$9400. Roll call vote: Ellis-yes, Bates-yes, Vandervelde-yes. Motion Carried 3-0

Discussion/Possible Action: Funding Approval for BMPs On Going Repairs no discussion.

County K Marsh

Reas reported that she was informed just the previous week that we need a completed or nearly completed design for the carp barrier to be filed with the grant application because of the heavy competition. While we are searching for a company to do the design, it is unlikely this could be completed prior to the Nov. 15th application deadline. Reas stated that the GLSD can wait and apply next year and that by that time, we would know if Duck's Unlimited funding that was applied for will be granted.

LAKESHORE PROJECTS

GREEN LAKE CONSERVANCY

Scott has been busy with general herbicide & mowing work across all the properties. The walkway in Mitchell Glen needs to fully replaced or removed with just sections of walkway placed over the actual springs or creek locations.

SOLID WASTE – no discussion

FISHING COMMITTEE

Reas stated in her update that the Koro Road project was still moving forward though our Fisheries Biologist, Adam Nickel, has left his position. She was unsure what the grant potential is for the project without Adam acting as a lead.

AQWEED no discussion

NEW BUSINESS

GLA Appearance

Stephanie Prellwitz listed several projects the GLA is working on.

Discussion: 2024 Budget Items

Reas reported that the budget is completed with some increases and some cuts. The Lake Management Plan update, health insurance costs and Waste Management contract that figure into the increases. Cuts included RSVP cost-share funding, County Road K marsh propagule planting and a reduction in the cost of update the ordinance/resolution.

Discussion/Possible Action: GLSD Open Records Fees

Reas stated that the District needs to update our open records fees. They haven't been updated since the early 2000s and some of the items are outdated and need to be replaced with current technology costs such as flash drives as well as including the cost for staff time spent digging, copying, etc. as allowed in State Statute. The board directed Reas to bring a draft updated Fee Sheet to the next meeting.

Board Discussion of Lake Improvement Projects – no discussion

GENERAL OFFICE BUSINESS

Adjourn at 11:37 am

Respectfully submitted:

Nick Vandervelde

Approved 11/21/2023

Secretary of the Commission

Prepared by Paulette Z Janssen
Green Lake Sanitary District
Administrative Assistant