

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 Tuesday September 17, 2024, at 8:00 am at the Green Lake Sanitary District Office N5295 County Road TT, Princeton WI 54968 and via zoom.

Present: Ken Bates and Justin Ellis and Nick Vandervelde.

Others Present: Lisa Reas, Administrator, Paulette Z Janssen Administrative Assistant, Dallas Lewallen, Plant Operator, and Hannah Niewoehner, Watershed Coordinator, Thad Majkowski, Matt Dorow, representatives for Cedar Corp and Vanessa Wishart representative for Stafford Rosenbaum. 5 people signed in.

Written notice of this meeting was given to the Green Lake Reporter and 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 (Bates/Ellis) to approve the minutes of the August 27, 2024, regular meeting and the September 04, 2024, special meeting. Motion Carried 3-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – no Public Comment

WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

Plant Operator's Report

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

WPDES New Permit Project Work / Land Application

Reas reported that Mashuda has completed their contracted work at the land application property. Scott has also planted some cover crops and sprayed for the USFW seeding.

Discussion/Possible Action: Resolution 2024-05 Amending Order 94-13 Wastewater Management & Service Charge Order for Sewer Connection Requirements

Reas updated the board that currently our ordinance requires landowners to connect to our wastewater collection system within 1 year of being provided the service. We've seen residents of the GLSD struggle with this requirement for several reasons over the past few years. First, the availability of contractors makes the 1-year requirement difficult. We've had to make allowances for landowners in each of the last 3 sewer projects. Taking this to 2 years at a

minimum is sensible. The issue of allowing new systems more time to connect is also a point residents have brought up in Public Comment during the Sewer Study meetings. In various meetings, we've discussed how long that extension period should be and how best to implement it. Reas reminded the board that last month they directed her to move forward with a basic plan to allow landowners with new systems up to 10 years to connect. Folks with systems over 10 years of age would have 2 years to connect.

However, in consultation with Vanessa Wishart about this potential change, she brought up concerns about the "arbitrary" use of 10 years. Studies indicate that septic systems generally have a lifespan of 30 years. That is a generally accepted number. She suggested a compromise of systems under 30 years have 5 years to connect and systems over 30 years have 2 years. Systems having documented issues with functionality would only be allowed 2 years to connect.

Wishart confirmed Reas's comments and further expressed concern that State Statutes do not provide specific language on this issue. She further explained that the State Statutes do allow for a refund of some of the system costs if a septic system is under 10 years of age and if the property was not part of the Sanitary District Sewer Service Area when the system was put in. While this does not fit the situation the GLSD is in as all the areas discussed for future sewerage are within the District already, the establishment of 10 years as a reference of a "new" system is meaningful. Reas expressed concern in allowing systems over 10 years to have additional connection time. She referenced the changing use of systems including short-term rentals as a reason to require the tighter timeline.

There was further discussion of compromise options, but the various board members continually returned to the 10-year connection timeline for new systems. Wishart said she would research the issue further to find additional statute language that may support allowing new systems to age to 10 years before requiring sewer connection but require systems aged 10 years and older to connect within 2 years. Reas and Wishart were directed to work on a revised resolution that could come before the board in October.

Discussion/Possible Action: Approval of Effluent Pumps Purchase

Reas explained to the board that for the past 6 months, Stu Marks and Dallas Lewallen have worked closely with Cedar Corp. as well as B&M Consulting on the correct sizing of the new effluent pumps needed to discharge our treated wastewater to the new irrigation pond on the wastewater parcels as well as the Fox River, should there ever be a need to discharge there as we do now. Determining these pumps has been a challenging project but the group has reached a consensus on what is needed. Of the current pumps we have, only one is operational and not in good condition. We would like to get these replaced as quickly as possible. Since there is a 3+ month wait to get the pumps once ordered, it is in the best interest of the District not to wait for the rest of the Land Application project upgrades and get them ordered as soon as possible. We will be utilizing our upcoming borrowing to pay for the purchase and the cost of the pumps will, as with the rest of our WPDES compliance work, be recouped via tax levy from District residents. However, Cedar has indicated that additional wiring, piping, and pedestal work will likely be required and cost estimate for those components were not available in time for the meeting so a spending limit could not be authorized by the board. Reas hopes to have the information ready for the next meeting. No action was taken by the board.

NON-POINT

Big Green Lake Management Plan/Grants

Discussion: Watershed Coordinator Position – Hannah Niewoehner

The Watershed Coordinator's report was discussed (see attached).

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

Discussion/Possible Action: Approve Cost-share Agreement for M Fredrick Waterway Project

M/S (Ellis/Bates) to approve cost-share agreement for M Fredrick Grassed Waterways & Subsurface Drain in an amount not to exceed \$11000.00. Roll call vote: Ellis-yes, Bates-yes, Vandervelde-yes. Motion Carried 3-0.

County K Carp Barrier Update

Reas explained that Cedar Corp. has completed the final concept design. The sizing of the structure is being finalized this week. The current plan by the engineers is for an electric gate that will have an opener placed on the new railings/bumpers that will exist on both sides of the structure. There will be a button on the edge of the railing that will be weather protected and sturdy that can be pushed to open the gate. It will have a sensor that will allow the gate to close once a boat moves through. We will expand the bubbles to be wider at the gate so that when it's open, the bubbles will still act as a deterrent to the carp movement.

Additionally, for better aesthetics, in addition to the iron supports, Cedar suggested using large, wooden pilings such as you'd see on an ocean pier. GLSD staff requested a addition of a top railing/cap to give it a more finished appearance. Two fishing piers/wharves are included in the project as well to provide safe fishing for the public and hopefully move folks off the County roadway.

Reas updated the group that the District has received \$100,000 from Duck's Unlimited for the project and she's applied for similar funds from US Fish and Wildlife. Reas is submitting the DNR pre-application for Lake Protection funding on Friday. Additionally, the GLA has committed \$5,000 to \$10,000 toward the project as well. Removal of the existing structure and replacement with the new structure is expected to be roughly \$200,000.

CONSERVANCY

Reas reported that there has been a lot of vandalism at the Tichora property. We will be putting cameras out to try to catch the people responsible.

Reas also stated that the Spaulding Hill Wetlands open house is tentatively planned for 8/2/2025. There is still a lot of work to be done before the property can be made open to the public.

New signage was put up on the Assembly Creek property.

Mitchell Glen boardwalk has been removed. Ben Rowley has done a great job on the removal and has put in several new sections of boardwalk with a few more to be installed before this fall's tour. Lisa and Derek also completed some minor handwork and on the new footpath.

NEW BUSINESS

GLA Appearance – no discussion

Adjourn 9:35 am

Respectfully submitted:

Nick Vandervelde
Secretary of the Commission

Approved 10/15/2024

Prepared by Paulette Z Janssen
Green Lake Sanitary District Administrative Assistant