Meeting Minuets

Forest County Land Conservation Committee

Wednesday January 14, 2015

Public Hearing on Bog Brook Dam Operations

1. The call to order was given by Chairman Paul Millan at 5:10pm in room 107 of the Forest County Courthouse.
2. The roll was called, and the members present were Paul Millan, Dave Bula, Larry Sommer, along with Administrator Pam Labine and Technician Bill Lester. Please see the attached Sign in sheet for list of public attendees. The two DNR representatives were not present.
3. Paul Millan Read the public Hearing Notice
4. Chairman Paul Millan informed the attendees of the public hearing requirements and confirmed compliance.
5. Chairman Paul Millan informed the public attendees of the hearing Procedures & time allotted.
6. Administrator Pam Labine informed the public of the reason for this hearing. Stating that the bog brook dam is under the order of the DNR to establish a Dam Break analysis. (What happens if the dam comes out) All dams in the state of WI must have a Dam break Analysis. Lowest cost for this would be between approx. $5000— $7000. Next a Flood Shadow must be performed and inserted into our flood plain; this can be done for approximately $5000. A problem with this is a lot of the flood shadow will fall on/in Langlade County. So we need to find out the legalities that go with the flood shadow. The county Highway Commissioner must perform and log a weekly dam inspection. This cost approx. $5-7000 a year. Since we do not have a break analysis we are required to inspect the dam every year as well.
7. Chairman Millan Opened the Public Hearing.
8. William Hamilton- Asked what the current structural condition of the dam was. Pam Labine stated that we thought the Dam was damaged but ended up being rocks stock in the gate. Had it inspected and found out that it is actually in good condition.

Bill Connors- Was interested on cost per year to keep dam operational and that $5,000 to

$7,000 a year seems a little high.

John Howts- Asked why a Front end loader was needed to do a weekly inspection. Pam stated that it was used only when needed to clear brush, and was used to lift the plate out of the dam. So a loader is not needed every week for inspection.

Jay Jamenson – Agrees that the front end loader has been used to clear brush and to keep the spillways clean, must be logged each time it’s used.

William Hamilton – Is it possible to prorate this cost over the 10 year timespan, with that said we are looking at around $1000-$1500 a year? Also interested in why aren’t the “Boards or steel Plate” inserted back in the dam currently? Pam Labine stated that the DNR has a reason for it, has to do with the amphibians and mud on the banks. Ask DNR for a more specific answer.

John Harter- Isn’t this a DNR state wildlife area? Are they helping us fund this or helping with inspection? Pam Labine stated that up until a few years ago, a gentleman out of the Rhinelander DNR office did the 10 year inspections for us. Once he retired we were back fending for ourselves.

Bill Connors- Why would the DNR want to destroy a wetland that they help create years ago, when so much of their practices promote saving wetlands.

John T- Says the dam was strategically placed and was probably replacing a beaver dam of some sort when it was installed.

Al Pichotta – All for cold water restoration effort and all for keeping the dam. The Nicolet Sportsman club may even be willing to help with funding inspection costs.

William Hamilton- Received a voicemail from a Ducks Unlimited, Brookfield chapter President, will propose to him to see if they will be able to offset the cost of this project.

Jim Kearny- Asked if his property is currently in a flood zone, Pam stated that no you have a Loam type soil and your property is up and out of the flood zone.

Bill Connors- Thinks the committee should talk to the DNR and let them pay for it or at least part of cost. This is a very important area, so we must find alternative source of funding to keep this dam in place.

Jay Jamenson – Agrees with Bill Connors and thinks it’s in pristine condition and shouldn’t be altered.

John T – Shared with the group a few documents from the DNR website showing that this area is a high priority, and the DNR’s own website claims it should be protected.

John Connors- states that the dam operational manual should be changed to allow volunteers to help with the annual dam maintenance.

1. With the help of the public the committee has decided to put together a list of questions, regarding possible funding, and operation & Maintenance for the DNR.
2. Motion by Dave Bula to adjourn Public Hearing. Second by Larry Sommer. All in favor. Motion Approved.

Submitted by:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_