



Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: May 16, 2010 @ 10:30 am

Location: Outside of the Town of Green Valley Hall,
Ancestor Lane, Mosinee, WI

1. Call to order and introduction of the Board
2. Approval of prior meeting minutes
Liz made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the January 10 meeting. Seconded and motion carried.
3. Treasurers' report and approval
Michelle reviewed the treasurer report that was distributed
4. Committee reports
 - Membership
Liz explained the role of the membership committee and stated that she is looking for people to server on the membership committee. Strength is in numbers. Membership renewals where just sent out last week.
 - Picnic and annual meeting
Jerry Mau explained the plans for the BEPCO Annual meeting. Raffles for a 37" flat screen TV, meat package, dinner and a Pat Patton airplane ride. Food and beverages have been donated. Cathy Paul added that BEPCO shirts, caps and key chains will be for sale.
Need \$400 for picnic expenses. Barb made a motion and Liz seconded. Motion carried.
Mike Paul explained the process for the BEPCO annual meeting, elections and changes to the bylaws as sent out with the newsletter. If approved, the Past President role is a new position, added to the BEPCO Board.
 - Marathon County Taskforce
Mike provided an update on the progress of the Marathon County BEP Task Force. Slow, but steady progress. BEPCO is making 4 motions:
 1. New lake survey (first since 1969)
 2. Long term operations of the aerator
 3. Long term lake management plan (comprehensive plan to position BEP for grants and DNR funding)
 4. Review past programs and evaluate the success and lessons learned.Meetings are open to the public on Thursday afternoons.
 - Aerator project
Tim explained the remaining funds and options to upgrade the electrical service. DNR paid to rewire the electrical service to the aerator. Would like to put a metal roof on the building. Determine the reasons why two of the air lines are not working correctly. Consider hiring the divers to fix and reposition

the lines – estimated share of the costs of \$1,300 to be paid by BEPCO. Likely done in August. Tours of the aerator will be conducted at the June 12 picnic. Discussed the need to put up a sign with a notice to let people know to be careful not to drag up the aerator lines. Suggested a notice at the boat landings also.

- Fishing and Water Quality – DNR Reg. 151 review
Scott provided an update on the DNR Regulations. Propose to reduce run-off from construction sites near the water. Additional restrictions on sewage treatment plants – a concern for local municipalities. Additional testing of fertilizer. Early reports of green water. with the early warm weather this spring. DNR does not have resources to monitor, need the public to report spills and violations.
- 2011 Look-in
Ken, Doug and Mike are working on the 2011 look-in. Reviewed what has changed and provide input on WVIC operations and shared with FERC. Compare the WVIC license and environmental impact statement to current operations. Ken has a schedule for the key dates in look-in. The focus is on preventing fish kills. Need to have clear facts and data. BEPCO need to realize that WVIC still needs to operate a reservoir to support the hydropower and pollution dispersion with minimum river flows, but operations can be better manage the water levels on the Big Eau Pleine.

Ken reviewed the first meeting with BEPCO, WVIC and DNR to understand dam operations. Many open questions remain.

Ken showed the 120 years of rainfall above the Wisconsin Rapids dam in the Wisconsin River watershed. Previous droughts often tied to fish kills. We are in an eight year drought – the worst 8 year period in 120 years. Water levels in the Northern lakes and reservoirs are even worse than the Big Eau Pleine. Propose to include the past 20 years of data into the WVIC computer model that is used to determine dam operations. Congress enacted a law in 1986 that requires FERC to provide equal consideration to other factors than simply hydropower when they relicense dams. A study of historical fish kills on the BEP was done by Dave Coon from WVIC and published in 1998. It indicated three things were needed to prevent fish kills on the BEP: 60% full at ice up. 40% full at February 1. Maintain flow of the Big Eau Pleine River entering the flowage at 10 cfs minimum. WVIC has control of the first two only. However, WVIC but does not operate by the recommendations from this report. BEPCO believes that 60% full going into winter is a critical need that must be integrated into WVIC's operating plan. It will require changes in the operations starting in the summer. We believe this can be done with minimum loss of hydrogenation, while still maintaining flows in the Wisconsin River above the minimum 7Q10 levels. WIRSOM computer data can help us figure this out. Sam Morgan acknowledged at our meeting last week that they do see a

correlation between having more water in the reservoir going into winter and not having fish kills.

Ken explained the economic impact of fishing and recreation on the Big Eau Pleine, this is a factor that has not been considered in the past by WVIC.

5. New Business

- TMDL Study. Tim announced the May 25 meeting at 6:30 at the Town of Green Valley Town Hall to learn about the TMDL Survey. The public and BEPCO members are welcome.
- The River Alliance provided training to the BEPCO Board. It was well received and confirmed much of the early success of BEPCO.
- Fishing Report. Few people fishing on the opener. No reports of Walleye.
- Carp Contest. Jerry and John explained the carp contest.
Description: First Annual Big Eau Pleine (BEP) Carp Contest Sponsored by BEPCO, as approved by WDNR and WVIC.

Purpose: To promote legal carp fishing and recreation on the Big Eau Pleine and at the same time attempt to reduce the carp population in the Big Eau Pleine.

Rules: A \$100 reward is offered for any legally caught carp with a Floy Tag. The tags will have an I.D. number and phone number to call for verification. BEPCO board members and officers and their family will not be allowed any prize money. No entry fee. Open to public. No age limit.

Methods: The DNR will capture 10 carp from the BEP and attach the Floy tags and release them back into the BEP. The tags will be supplied by BEPCO. Posters will be placed at BEP boat landing(s) and local bow fishing clubs will be notified at the event. Disposal containers will be placed at Lisa's Landing as funds permit.

Budget: Award	\$1,000 (10 carp at \$100 each.)
Disposal	\$450
Posters	\$50
Total	\$1,500

BEPCO Board approved the \$1,500 budget request.

- Isopleths. Jerry has reviewed the isopleths or graphs that measure oxygen levels under the water since 1974 to 2010 to determine what may have caused massive fish kills in certain years. The aerator helps, but not every year. Jerry noted that the original aerator system was meant to be at two sites and as recently as 2004 it was at two sites. Slit is building up on the lake bed since

there has not been a good flushing rain in several years.

- 2011 fishing survey will be conducted by the DNR. This data will be used to determine if stocking should be done.
 - Randy reported that Walleyes for Tomorrow would like to improve spawning habitat on the Big Eau Pleine. Discussed pros/cons stocking program and the role of the DNR. The public needs to understand the options for improvements to fishing at the Big Eau Pleine. Requested to make the names of the DNR contacts on the BEPCO web site.
5. Discussion of newsletter and membership communication.
Discussed the timing and content of the BEPCO newsletter. People like the frequent e-mail updates.
 6. Adjournment at 11:53 am

NEXT MEETING INFORMATION: Saturday, June 12, 2010 @ 11:00 AM at the Big Eau Pleine Park, West Unit Shelter for annual meeting & picnic

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Pelton

BEPCO

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<http://www.bigeaupleine.org/>