

# WHITEWATER PARK STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

September 17, 2018

8:00 AM

Stoughton Fire Station



Present: Alderpersons: Bob Diebel, Mark Landgraf, Regina Hirsch, Brandon Holstein, Carl Chenoweth, Alex DeSmidt, and Parks & Recreation Director Dan Glynn

Guests: Rob Davis, Eric Olsen, John Reimer, Brett Hebert, John Halverson, Raj Shukla

## 1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:00 am.

## 2. Communications

Welcoming Statements & Introductions

The members of the steering committee and guests introduced themselves.

## **Old Business**

### 3. New Members

Glynn shared that he contacted the Dunkirk Dam Lake District and the Yahara Fishing Club about having a representative. He relayed that the Jim Schneider from the Dunkirk Dam Lake District told him that he didn't receive any interest from anyone willing to serve, but some members may attend future meetings. Glynn shared that he will continue to recruit a fishing representative.

### 4. Lake Level Management of the Yahara Chain of Lakes

John Reimer explained how the water flows through the Yahara Chain lake system. This included the dam operations at Tenney Park, Babcock Park, and LaFollete Park. He explained that vegetation in the river has slowed down flows and the Babcock and LaFollete Park Dams have been open. He shared that the Tenney Park Dam is the control point of releasing water through the system. He said that the County is concerned with getting water through the system or retaining it before it hits the system, and are looking at ways to increase the flow. He also shared the coordination and responsibilities of operating a dam including teleconferences to communicate and maintaining them. He shared that the Steering Committee should be looking for an answer if the dam and whitewater park can coexist. Hebert shared the time commitment needed to operate the dam and the inspection costs.

### 5. Floodplains and Dams

Rob Davis shared information regarding dam removal grants that the DNR has available. He recommended that hydraulic modeling be done so that impact of water levels and flood plains would be known if the dam is removed. Davis shared that whatever is done cannot impact the flood plain negatively.

### 6. River Health.

Raj Shukla shared that there are other people from the River Alliance who would be better suited to discuss ecological issues. He shared that there are economic and cultural benefits to dam removal. He shared that the River Alliance was formed by paddlers in an effort to remove dams.

### 7. Economic Impact Report

Glynn shared that he received the economic impact report has been completed. The economic impact varied from \$2 to \$30 million annually. Glynn shared that it shows that the design needs to carefully thought out so it attracts visitors from the Milwaukee and Chicago regions.

### 8. Future Agenda Items

Design Questions - Gary Lacy

Trail Connectivity & Greenways

## **Adjournment**

*Motion made by Diebel and seconded by DeSmidt at 9:31 am. Motion carried unanimously.*