

Board Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2024

Present were:

Sarah Godlewski, Board Chair	Secretary of State
Josh Kaul, Commissioner	Attorney General
John Leiber, Commissioner	State Treasurer
Tom German, Executive Secretary	Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
Rich Sneider, Chief Investment Officer	Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
Denise Nechvatal, Controller	Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
Chuck Failing, IT Manager	Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
Mike Krueger, IT Specialist	Board of Commissioners of Public Lands
Thuy Nguyen, Office Manager	Board of Commissioners of Public Lands

ITEM 1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Godlewski called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

ITEM 2. APPROVE MINUTES

MOTION: Commissioner Leiber moved to approve the minutes; Commissioner Kaul seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None.

VOTE: The motion passed 3-0.

ITEM 3. APPROVE LOANS

MOTION: Board Chair Godlewski moved to approve the loans; Commissioner Leiber seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Sneider shared that we have six bread and butter loans today totaling about \$750,000. Loan #1 to Deer Lake District is to finance a lake herbicide treatment, most likely for an invasive species on that lake. This is a relatively common purpose for a lake district. Many lakes have weed problems, and the weeds are either treated with herbicides or weed eaters.

VOTE: The motion passed 3-0.

The Board of Commissioners of Public Lands (BCPL) unanimously approved **\$741,389.00** in State Trust Fund Loans to support **6** community projects in Wisconsin.

1. Deer Lake District / Lincoln County / Finance lake herbicide treatment / \$45,000.00
2. Village of Monticello / Green County / Finance purchase of fire department equipment / \$51,389.00
3. Village of Elmwood Park / Racine County / Finance repairs to municipal buildings / \$115,000.00
4. Town of Gull Lake / Washburn County / Finance roadwork / \$150,000.00
5. Town of Ettrick / Trempealeau County / Finance purchase of tractor and mower / \$180,000.00
6. Town of Rock Falls / Lincoln County / Finance roadwork / \$200,000.00

ITEM 4. OLD BUSINESS

None

ITEM 5. NEW BUSINESS

None

ITEM 6. CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Sneider reported that at the last meeting he presented his quarterly investment report and mentioned that Treasury Inflation Protected Securities might be an area that the investment committee would move into. Last week, the investment committee agreed to do that. BCPL bought its initial acquisition of Treasury Inflation Protected Securities last week, a \$5,000,000 bond.

ITEM 7. EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT

Executive Secretary German reported that BCPL has used Schwab's Portfolio Center as its platform for investment reporting since 2010/2011. It was fine at first because we only had municipal bonds. Eventually, we added some publicly traded securities but there were certain things that never fit into the software, e.g., our trust fund loans. As we diversified our portfolio, some of the challenges of Portfolio Center became more obvious. Creating reports requires a lot of time and effort due to having to manually compile all the information. We have continued our search for other options and unfortunately most other options are \$75,000 a year and up. A company called Tamarac owns Schwab Portfolio Center and has its own platform that has more features not available on Portfolio Center. We had been looking at the possibility of migrating to Tamarac. Especially since the cost would not be substantial. Last week Denise, Mr. Sneider and Executive Secretary German got to take a closer look at Tamarac and listen to other Tamarac users. They were able to ask other third party vendors that also work with Tamarac questions about how the platform works and how it might work for BCPL. There is a reasonable chance that we will be moving forward with the switch. Anytime a migration of this type happens, it involves a lot of time and effort, so he wanted to make sure the board was aware of the possibility.

Over a decade ago we decided to enroll in Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification for two main reasons: 1.) to obtain a third party audit of our land management practices from a sustainability standpoint; and 2.) hopefully open more markets for our harvested trees. After a decade, we are coming to the conclusion that neither of these purposes may be true. The time and cost of going through the annual FSC audit has risen substantially. From a land management standpoint, FSC is now much more interested in auditing relationships. They want to see what type of minutes you have when you meet with Native American tribes as opposed to looking at how sustainable your management practices are and if your forests are healthy. Staff still strongly believe in having a third party review of our land management practices, but that may be achieved through other means other than an FSC audit. We are currently investigating other options. We will report back to the board on that.

Finally, in an effort to get people together and back on the same page, BCPL is looking at getting its staff together on June 17th and 18th. We have not been able to do this for quite some time. Communication challenges seem to be rising and BCPL's small staff had virtually no redundancies, so it is easy for each of us to dig into our own language in our respective roles. It is important to bring everyone back onto the same page so that we can communicate more effectively in a shared common language to achieve a shared common mission. If any commissioners are interested in joining, you are welcome to.

Board Chair Godlewski asked if he would like the commissioners to participate in the any part of the retreat. She also asked if someone will be facilitating the retreat or be internally facilitated.

Executive Secretary German replied that because we are trying to get back to having a shared language and a shared mission, he believes the commissioners could provide some perspective in terms of the materials that are shared amongst the board and the agency, and the language used in communications. The commissioners are more than welcome to participate. That type of feedback would be greatly appreciated. Stephanie Marquis will be the facilitator.

Board Chair Godlewski commented that it would be helpful to know a more as the agenda comes together and what might be the best parts for commissioners to participate or be engaged in.

ITEM 8. BOARD CHAIR’S REPORT

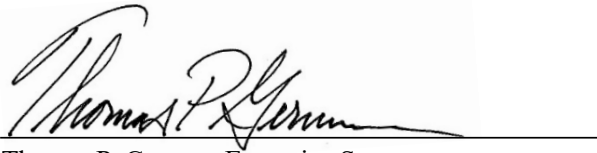
None

ITEM 9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None

ITEM 10. ADJOURN

Commissioner Kaul moved to adjourn the meeting; Board Chair Godlewski seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0; the meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Thomas P. German", is written over a horizontal line.

Thomas P. German, Executive Secretary

Link to audio recording:

<https://bcpl.wisconsin.gov/bcpl.wisconsin.gov Shared Documents/Board Meeting Docs/2024/2024-05-20 BoardMtgRecording.mp3>