

**WATERVILLE CITY COUNCIL  
REGULAR MEETING  
February 16, 2023, 7:30 p.m.**

There was a meeting of the Waterville City Council held in the Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. on February 16, 2023.

Present: Mayor Daryl Bauer, Council members Tim Smith, Jennifer Grobe and Sean McCaslin

Absent: Dave Wollin

Also Present: Administrator-Clerk Teresa Hill, Andrea Berg, Jeanie Tomlinson, Roy McIntyre and Logan Sendel

**Call to Order / Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Bauer called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Pledge of allegiance was recited. Mayor Bauer noted that all Council members were present except Dave Wollin.

**Approval of Agenda/Additional Items to Agenda.**

**Motion by Smith, Seconded by Grobe to approve the agenda. Motion Carried 5-0.**

**Work Session**

**Sakatah Bay Lake Weed Management Work Session.** Hill informed the council that the remaining \$3,706.10 in the current Curley leaf treatment grant could be utilized. The city would need to work with DNR on permitting. Mike Schultz and Holly Bushman would be a good resource for the one watershed one plan district background and funding. We do have some projects on the project list but they are not in the top tier for funding. One Watershed One Plan receives project funding from BWSR. Other possible funding possibilities are Heritage money and LLCMR funding. These take a long time to obtain funding. The LLCMR funding in the past took 6-8 years. The city would need a lake management plan to help obtain funding. Holly Bushman emailed a few comments letting the Council know that there is Eurasian Watermilfoil a sparse amount is present in upper Sakatah and it has not spread. Discussion was held on possible grant funding research, lake management plans and other funding sources. McIntyre inquired if the Council was going to do the channel and if the Lagoon properties would then come to the city to take care of their lake weeds. McIntyre also informed the council that that bay was harvested years ago. He questions where the lake weeds would be taken and expressed concern of the harvester spreading invasives if not properly checked. Bauer invited discussion on the generation of new revenue to fund the project. Bauer informed council that we have 162 campers in the city limits of Waterville. Other cities have done a lodging or hotel fees. Bauer's conveyed his understanding that you would hit the harvesting hard the first 3 years. You are pulling them out by the roots, there would be less coming back. Then you can start getting other areas. McIntyre recapped the services the Lake Association has provided for treatment. Their efforts have cut down on the pollution and have allowed the natural plants to grow. Bauer commented that down town could benefit also if you could get boaters to the city dock without filling up with gunk. This could also be another economic boost. Our life blood is tourism, we want people to come and experience our town. McCaslin inquired if we have any idea on the cost to harvest Sakatah Bay? Logan Sendel presented to the council information relating to the types of harvesters and harvesting process. The cost is dependent on the type of harvester, trucking of the weeds. He commented it would be about \$20,000 per cut depending on the acreage, contract structure and what the DNR would permit. Sendel expressed that harvesting is 100% better for our lakes than spraying. You don't want to dump chemicals into a lake. He commented that 90% of the organic matter is dying and decaying on the bottom and it becomes fertilizer for the next year. The new harvester that they are buying will not just cut the weed off like a lawn mower, this unit has a rolling drum and it pulls it from the roots. Run off of Nitrogen and Phosphorus is contributing to how nasty our lakes are getting. Discussion was held on how the chemical lake treatment has been working and they cost that has been poured into it. Bauer commented for years it was that we will throw Copper Sulphate in the lake and all it has done is create an environment to grow back twice as bad next year. Smith spoke with Carley Wagner and she said Sakatah Bay is a difficult area for treatment. She did recommend that we possibly look at

a 2-prong approach of harvesting in some areas and chemical treatment in other areas. We have some areas that are difficult for the harvester to get into and some areas where the current doesn't lend itself to chemical treatment well. One concern with any kind of treatment is the turions that drop off. If you can't get rid of the turions we are going to get repeats. We have to make sure if harvesting is done everything needs to be taken out and it will cost us to do that. Smith had a concern about a harvester with a roller disturbing the bottom and the turions not being collected. Sendel informed the Council that it has a drum and does not disturb the bottom. Sendel said the turions would come up with the weeds. Smith looked up that the Bay is about 35 acres. The DNR creates a permitting process around littoral acres. Individual permits and city permit would come off the same littoral permitted acres. Discussion was held on the delineation and permitting process. Smith advised the Council that the DNR is more willing to give larger area for harvesting vs chemical. Bauer spoke with Durel and he said that if we are harvesting, we will give you way more latitude and he will be working with Carli as well with the permitting process. Bauer inquired from Sendel if there are different times of the year where you want to harvest early so you don't have turions all over? Sendel said it also depends on what type of weed it is and what time they drop. You would need to figure out what is prominent in that bay before you would want to do that. Bauer stated that the ultimate goal is to find a solution. We have poured tens of thousands of dollars into it and we are back at the beginning. Smith commented that we have struggled with low lake levels and the flood waters. We had it cleaned up very well then, the flood waters came and washed a lot of stuff into there. A lot of our setback came from that. Bauer commented that we do not have a sustainable management plant. Discussion was held on the clean-up of weeds after harvested. Bauer informed council that Durel said that you can take as much of the green stuff on the top of the water as you want. Smith commanded the duck weed and filamentous algae they do not get too excited about. McIntyre shared with council that we have more than just curly leaf pond weed and he did not feel chemical treatment was the way to go and a proper plan would be needed for funding. Jeanie Tomlinsen, 415 Lind Street, shared that she attended a class on invasive species and they went to clear lake. Waseca has both their own harvester and they have a big U of M Program. It will be interesting to see because they did treat some with chemical and a huge amount was harvested. It will be interesting to see what their results are, harvester vs chemical. Bauer commented about the changes that have happened at Kamp Dels since they have been harvesting. Discussion was held on funding and lake access for the harvester. Bauer informed council about the permitting process and the need to have each individual property owner permitted. If an owner did not pull a permit, then the harvester would need to stay 100 ft. away from the lake shore. McCaslin added that we would be aware of the sediment and the water depth we are losing. Discussion was held on dredging and the collection of sediment. Discussion was held on the Fountain Lake Project. McCaslin suggested we get the DNR into a meeting. Smith suggested a little better information and more stake holders here. Before we can make decisions, we should have Logan get some rough pricing off what we have done in the past. We should get a rough idea on the chemical side also. Discussion was held on hosting a meeting with both Durel, Carley, Todd Piepho, County, Lakes Association, County Commissioner, One Watershed One Plan, and State Representatives. Meeting date was set for Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 p.m. or later.

### **Adjourn**

**Motion by Smith, seconded by McCaslin to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.**

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**Daryl Bauer, Mayor**

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**Teresa Hill, Administrator-Clerk**