Aerator Expansion Project Report: August 3, 2022

Aerator Expansion Project Members:

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Progress to date:

- The committee has met via virtually 3 times plus email communication
- 4 proposals for a 2nd aeration system have been received:
 - o 3 were for fine bubble diffuser style systems and 1 for an aspirating type system
 - o 2 included costs to rebuild the current system
 - 3 included yearly service costs
 - 2 included full installation service (except electrical). The other 2 included only installation supervision.
 - The bid for the aspirating system was found to be non-responsive as they did not provide the information required to develop an estimate for installation despite multiple phone calls and emails requesting the information.
 - Aquatic Biologists deemed to be the best supplier due to:
 - cost for new system, installation and service
 - ability to rebuild & service the existing
 - offering complete installation (less electrical work)
 - availability of local (Wausau) service.
 - Familiarity with and willingness to assist in the permitting process
- Residents were contacted to see if they would be willing to have the system located on their property. 4 responded that they would consider it:
 - Paul Everett closest location to the "deep hole" & willing to provide an easement
 - Dan Morin
 - Dustin Tornow
 - Dennis Lanphear offered to sell his out lot for \$25,000
- 3 contractors in the Wausau area were contacted to see if they could install an aspirating type system. 1 said the project was too big, 1 said the project was too small, 1 did not respond
- Multiple other suppliers of aspirating systems were contacted without positive results

- Contacted the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands regarding financing:
 - The project would qualify for financing
 - Interest rates are currently 4.5% per year for loans up to 10 years
 - o The process seems to be relatively straight forward
- Discussed permit process with Nicole Hays at the DNR.
 - 1. Put together plan for system and send to Chad Leanna (with copy to Nicole) for review and design approval.
 - 2. If design approved submit a General Structures Permit for approval.

Current committee findings and recommendations:

- Aquatic Biologists should be hired to:
 - Rebuild the existing system so it should provide "as new" performance for \$5200. This has been added to the FY22/23 draft budget.
 - Perform yearly (spring) maintenance cost ranges from ~\$900 to \$1325 depending on whether the blowers need to be rebuilt. \$1325 has been added to the FY22/23 draft budget (assumes a 2nd aerator installation will not be completed this fall)
- A 2nd aerator system should be installed in 2023 using financing (and grant money if available) to avoid an excessively large onetime tax impact.
- The location should be approximately as shown on the enclosed map
- Unless a responsive aspirating aerator supplier that offers an installed price and after sales service (directly or through a 3rd party contractor) we will move forward with the Aquatic Biologists proposal for a 2nd system.
- The system should be sited on either:
 - Paul Everett's property closest to desired location & willing to provide a permanent easement
 - The district could buy the outlot from Dennis Lanphear

Next phase work:

Pending input and project approval from the District Members at the annual meeting the committee will move forward with the next phase of the project:

- Final decision on system type:
 - o try and get a responsive bid from other suppliers of aspirating systems
 - o If no supplier is found or the cost is prohibitive then use Aquatic Biologists
- Final site selection
 - Requires purchase or easement agreement depending on site selection
- Once system selection and site are finalized proceed with:
 - cost estimate for site improvements if necessary
 - cost estimate for power supply from WPS
 - electrical contractor costs
 - Start the permitting process as described above.
- Once the permit is approved
 - o work with DNR to determine if grant money is available
 - o work with the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands regarding financing
- After financing in place orders and begin construction

