

Lower Spring Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Quarterly (1st) Meeting – January 12, 2013

Called Meeting To Order: Al Fehrmann called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M. on Saturday January 12, 2013. Present: Al Fehrmann-President, Vicki Bradford-Treasurer, Dave Turner-Village President, Susan Graham and Patricia Cicero-DNR, Linda Plennes-Secretary, and Josh Gajewski-Village Superintendent, not present Sarah Bregant-County Supervisor.

Read & Approve Minutes: Linda Plennes read the minutes of the last meeting held on August 25th, 2012. There were no corrections noted, motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Frank Loduha and 2nd by Robert Wielepski.

Treasurers Report: Vicki Bradford shared the budget report for the calendar year of 2012. A copy of the budget detail and checkbook reconciliation was handed out to those that attended the meeting. Vicki noted the positive variance in income was directly due to splitting the certificate of deposit. The tax refund checks were issued to lake property owners they totaled \$2,552.26. Vicki also stated that the reason we used the same budget as last year's budget was the unknown costs for the Herbicide Application/Fees, and Grant money reimbursements. The 50/50 Grant process is working in our favor at this time. No questions or corrections were noted; motion to accept the treasurer's report was made Jim Dixon and 2nd by Robert Wielepski.

Tax Issue: Al stated that the tax error was caused by human error and has been corrected. Al stated that if anyone wanted to blame someone for the error, Al is president and Al accepts the blame for this incident. Al stated that he accepts the blame because there was no plan in place to prevent this event from happening. Al took immediate action and was proactive in addressing the issue, simply stated, refund all parties involved now, not wait for the property taxes to be paid then refund. We have taken steps to prevent this from happening again. Bill asked Al what steps are now in place to prevent this from re occurring again? Al responded- simply highlighting and circling the village and town tax rate, and verify the tax rates doing the same. Also contact the County for verification of the same items as mentioned above, as the county did not pick up this error either. Re enforce better communication between Village, Town, County and Lake District.

Harvester Operations Report: Jim Dixon stated that we got a late start to harvesting last year. He would like to get an earlier start this spring to take advantage of the high lake levels. Jim stated that as of now we do not have a replacement for Jerry Keppen our weed harvester operator. If you know of someone who would be interested in cutting please contact Jim Dixon @ 262-337-0249. Jerry stated that he would do the training involved in the operation of the harvester. The person hired to run the harvester will be paid directly by the Village, this position is paid hourly. We currently are paying \$12.00 per hour. We already have the Harvester Permit for 2013 it is part of a long term permit. This original 5 year permit was issued because we already have an Aquatic Management Plan in place. However the Herbicide permit is an annual permit, we must apply for annually. Jim Dixon also stated that there are some property owners that do not want any cutting done in front of their homes. Please let Jim know if this is your request. Information obtained regarding Blue Spring Lake is: they pay an hourly wage of \$17 to

one person who runs the large harvester; he also performs all the maintenance on the machines and also does the lawn maintenance around the launch. They pay an hourly wage of \$15.00 to the two cutters who run the small harvester.

In discussion, we agreed to pay the same as Blue Spring Lake does; a vote was taken, all in favor, no nays.

Chemical Treatment-Annual Permit Report: Steve Schneiger-no report available, Steve was not in attendance. Al will follow-up with Steve.

Geese Depredation: Bill Alveshire stated that with his wife's help he was willing to take on this task again. Al also offered his help. Patricia Cicero also offered to assist with this project.

Grant Status Report: Al and Vicki stated there was no activity to report at this time. The time sheets that have been submitted will be held until the Chemical Treatment has taken place and we have paid for that service.

Clean Boast/Clean Waters: Ann Perkell was not in attendance. Ann is the coordinator for this project. Al thanked Bill and Beth and Jim and Carol for their time. We are planning on being at the annual Fishing Jamboree to be held on January 26th, 2013, if we get some volunteers. Discussions followed as to how and where we can be present to make contacts during summer and winter events.

Boat Landing Upgrade Status: Al spoke with a State employee named Brian Hefty, when the money is budgeted by the state, the state sends out an engineer to survey the area and the traffic flow. Concerns were voiced about an area large enough for a vehicle and pontoon and or / to have a clear pass when launching or removing a large water craft with trailer. Brian told Al that the area would probably be asphalted, except for the boat ramp area; this would be a concrete slab that is placed in the water, more signage entering and exiting the area, parking spaces, painted parking blocks. Brain said he did not think port-a-pots would be a part of this plan. Brian told Al that vehicle/boat pressure at boat landings like ours is usually determined by the quality of the fishing in the lake. Brian told Al that he doubted that the state would go ahead on this project in 2013.

Susan Graham & Patricia Cicero: Susan and Patricia handed out several handouts:

- 1) Lower Spring Lake-Aquatic Plants and Management
- 2) History of Aquatic Plant Management Rules
- 3) 2012 Pre-Treated Survey maps
- 4) 2009/2012 Lower Spring maps of comparison

Before the year 2001 we were able to cut when and where we needed to. After 2001 the State put the DNR in charge of lake management. They developed rules and standards for all Wisconsin lakes. The topic at hand is the finger bay area-the south west corner area, Susan stated that this area is a prime site for fish as well as aquatic plants. Right now this area is also prime growth for natural vegetation. What is making it difficult for motoring is the Eurasian water milfoil, as this grows and rises to the surface it gets tangled in boat motors. The Elodea has

grown significantly in this area, although this is very visible it is also good for the lake. Susan also noted that 2012 was a drought year, low water levels and low precipitation. Our water levels were the lowest on record this past year. The DNR and our Lake District are looking for ways to increase the water levels. Al stated that the entrance is a large part of the problem as it is below the 3 foot level; Al checked this area four times during the season. Susan at this point referenced the handout labeled –HISTORY OF AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT RULES. Pre 2001 the DNR only had harvesting jurisdiction after 2001 they now oversee both harvesting operations and herbicide operations. These changes were put into place to protect both the lake rights and human rights. Bill made comments regarding a short term and long term plan for the finger bay, also mentioned a dredging of this area and an area on the lake to the river where it clearly changed the makeup of the lakes bottom and depth after the levy incident. Susan said that Dredging Permits were available; a lot more requests are made than permits issued. Jim Dixon share that back in the 1950's, the finger bay had been dredged to an 8 ft. depth. Susan stated that the harvester could float over the opening of the finger bay then cut, this is something that we NEVER thought about! Al asked Susan to just review the rules about your pier and shoreline areas with regards to removal of aquatic plants.

Measure 30 feet of your shore line, any more and a permit is required.

You can clean by hand, and remove from the lake as far out as you want from the shoreline.

You can pull out by hand or use a rake to remove the aquatic plants.

You cannot use a (energy) motorized piece of machinery to complete this task

Discussions as to where the aquatic plants should be placed for transport. We will talk more about this at the next meeting. A suggestion of placing the weeds on the back of the conveyor was made but we will talk further later, develop a plan for the future.

Patricia said she would be happy to come out and inspect the aquatic plants on your shore line to identify the native from the invasive plants so you can take action as needed. Susan stated that if you see something weird or odd, you can contact either Susan or Patricia and they would be happy to come out and inspect it and identify it for you. Patricia also said that if it is worth a picture, please take a picture of the subject.

Patricia then reviewed the handouts that she had given out, she explained the comparisons. Patricia commented that she will be completing a whole lake inspection each year. Patricia noted the 2 American Lotus plants found this past year. Talked about Pre and Post treatment surveys. Patricia also stated that it was difficult getting close to the east end of the lake because of the shallow depths. This is more of a technical problem getting the treatment in those areas. Patricia will be getting together with specific people with regards to the whole lake treatment for 2013, Army Corp of Engineers, Marine Bio Chem, Brian Skogerboe, Susan Graham, etc. Josh spoke about the water levels on the dams and our lake levels. We must still provide water downstream for our fellow neighbors, these are the laws. Josh is very involved in the monitoring of these water areas and will continue to strive to find a balance of lake levels. The newest dam is still too new to have any set formulas in place.

Board Vacancies: There will be two vacancies at the end of 2013, Al Fehrmann –President and Linda Plennes-Secretary will be ending their terms. The Lake District will need to fill these positions, if you would like to volunteer your services or know of someone who would like to get involved please let either of us know as soon as possible. It's time to step up and get involved.

Open Forum: Nothing brought to the table

Set Next Meeting Date: April 6th, Saturday 2013 10:00 A.M. Village Hall

Adjourn Meeting: Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Jim Dixon and 2nd by George Stewart.

Submitted:

March 16, 2013

Linda Plennes, Secretary

Lower Spring Lake District