

**LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT**

***Minutes from April 5, 2014 Lake District Meeting***

**Meeting called to Order:** President Carol Dixon called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Also present were Treasurer Vicki Bradford, Secretary Pat Zimmermann, Village President Dave Turner and Town Chairman Larry Kau.

**Reading of Minutes:** Pat read the minutes from the January 18, 2014 meeting. Minutes were approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Vicki Bradford stated that she moved \$28,186.72 from the Lake District's checking account into their passbook savings account as approved at the January 18, 2014 meeting.

\$6309.22 has been received from taxes. \$2680.78 is still outstanding. This sum will be received when the June assessments are paid.

The bill for the 2014 chemicals will be paid from the savings account. When we receive the partial reimbursement from the state, that money will be placed back into the passbook savings account.

**Grant Project Update:** Vicki reminded the district members that it is important for volunteers to track and report their hours and complete a volunteer form so that we can receive reimbursement from the state. The volunteer hours are assigned a rate of \$12 per hour and the state reimburses the Lake District ½ of that amount, or \$6 per hour. If anyone needs a volunteer sheet they can contact Vicki, Pat or Carol.

**Chemical Treatment Report:** We have not yet decided how many chemicals we will be using. Carol attended a meeting with Susan Graham, Patricia Cicero and John Skogerboe at which chemical use was discussed. Carol read from Patricia's notes. In 2013 we treated for both curly leaf pondweed and Eurasian milfoil, but only used one chemical, endothall. 2, 4-D was not used in 2013. It was felt that the application was not as effective in 2013 as in 2012 when both chemicals were used. We are unsure as to whether this was because only one chemical was used or whether it may have been affected by the chemical running through the lake too quickly.

2, 4-D will be used in 2014 but we may not use endothall. Patricia Cicero will be doing a more thorough pretreatment lake survey. If 10% or more of the sites that she surveys have curly leaf pondweed then both chemicals will be used. As usual, caution must be taken not to kill off too many native plants.

Josh will make sure that the lake level is low when the chemicals are added so that they will reach maximum efficiency. The chemical makes contact with the plant and is absorbed and makes its way to the roots. This absorption process takes several weeks so that is the reason that there can be no weed cutting for 4 weeks post-application.

A post treatment survey will be done in August by Patricia. Both Al and Peter volunteered that Patricia can keep her boat docked at their piers in the interim.

There is little access to the Prado and Omdoll properties and the mouth of the river. Much of this is due to water lily proliferation. Carol spoke to two nurseries that will come out to the lake for little or no cost and harvest the lilies and resell them or use them in other projects. We will move ahead with this.

**Harvest Operations Report:** Al Fehrmann will advise as to how much was harvested last year. We have a 5 year permit for the harvester, which is currently in place. We have permission to cut in designated areas. Certain areas are verboten. We cannot cut in depths of less than 3 feet. In 2013 the finger bay weeds sprang up very quickly and we would like to be able to cut those weeds quickly this Spring, prior to the chemical application, if we have a repeat of last year's conditions. In an effort to be proactive, Al contacted Josh to make sure the harvester would be ready to launch as soon as conditions permitted. Josh advised that the harvester has some motors and pumps which are leaking oil and would need repair. Al requested that Josh obtain estimates asap so we can complete the repairs and launch the harvester.

Scott, our cutter from last year who did such a fantastic job, has agreed to resume his weed cutting duties. If anyone has any questions about the harvesting, would like certain areas to be harvested or wish to identify problem spots they can reach Al at 262-495-8468.

**Boat Landing Update:** Al Fehrmann spoke to Lance Stock from the DNR. The plans for the boat landing are complete. The state and the DNR have issued the permits. The engineer advises that the project is currently at the bidding process. This takes three months. The grant deadline is July 2014, so an extension has been obtained. Work should be completed by this fall. The Lions had been interested in constructing a handicap accessible fishing pier and had \$2500 to contribute. However, they would like to have this built by the pavilion and not the boat launch, so those funds are not available. If we want the pier by the launch to be built with a composite material instead of wood this would be a \$2500 upgrade and we would need to find or raise those funds. This material should last 50 years. The pier will be used for both boat launching and fishing.

**Geese Depredation Update:** Bill Alveshire advised that this project is on hold due to the prevailing winter weather conditions.

**Spring Clean Up Proposal:** Bill Alveshire proposed that this project has also had a late start due to weather. When the ice cover retreats Bill will determine what we need and will advise of needed resources (people!) via an email update. The actual clean-up will probably take place in May or June.

**Dam Repair Update:** Carol gave the update. Josh has been in continuous contact with the engineering firm that completed the analysis and also with the state regarding the status of our grant submission. We missed the 2014 deadline and the next grants will be awarded in 2016. He will continue to follow diligently so all will be in order for the 2016 grant. The Lake District can show support for the Village's grant request by calling local legislators, urging them to continue to provide grant funding. Individuals can also write letters of support for the grant and so can the Lake District.

**Dredging Update:** Carol read notes from Dorothy Chappel who was able to contact a couple of companies for more information and quotes for dredging of the finger bay.

A \$608 permit fee is due no matter which method of removal would be used. Testing would need to be done before the DNR would approve dredging and the soil that is removed would need to be tested. This is not a Lake District project. It is a Homeowner's project and it is hoped that all homeowners on the finger bay would wish to participate in such a project and share in the cost if the project goes forward.

Lee Cresca is the owner of the company that completed the Blue Spring Lake dredging. His suggestion was to use a coffer dam which would involve putting up a curtained divider at the mouth of the bay and pumping out the water. 3-5 feet of silt would then be dredged, the divider curtain removed and the bay refilled with water. It is anticipated that the water depth would then be 6-8 feet. The cost would be \$70,000- \$78,000.

Eco-Waterway would complete the project by boat and suction the silt from the bottom of the bay and pump it onto land. The silt would then be removed by landscaping companies or to a landfill. This would allow only certain areas to be suctioned, which may be more fitting if not all of the homeowners wished to participate. However, there is some fear that the unsuctioned parts of the bay would backfill into the suctioned portions, so it is still the desire that if the project goes forward all homeowners would participate. Cost is approximated at \$80,000.

There is also a "do it yourself" project. Piranha Pump in New Mexico sells a floating pump with two Honda Motors for \$15,000. It has two 4" hoses which are 100 feet long. The silt would be sucked by the homeowner from the bottom of the bay and into a 2 foot deep hole that has been dug into the nearby land. The excess water would then flow back into the bay; the silt would remain and then be removed. The Homeowners can do this themselves or hire someone to do it for them.

Larry Kau advised that there are also companies that lease this equipment. Carol also mentioned that Jim had found a similar Honda trash water pump costing \$2,500 to which hoses, pontoons, and a strainer could be added.

Bill Alveshire expressed an interest in perhaps learning more from Wisconsin Association of Lakes (WAL). He may attend their convention.

**Open Forum:** Mike Miljan remarked that there was a lot of garbage/debris remaining after the Fishing Jamboree and that we may wish to speak to the Lion's Club about making sure this is removed after the next Jamboree. Linda Plennes also commented that some of this refuse may be from the fishing shacks that are on the lake and that in fact there is a long wooden beam which remains frozen on the surface of the lake from one of these shanties.

Bill Alveshire asked whether the Lions Club may have an interest in doing something with the fence by the pavilion. He will call Mike Fischer about this. Fhomerun1@aol.com/ 262-495-8137

John Omdoll suggested that it would be a good idea to have an aerial photo of the lake by the creek/river to note the changes created by the dam break and also to better map an entrance from the lake into the river. If anyone knows a pilot who may be willing to do this when they are doing a fly-by it would be appreciated.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

**The next meeting will be on June 14th at 10 a.m. at Village Hall.**