

Lower Spring Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

January 17, 2015 Minutes

Call to order: President Carol Dixon called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Also present were Treasurer Vicki Bradford and Secretary Pat Zimmermann.

Reading of the Minutes: Pat read the minutes from the August 23, 2014 Lake District Meeting. There was one edit under "Boat Launch". Al Fehrmann advised that our launch project was being lumped together with **Lower** Genesee Lake's project, not **Upper** Genesee. With that correction the minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: The tow bill for the recent repairs to the truck that is used to haul harvested weeds has been received and it is \$35 more than expected. That bill as well as the actual repair bill has been paid.

\$4939.66 has been received in taxes so far this year.

Actual interest received in 2014 was \$532.22 which was \$182.22 more than anticipated.

No further revenue from 2103 taxes is due to the Lake District. Previously reported deficits due to property owners' non-payment of taxes have been resolved by Jefferson County which has paid the Lake District all amounts owing. The county is responsible for collecting all past due amounts, not the Lake District as this is a County responsibility.

The checking account balance of \$16,683.34 will be transferred to the savings account with the exception of monies which will be used to pay for truck repairs and tires. This basically leaves the checking account with a "0" balance. The money received from end of year 2014 taxes will be deposited into the checking account.

An advisory vote was taken on the recent lake district assessment overpayment. The issue was whether to refund the overpayment at this time or keep the money in the account to be applied to next year's assessment. The vote among those present was split evenly. Since the email advisories from those residents unable to attend the meeting ran in favor of a refund, it was decided that checks for the overpayments would be issued to residents by early February 2015.

August Aquatic Plant Sampling Results: Patricia Cicero attended the meeting and reported on the August 2014 results. Patricia prepared a detailed handout (attached to these minutes) which shows:

Areas where chemicals were applied each year; chart for Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed; Relative frequency of occurrence; and a summary of Clean Boats/Clean Waters collected data.

Patricia responded to various queries including whether the chemicals placed in one part of the lake migrate to areas such as the finger bay; it does. The on-going issue seems to be accessibility to the east

end of the lake. There is likely Eurasian Milfoil in that area which is migrating to other parts of the Lake. The boat used to disperse the weed control chemicals cannot reach the shallow east end.

Patricia advised that she does pre and post treatment surveys each year. In 2014 Patricia was able to get to more points because Michelle Nault accompanied her and possessed a better boat which provided greater accessibility.

Patricia advised that Michelle has moved on to another position within the DNR and is not being replaced. Martha Barton with the DNR has a similar job to the one that Michelle is vacating and Patricia may be able to persuade her to help.

Nigel queried as to whether chemicals could be applied in the middle of winter when ice cover is still on the lake. This might allow us to reach the shallow east portion. Patricia advised that the chemicals are less effective in cold weather and Linda Plennes advised that the east side of the lake experiences open water because of the river. So this will not be an option.

In 2014 a good amount of Coontail grew on the east side of the lake. It looks very similar to Eurasian Milfoil. This is a native plant and needs to be controlled by cutting.

Patricia expressed concern that we are losing some of our native plants from the chemical application use. This is concerning because the diversity of native plants contributes to the environmental health of the lake.

When the Aquatic Plant Plan was incepted for our lake we had a goal of maintenance. We will never be able to completely eradicate the invasive species, but the goal then and now was to limit them to 10% of the lake surface. That is why in 2014 we did not apply Curly Leaf Pondweed chemical and only sought to control the Eurasian Milfoil.

Boat Launch Improvement Project: Al Fehrmann shared an overhead slide of the proposed project. Lance Stock from the DNR was at a Lake District meeting in August 2013. He had some basic drawings at that time. The project is currently out to bid. The bids must be received by January 31, 2015. The project is to be started shortly after the ice leaves the lake and the frost is out and is to be completed by July 1, 2015. The launch will be primarily asphalt and will have handicap accessibility. A concrete pad will be poured for possible future port-a-potties and garbage receptacles. A wooden pier will be installed and maintained by the DNR.

There was some concern that the new plans did not accommodate the weed harvester, conveyer, and truck access and placement. Al, Josh and Carol expressed these concerns to Lance in December 2014. Subsequent to that, Lance visited the site with Josh and Carol. Although not ideal, it is believed that there will be enough allowance to accommodate the harvester, conveyer and truck. Lance stated that the plans are "in concrete" and cannot be changed at this time. He said he will make every effort to attend our next meeting. Jim Dixon requested that a "No parking" sign be placed at the north end of the turnaround so that people will have adequate space to maneuver when launching their boats.

During the construction period the boat launch will be closed to the public. There will be a very small window between “ice out” and the start of the project. **It is imperative that property owners install their piers and launch their boats during this time frame.** If they are unable to do so their next opportunity may not be until July 1, 2015. It was proposed that we speak to the contractor once the bid is awarded and try to get as wide a window as possible. It was suggested that the contractor only have to deal with one Lake District representative, Al Fehrmann. Weed harvesting and chemical treatment may also be affected during this time frame. We will update residents as we obtain more information.

There will be a solar light but no electricity at the launch.

The launch will be 100% maintained by the state. The Village will continue to pick up the trash.

The DNR is responsible for posting any rules and regulations, not the Village or Lake District.

Linda also suggested that we post an update on the board near the pavilion/Lions shelter in order to keep all non-lake residents updated. Updates should also be posted at the launch itself.

Carp Removal Update: Because of the work being completed at the boat launch and the closure of same during the Spring of 2015, the Carp Shoot will not be able to take place. Thanks to volunteers for their interest. We will continue this project in 2016.

Dam Repair: Ryan Kloth, an engineer at GRAEF, sent the revised grant application back to Bill Sturtevant at the DNR, who then had a couple of questions about inundation levels of three houses downstream. A survey of flooding for those houses is needed to determine whether the hazard is rated severe or significant. This project is strictly between the Village and the DNR. The Lake District has no involvement. The proposal is ready for approval once the survey is completed.

Appointment of Auditors: Linda Plennes, Deb Bartolerio and Dorothy Chappel will conduct an audit of the Lake District books for 2014.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters: Thanks to Ann Perzell for running this program for the past couple of years. Ann is stepping down at this time and we are looking for a volunteer to replace her. Duties consist of recruiting, record keeping, and reporting out at meetings. Please contact Ann, Carol or Pat if you have any interest.

Open Forum: Bill queried as to our by-laws. Do we have our own or are we operating under Chapter 33. We have basically adopted Chapter 33 for our by-laws along with a few specific clarifications outlined on our cover page.

Carol has spoken to Mike Fischer with the Lions club about clean up after the January 24 Fisheree. Gene Bevil also offered to raise this issue at the January 20 Lions meeting as he will be in attendance.

Next Meeting: Will take place on March 14, at 10 a.m. at the Village Hall.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:26 a.m. made by Jim Dixon and seconded by Bob Wielepski.

