

Lower Spring Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

March 14, 2015 Minutes

Call to order: President Carol Dixon called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Also present were Treasurer Vicki Bradford, Secretary Pat Zimmermann, County Board Representative Blane Poulson and Village of Palmyra Representative Dave Turner. Total attendance was twenty three.

Reading of the Minutes: Pat read the minutes from the January 17, 2015 Lake District Meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki Bradford reported that \$14,646 was transferred from the checking account to the savings account. An honorarium of \$50 was sent to Dorothy Hoogstra upon the passing of her husband who was Lower Spring Lake's volunteer weed cutter for many years. Checks were issued to all Lake District members in reimbursement for overpayment of 2015 dues. Payment of \$1988.18 was issued for truck repairs.

We have 2 CDs coming due in June. Vicki questioned whether we should renew the CDs with Palmyra State Bank or whether we should seek better rates with another bank. Linda Plennes, a retired banker, suggested that we obtain an ad with a favorable rate from another bank and ask Palmyra State Bank if they can match it. That way we can keep our business local and still obtain a favorable rate. This met with the attendees' favor.

Linda Plennes reported out that she and Dorothy Chappell conducted an audit of the Lake District books for 2014. All was in order.

Chemical Treatment Report: Patricia Cicero and Carol attended a meeting at which they examined data from prior years' plant sampling in order to evaluate how best to proceed with 2015 chemical treatment on the lake. As determined by the weather, Patricia will soon conduct the usual pre-treatment plant survey and then the decision will be made as to what chemicals will be used to treat the lake this season. Steve Schneiger will contact Susan Graham about the process for issuing a check for the chemical permit. When chemicals and application dates are determined they will be posted in the local paper as required.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters: Dorothy Chappell has volunteered to run the Clean Boats/Clean Waters program. She will be reaching out for volunteers now that warmer weather is upon us. Patricia Cicero will conduct training the end of April. The boat launch project will likely have an adverse effect on volunteer hours.

Boat Launch Improvement Update: Lance Stock from the DNR was unable to attend the Lake District meeting although he updated Al Fehrmann. Contract negotiations are taking place and the contract has not yet been signed. A pre-construction meeting is taking place. Although nothing is yet set in stone, construction will likely begin around May 1st and continue through June 30th.

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.**

The question was raised about how to launch boats for the weed survey and chemical applications. The possibility of launching boats at the gated area of the beach pavilion was discussed. Other options will also be explored.

Geese Depredation: The DNR gave a presentation on a method of geese depredation that may address some of our longer term needs and concerns. The DNR explained that geese, which have a lifespan of 20 years, return every year to the lake on which they learned to fly in order to lay their eggs. Bill and Beth Alvshire take to their boat and kayak every spring locating nests and oiling eggs. This is a time consuming process and although there are few hatchlings, the adults who were born on our lake years ago continue to return. In fact, depending upon the winter weather the resident geese may not leave the lake at all. Those of you who have been down to the beach are witness to the mess that even a couple of dozen geese can leave in their wake; a pound of “poop” per goose per day. While there are many methods for controlling the population: no feeding ordinances, fencing, allowing grass to grow longer, over water grids, hunting, “scare” devices, and dogs, the method proposed by the DNR is rounding them up and carting them off for food processing. Adults are donated to food pantries. The roundups are done mid June through the first week in July when the geese are molting, cannot fly away and can be more easily captured. Prior to sending them to the food pantry 10% of the adults will be contaminant tested. Lab costs can run up to \$145 per sample, but will likely be around \$50 for us since our numbers will be small. There is also a cost for permits, time and labor, and processing. We can use volunteers to help round up the geese and this will offset some of the cost which is expected to be about \$2700. The majority of the members present voted in favor of the proposal. We will likely only proceed with this removal method for a year or two at which time it is hoped that the adults who return every year to lay their eggs will be eradicated. We have only committed to a year at this time.

Dam Repair: Josh met with the DNR on February 24, 2015. A survey of flooding for those houses downstream from the dam is needed to determine whether the hazard is high or significant. It appears there is a high risk rating which means that the Village has a better likelihood of receiving the grant which is a 50/50 match program. The proposal is ready for approval once the survey is completed. We are hoping that the grant will be approved by the state in 2016. Dave Turner advised that the Village has been working on the groundwork for the grant for 6+ years. Once the grant is received the Village Board will be moving forward to obtain/approve their part of the 50% match. This project is strictly between the Village and the DNR. The Lake District has no involvement.

Village Board Presentation: In order to better advise the Village of Palmyra of the benefits that Lower Spring Lake brings to the entire community a contingency of Lake District members will attend an upcoming Village Board meeting. Some of the things that will be discussed are the chemical treatments to help control weeds; geese depredation measures to allow for a better swimming and beach experience; weed harvesting to increase the boating area; Clean Boats/Clean Waters to protect the lake from unwanted invasive species; Carp Out in 2016 to contribute to improved fishing. It is hoped that by

bringing these benefits to the attention of the Village we will be less likely to lose the \$4k per year budgeted by the Village for use by the Lake District.

Open Forum: Nigel requested that the Lake District members be updated on any and all progress with the Boat Launch Project.

Next Meeting: Will take place on June 20th at 10 a.m. at the Village Hall.

At 11:52 a.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim Dixon and seconded by Bob Wielepski.