

**LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT**  
**Special/1st Quarter Meeting**

*January 20, 2018*

**Call to order:** President Carol Dixon called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Treasurer Vicki Bradford and Secretary Debby Bartolerio were present. Also in attendance were Dave Turner, Village of Palmyra President, Larry Kau, Town of Palmyra President, Julie Powell, Village Board Member, Mike Fischer, Virendre Veinna, and Scott Sweno Lions Club representatives, Patricia Cicero, Jefferson County Water Resources Management Specialist, Travis Motl DNR Fisheries Biologist and Mike Sullivan, Blue Spring Lake District member. In total, 18 Lake District members were present.

**Reading/Review of Minutes:** Debby read the minutes from the August 26, 2017 Lake District Meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

**Treasurer's Report:** Vicki reported that we ended the year with a \$21,155.16 deficit. We will be receiving between \$15,000 and \$16,000 from the herbicide grant that will reduce this amount. We also received a donation from the Village for \$220.00, a tax payment from the "B" property, and interest income above what was expected. The additional expenses were for harvester operations. The treasurer's report was filed.

**August 2017 Aquatic Plant Sampling Results:** Patricia Cicero provided historical information regarding 2010-2015 lake treatments as well as the 2017 pre and post application survey results. She noted that the level of Eurasian Water Milfoil in 2017 exceeded the level present before the chemical treatments commenced and it was not effectively controlled by the chemicals in 2017.

**Aquatic Plant Management Plan:** Patricia is currently working on the plan. Patricia reported the options for controlling the invasive species include chemicals, harvesting and winter water draw downs. She stated that it is unlikely we would be allowed to continue the whole lake chemical treatments that we have been. The DNR looks for sustained control rather than seasonal control.

Patricia will have the plan completed for the next meeting. We need this to obtain our harvester and chemical treatment permits.

**Weed Harvesting Update:** Jim Dixon reported that we harvested approximately 250,000 lbs of weeds this season. The harvester experienced several breakdowns, including one that caused us to cease operations a couple weeks earlier than expected. Joe Zimmerman has agreed to return as our harvester operator.

Jim noted that both the truck and the harvester are in need of additional repairs. We had \$2,000 allocated for truck repairs, but the estimate was over \$3,400. The truck seat needs to be replaced, which Jim Walslager volunteered to install for us. Larry Kau will provide some information regarding a person who he believes would do the repairs for a cost lower than the current estimate.

**Additional Harvester Repair Costs:**

Carol Dixon provided information regarding the estimate to make further repairs to the harvester. Last fall, \$5,782.50 was already spent to keep the machine running. There were a number of issues caused by a lack of routine maintenance, and Inland Lake Harvesters has

given us an estimate of \$8,071.55 to bring the harvester back to good operational order. They will also provide a checklist that will assist us in maintaining the machine going forward.

Jim Dixon made a motion to authorize the additional funds to perform the repairs on the harvester. Bob Wielepski seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously.

**Dam Repair:** Dave Turner reported that the engineering plans have been received and after the DNR approves them, the Village Board will need to review and approve them. This will potentially occur in February or March. After approval the project will be open for bids. A contract will be awarded by June 4, and it is anticipated that the start date will be August 1. The main project will be completed in 2018, with landscaping completed by April 30, 2019. The hazard rating has been lowered from High to Significant.

**Drawdown's Effect on Fishing:** Travis Motl, DNR Fisheries Biologist, reported that the water level must be drawn down slowly and completed by early October. He stated that some fish will get trapped and die, some will move upstream, some will go downstream, and some will stay in the water that remains in the lake.

We can apply for a temporary emergency closure for the winter fishing season and reopen for the spring opener. We can also post signs asking fishermen to catch and release rather than obtain the fishing restrictions. The DNR does not have access to pan fish, but may be able to help restock pike and possibly large mouth bass. Efforts to restock would fall primarily on local groups.

Travis further stated that once a drawdown occurs, there are typically positive results relative to the fish health. Reducing the invasive species of weeds will ultimately help the fish population. To secure permission for a drawdown, the Lake District would work with Patricia Cicero, the DNR, and the Village and Town Boards.

**Open Forum:** Jim Dixon stated that fox and coyote have been seen on the lake. Take caution, especially at night, when leaving small pets outside.

Thank you to Steve Schneiger for coordinating our chemical treatment applications for the past many years. Andrew Sowles has volunteered to take on this responsibility.

**Next Meeting Date:** The next meeting will be March 17.

**Adjournment:** At 11:40, a motion to adjourn was made by Jim Dixon and seconded by Frank Loduha.