

BLUE SPRING LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing
Saturday, August 31, 2019, at 9:00 a.m.
Irving L. Young Community Center
123 Burr Oak Street
Palmyra, WI 53156



Annual Meeting Minutes

9:00 A.M. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Jim Hochman. Jim welcomed everyone to the Annual Meeting and asked new Lake District residents to introduce themselves. New residents Sean and Laura Alwin (Lot 118A) and Neal Pease and Ewa Barczyk (Lot 36A) introduced themselves. Jim introduced the Board: Diane Knauer, Dick Natrop, Greg Bauer, Weenonah Brattset. Blane Poulson was not present. Jim also introduced the staff: Mary Jo McMahon, Jim Olson, Dick Rohloff. Greg Twelmeyer was not present.

In addition, Jim recognized Dick Herbst for his assistance with the Weed Harvester Grant and Jim Hannes for his help with the Website.

9:08 A.M. Introduction of Candidates / Election of Commissioners

Jim introduced Greg Bauer whose 3-year term on the Board was ending. Greg was running for re-election, unopposed. Jim asked everyone to mark their ballots; the ballots were then collected by the Election Committee for counting.

Jim also mentioned that Greg Wolak had resigned from the Board due to health reasons and asked anyone interested in filling this open seat to remain after the meeting to meet with the Board. The Board will make a recommendation and the Chairperson will appoint a District resident to fill this seat.

9:10 A.M. State of the District Report

Jim's remarks about the state of the District began with Boating Safety. He mentioned that there was a boating collision on Blue Spring Lake this summer, the first in many years. Luckily the collision was not significant and there were no injuries, but Jim suggested that perhaps a Boating Safety course be held in the District. By a show of hands, the residents were in favor of having the class. A resident suggested that we post fast boating hours on the launch fee envelopes at the ramp. Mary Jo will take care of this on the next envelope order.

9:15 A.M. Sewer Report

In Greg Twelmeyer's absence, Jim Hochman gave the sewer report. Jim reported that we will be performing maintenance on some of the pumps and authorizing repairs to the sewer lines. We currently have one bid for repairing the sewer lines. Since that bid is approximately \$20,000, we are soliciting additional bids to see if we can get a better price. Usage of the sewer system has been at an expected volume this year, taking into consideration higher seasonal usage. All issues that were identified by the smoke test that was done in September of 2018 have been corrected.

The sewer contract that the District has in place with the Village of Palmyra has expired, but has been extended while a new agreement is negotiated. Jim said that the DNR has told the Village that the entire sewer system needs to be upgraded, at a projected cost of several million dollars. The Village is looking at how to finance the necessary upgrade. We can anticipate that the District's rates will go up consistent with the Village's. Negotiations are progressing slowly, though, so for at least the upcoming year our rates will remain the same.

Dick Herbst asked about the results of the televising that was performed in the Spring of this year. Jim replied that there was some seepage found and that we have budgeted for the repairs. This is the work for which we are seeking additional bids.

Lastly, Jim mentioned that there are still several property owners on the lake who habitually do not pay their sewer bills. The unpaid bills are sent to the Town of Palmyra and are included on the year-end property taxes of the non-payers. The Town reimburses the District when the taxes are paid, but this puts an extra administrative burden on both the Town and the District. The District pays the Village for our sewer service on a quarterly basis, which is why we issue sewer bills to property owners and expect them to be paid each quarter. Please pay your bills on time.

9:19 A.M. Dam Report

Jim Hochman mentioned that he has received comments from several residents about the lake level being lower than usual, and asked Jim Olson to address this concern. Jim Olson said the water level and rules for the dam were set in 1954, but we had been keeping the lake a bit higher over the last few years. The DNR told us that we had to return it to the level set when the dam was created. Dick Herbst commented that we almost lost the dam during a particularly rainy season several years ago, and that it might be risky to keep the lake level higher than the permit allows. Roger Igielski asked if it would be possible to strengthen the dam so that the water level could be raised. Jim Hochman said we would have an engineer take a look at this and have further discussions with the DNR.

9:25 A. M. Independence Day Recap

Jim Hochman said the fireworks and parade were great fun and very successful. He thanked everyone who organized, worked and participated in the activities.

9:27 A. M. Speeding on Lake Roads

Jim Hochman commented on how fast people are driving on the roads around the lake and urged everyone to slow down. A resident asked if we could have speed bumps installed. Dick Herbst mentioned that we did try this in the past, but it caused problems for the snow plows. Another resident mentioned the non-permanent speed bumps that Whitewater is using during their road construction, and asked if these could be used only during the summer. Weenonah Brattset said that she would check into this with the Town of Palmyra and Jefferson County.

A lake resident mentioned that vehicles and construction equipment are being parked on the lake roads. Weenonah encouraged residents to call the Jefferson County Sheriff and report any illegally parked vehicles. The Sheriff's department will send someone to ticket them. Weenonah also mentioned that Town of Palmyra rules apply to the lake roads, and that golf carts are not allowed to be operated on town roads (and therefore on lake roads).

9:38 A.M. 2020 Budget Presentation and Adoption

Greg Bauer began by mentioning that the Lake District has passed our Audit for 2018. He said we are adhering to sound financial practices.

Greg then addressed the Budget for 2010. He pointed out the amount set aside for sewer repairs and upgrades and said that these have increased because of necessary sewer repairs and the ongoing negotiations with the Village. He then mentioned the expenditures for Lake Management, which cover many areas (weed spraying, harvester equipment, salaries, etc.) He commented that we have bought a new weed harvester and addressed the sources of funds used to pay for it. Greg concluded by reviewing the funds we have in our LGIP savings accounts for sewer, dam and lake-related expenses. Greg then asked for a motion from the floor to pass the budget as presented. Bill Goldberg so moved, and Mark Nicholson 2nd. The motion carried without negative vote.

9:45 A.M. Operations Report

Dick Natrop began the Operations Report with a discussion of Lake Management. He gave an overview of the work done to update our Aquatic Plant Management (APM) plan and to apply for a grant from the DNR to help pay for the new weed harvester. The District was awarded a grant which would pay for 35% of the cost of a new harvester. The new harvester has been ordered, manufactured and delivered. We also purchased a new trailer and conveyor. The District is actively working to find buyers for both of the old harvesters, which will further offset the cost of the new one.

Dick mentioned that weed growth was light early in the summer, but much heavier as the weather warmed up. He also mentioned that we had algae on the lake again the year, and said that it is because of all of the rain we had early in the summer. Algae floats on the top of the water and cannot be collected with the harvester. Diane Knauer asked if the new harvester would help eliminate the number of floater weeds left behind after cutting. Dick responded that we can't get them all, but the new harvester will collect 50 to 75% more than the old one.

Dick completed his remarks about Lake Management by saying that we will re-apply for a spraying permit next year. Many residents are concerned with the amount of Asian Milfoil on the east end and in the middle of the small bay. Dick discussed the chemicals approved by the DNR for treating these weeds, and said he hoped our permit would provide for the use of Proselicore, which has gotten good reviews.

Dick then addressed the Compost Site, and said everything is running well. He thanked everyone for abiding by the rules for compost, and said that there have been no violations this year. Cameras are operational at the site.

Dick said that Ash trees damaged by the Emerald Ash Borer have been removed from the Triangle. The Town of Palmyra has received a grant to pay for replacement trees and graciously offered several of them to us. As a result, Mike Vant has planted 5 new trees in the Triangle area near the pump house.

Dick mentioned that the District implemented a Boat Launch fee this year, which has generated over \$2700 so far. Fees collected will be used to keep the ramp in good repair. Dick is monitoring vehicles parked in the lot to ensure they have receipts or launch passes showing in their windshields. We are getting quotes from two companies who can fix the sand and gravel berm that has been created at the end of the ramp by boaters who power launch their boats.

Dick then addressed Citizen Lake Monitoring, and said that resident Paul Cannestra has begun taking Secchi readings. A resident asked whether products used on lawns can affect water quality. Dick reminded everyone that phosphorus is banned in lawn care and cleaning products and asked that everyone ensure they are using approved products. He stated that the water appears to be a little cloudier than usual and he will be investigating the cause. A resident asked when the field at the corner of Hwy H and the Triangle will be converted from farm land to pasture land. Dick responded that he does not know the owner's plans.

Dick introduced Warden Alex Brooks from the DNR to address Goose Hunting and Boating Safety. The goose hunting season starts on September 1 and Dick Rohloff has a permit to shoot geese on and around the lake. The DNR believes this is the most productive way to reduce the number of geese. A resident asked if Dick Rohloff was the only one with a permit. Warden Brooks responded that he is, but others can apply for permits if interested. Anyone seeking a permit to hunt on their property must have approval from neighbors on either side. Diane Knauer has the names of the people who do not want shooting on their property. A resident asked whether goose eggs could be harvested or destroyed in the spring, and Warden Brooks responded that we should contact the DNR Wildlife person with this request.

On the topic of Boater Safety, Warden Brooks reminded everyone that: 1) if only one person is in a boat towing skiers or tubers, the boat must be equipped with a rear view mirror, 2) life jackets are required on paddle boards, 3) any boat 16 feet or longer must have a non-expired fire extinguisher on board. He said that anyone born after January 1, 1989 is required to take a boater safety class. Classes are available online and in person.

He encouraged everyone to check the DNR website for boating rules and regulations, and asked residents to contact him directly to report violations.

10:27 A.M. Website Updates

Diane Knauer presented website usage statistics, which are very good, and thanked everyone for using the site. A resident asked if the website address could be included on all documents that are posted or sent to residents, and Diane and Mary Jo agreed to do this.

10:32 A.M. Ski Club Update

Steve Marcus reported that the ski club now has 30 members. Thanks to wonderful support by the community, the ski jump loan as already been paid off. The club took out another loan to buy an additional boat so that all boats used by the club are owned by the club. This summer, skiers from the Tommy Bartlett show and other professionals have come out to the lake to do clinics for the kids. The club participated in the state waterski competition again this year and placed 7th in their division. They received an award for Most Original Act. Steve invited everyone to attend the last waterski show of the season on Sunday, September 1st at 6:00 PM.

10:37 A.M. Recommendation for July 2020 Fireworks Date

Jim Hochman mentioned that the 4th of July is on Saturday in 2020 and asked for a show of hands to decide if fireworks should be held on Friday or Sunday. The residents in attendance voted for Friday, July 3rd with a backup date of Sunday, July 5th. A resident asked if the time of the parade could be changed to earlier in the day. A hand vote was taken, and the vote was 10:00 – 8 votes; 12:00 – 11 votes; 2:00 – 12 votes. Jim said the Board would discuss this further at the next Board meeting and publish the dates and times as soon as possible.

10:45 A.M. Town Report

Weenonah Brattset encouraged everyone to attend Town of Palmyra Board Meetings and said there are opportunities to get involved in Town activities. Residents can express their views as to whether ATVs should be allowed on Town roads. Jefferson County is reviewing the Town's land use plan and from that comes County zoning policies. This is an opportunity to express your views on where we do and do not want development. Weenonah also mentioned that there are State-level discussions about animal farm operations. Please let Weenonah know if you are interested in ground water contamination and other environmental issues.

Weenonah also said that trains will be allowed to increase speeds to 40 mph while going through town. A resident asked about the results of the advisory vote that was taken regarding borrowing to maintain Town roads, and Weenonah said that the vote was in favor. A resident asked whether ground water contamination could affect our lake aquifer and Weenonah answered that it could.

10:58 A.M. Election Results

Jim Hochman announced that Greg Bauer had been re-elected to the Board. Congratulations Greg!

11:00 A.M. Public Comments

George Michio asked that the Board please let everyone know ASAP regarding the July 4th schedule. Dick Herbst cited Dick Rohloff for his hard work in keeping lake operations running smoothly. A resident asked whether the sewage flow was back to normal in the particular stretch where it was high last year. Jim Hochman and Dick Natrop answered that fixing the outlets identified with the smoke test helped take care of the problem with rainwater entering the system. Jim Hochman added that televising identified areas of the sewer lines that need to be fixed, and that will help as well. A resident offered a nice thank you to the Board and Staff.

11:05 A.M. Adjourn

Jim Hochman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was made by George Michio, 2nd by Steve Marcus. The motion carried without negative vote and the meeting was adjourned.