

BLUE SPRING LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing
Saturday, August 29, 2020, at 9:00 a.m.
Palmyra Village Park Pavilion
Palmyra, WI 53156



REVIEWED, BUT NOT FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE BSLMD BOARD

9:00 A.M.

Call to Order

Jim Hochman welcomed all in attendance and introduced the current and out-going board members. The meeting's agenda and proposed budget had been mailed to all.

9:02 A.M.

Introduction of Candidates

No nominations from the floor.

Candidate: Paul Cannestra Ownership on the lake for 5 Years. Interested in maintaining the lake and making a safer place.

Candidate: Jim Hochman Running for reelection on board 9—10 years. Anything he can do to make this community better is what he will do.

Mary Jo – asked if anyone did not get a ballot please come back and get one.

Presentation from Mike Jones of USDA regarding goose round-up

- Key thing geese like is mowed grass near water.
- Human safety issues – aggressive when nesting, Swimmers Itch, Unsanitary shoreline due to feces.
- Deterrents – barriers at shoreline, noise, chemical repellants have short term effectiveness
- Limit Population Growth – remove eggs from nest, or put corn oil on eggs in nest. Its hard to locate the nests and they may not be on the lake.
- Removal – Goose Round Up.
 - Happens between June 15th to July 4th because young ones cannot yet fly.
 - Need at least 35 birds for removal, catch 90% of all birds, \$3,000 in 2020.
 - This has been done with great success at nearby lakes. One nearby lake roundup was in 2015 and they haven't been back since.
 - Must have written permission to go onto anyone's property for geese roundup.
 - DNR does not allow geese to be relocated. Each site chooses how to accomplish this. Juveniles can be given to wildlife site for food. Can do that with adult birds or they are processed for food pantry.
 - Adult birds must be tested if food pantry is elected. 10% of total roundup or 5 birds at \$100/each.
 - Permit required from DNR.
- Questions from Attendees:
 - Q: How do you quantify the population? Mike: Rely on lake residents to give bird count.
 - Q: Is it too late to do the round up? Mike: Must do when birds cannot fly. Mid-June to First week of July

- Q: Does Mike recommend a double dose. Oil on eggs and then Round Up? Mike: If you are doing a round up, don't do the oil or it isn't as effective. Could do corn oil on eggs in year(s) after round up.
- Best place to round up the geese in on a flat open grass lawn. We will need permission of the people on the peninsulas.
- Jim Hochman asked how people felt about this. Raise your questions now:
 - Jim Hochman – Do you want to go ahead with this?
 - Greg Bauer – there is money in next year's budget for this.
 - Dick Natrop – Whitewater Lake has done a round up and their lake is lake is clear and E.coli counts have gone down.
 - Can you handle the demand for all the sites in that small window (can you fit us in)? Mike said yes, they do multiple lakes in one area in a single day.
- What we need from the residents on the day of the round up is to identify geese and keep them at a site.
- John Yoakley moved that we attempt this goose round up and pay the fee. Peter Sommerhauser Seconded. All in favor. Motion carried with no negative votes.
- Whether goose meat is given for animal food or food pantry will be left to the board's discretion.

State of the District Report – Jim Hochman

Board is made up of a wonderful group of people. They volunteer and give hours of their time to make our community a better place.

Greg Bauer – No money decision is made without Greg's input.

Roger Igielski – supports Dick in operations. An active listener, with thoughtful insights.

Diane Knauer – has been secretary for 6 years. She's retiring after this meeting. She will be missed. Thank her and recognize her hard work, improvements, and innovations.

Dick Natrop – Operations. Oversees weed harvesting, recycling center, the dam. Also our resident historian.

Weenonah Brattset – Town Liaison. Long time, vested resident of Palmyra.

Walt Christensen – County Liaison. Newly appointed. Solid active listener, attends our meetings.

Trapper Dick Rohloff – Spends many hours on the lake. Runs harvester, maintains the recycling center, supervises the young help. Plows the snow and mows the grass.

Jim Olson – Dam Keeper. Carefully watches and maintains the dam, monitors water level. Without our dam we would have lovely homes on a mud flat.

Greg Twelmeyer – Sewer Operations. Monitors and maintains the full system.

Cheryl Peters – Replaces Mary Jo McMahan as Admin Assistant.

Mary Jo McMahan served for several years doing admin support. Her own thoughtful insights at board meetings have been very valuable. Thank you.

There is always room for new people to get involved. You get to know your neighbors and become more invested in the success of this community.

Sewer Contract Negotiation with Village of Palmyra – constant state of renewals for 6 months. The Village very slowly gives us any information. It is possible, it is likely, that a substantial contribution from us will be requested.

The BSL Dam - Our dam is inspected and monitored. Yes, we will be asking DNR to raise lake level. At the moment we are looking for as built plans that have been requested by our engineer so he may give a professional opinion of the integrity of our dam against a higher water level. We will not be asking for the water level to be raised unless we can safely do so.

4th of July – This year’s parade was cancelled. Right decision. Money saved can be used next year. July 3rd has been booked for next year’s fireworks.

Launch Fee Update: Thousands of dollars collected each year. Money will be put to use for improvements at boat launch.

Sewer Fees – With the quarantine we have many more people sheltering at the lake. Sewer flow records show increased usage. With this and with future capital expenses, the board recommends that the quarterly fee goes up from \$150 to \$175. The money will go to pay for increased usage, capital improvements in our system, and the village sewer plant.

Safety – We’ve had occasional minor accidents. It’s a matter of respect from all of you to all of you. Safety means 100 feet from shore. Boaters & Jet Skiers. Safety means staying away from other people on the lake.

Sewer Report – Roger Igielski in Greg Twelmeyer’s absence:

Due to the virus, more people are up here. The flow rates and invoices from the Village are up 7%. Don’t flush wipes. They cause blockages, and with each blockage we have to pay a fee to have someone come and clear it out. Our system is 30 years old. Three things that need to be addressed. (1) Our Computer System runs on Windows 7 which is no longer supported. (2) Four original station panels need to be replaced. (3) The problems found with the Visusewer scans need to be addressed. We have capital resources for all three and these were approved by the board.

Dam Report – Jim Olson

Working on water level problem.

2021 Budget and Adoption – Greg Bauer

- Budget was sent out ahead of time.
- The audit came in on Thursday and will be posted. And its fine.
- 2019 expenses were lower than budget. Budgeted \$225K Actual \$200K Delayed sewer repairs. No spraying.
- We paid for the new harvester from our sewer equipment fund, a grant, and the sale of our old harvesters.
- The small harvester’s proceeds went to pay for the new harvester and were returned to sewer equipment fund for future use.
- YTD results. Appears will we will come in under budget again. Lower weeds, but higher sewer use expense.
- Next Year’s budget.
 - Increasing boat launch receipts.
 - Increased Quarterly Sewer fees are budgeted will add \$21,000 to budget. This will go into the sewer fund for capital improvements and for anticipated additional costs from Village of Palmyra.
 - Lake Management \$10,000 for weed spraying and goose roundup.

Admin: Outside services are higher due to sewer negotiations.

Net is \$50K profit which will go into sewer equipment fund.

Jim Hochman asked if there was a motion to approve the budget. Motion made by Dave Nommensen. Seconded Peter Sommerhauser. All in favor. No negatives. Budget carries.

Operations Report – Dick Natrop

- Weeds started slow due to cold summer. Then in July they exploded.
- Plan for cutting in a different manner this fall. In order to get approval for spraying, we will let some milfoil areas grow, so we can get DNR to inspect. Milfoil has reestablished on east end of the lake.
- Milfoil will grow under your piers. Can't be harvested with weed harvester. Please clear out under your pier. Put them on your pier or on the shoreline atop of a piece cardboard or wood so they can be picked up.
- New harvester uses 30% less fuel. Number of floaters reduced 70-80%.
- Lower Spring Lake capsized their harvester on July 10th. They reached out to us, we decided to help out. Trapper went over on July 30th and worked there until August 5th. Lower spring lake was almost covered over. Very grateful and appreciative. They don't have their harvester back until the middle of September. We are sending Trapper over again to help out once again. We are insured and indemnified. Lower Spring Lake sends their thanks once again.
- Recycling Center – More residents are here doing more clean up, resulting in huge piles of debris. We are keeping up. Burn on Monday mornings. Please don't bring up big stumps – we cannot handle them. At the back of the site you can put branches that could be firewood, or take firewood from that pile.
- Repeating what Jim Hochman said about safety. We are seeing more violations of state law. Death last week on Lake Tichigan. Boats must be 100 feet from pier (not shore). Jet skis 200 feet. Please respect the law and your fellow residents.

Thank to Jim Hochman for his many, many hours spent to keep this community and lake the wonderful place that it is.

We recently lost two longtime residents who contributed much to the lake and our community. We have planted two trees and are erecting plaques in honor of them.

George Venture: Lived on the lake for many years and then to a senior living center. He was on town board for many years. And did wonderful job for us.

Dr. Frank Shuler: Involved with creating our sanitary district from what was a property owners association. He was the Chairman of the Blue Spring Lake Management Board for many years.

We would also like to honor **Larry and Jean Larson:**

They have been the overseers of our Independence Day celebration.

Coordinating all aspects of the event, getting stuff done, and getting other people involved. They have done these things for our community for as long as can be recalled. Standing ovation for Larry and Jean Larson – we are honoring them for years of dedication for our event. A tree and plaque at the Triangle will recognize their contributions as well.

Website Updates – Diane Knauer

- Has been active in looking at website. Up and running with right information.
- Pages most looked at: announcements, calendar and ads.
- In the past 7 days: 255 visits by 218 different visitors. Looked at a total of 614 pages.
- Diane believes the announcements are the most valuable thing on the website. Neighborhood alert. Info about blue spring lake logo history.
- Requests are coming from others to post information. Whitewater Grocery Co-Op. Our social committee. Raising the lake level. (Board wants you all to know that nothing will be done until we can do it safety.) Please do not flush disinfectant wipes.
- Thank you for contacting Diane to put things on the website. That's what it's for...it's your website.

Ski Club Update – Steve Marcus

Thank God for Blue Spring Lake this summer! We had someplace to be and something to do.

- Ski club practices 6 hours during the week, and everyone is here. They have made changes to accommodate social distancing.
- We got a larger barge this summer which is good because it keeps the skiers separated.
- No pyramids, no big ballets lines, no balance acts show we are following social distancing rules.
- We had some Tommy Bartlett skiers this summer because there was no Tommy Bartlett Show.
- Next show, next Sunday 6PM please come out to cheer on these kids.
- Greatly appreciate your support financially and for sending us your kids and your grandkids. We need teenage boys.
- Appreciate your respect for our time on the water for practice.
- Expenses are up with all practice this summer. Gas, and a boat canopy was shredded in the storm a couple weeks ago.

Question: How do you get t-shirts? A: Order form went out early this spring. We could do it again. Just need to have enough interest.

New Owners presentation: Introduce yourself.

David Whitney - Lot 10. Dad owned it. He bought from the estate.

Matt Neilsen – Lot 24A. From north side of Chicago. Looking forward to many years of memories on Blue Spring Lake.

Glen Bermmeister bought house with Matt Neilsen.

Jim and Sharon DeGuzman – Lot 21&22A. Former Bahm residence.

Jane Mortensen - Lot 68A. Genetics on lake since 1949.

Mike Kastern - Lot 40A. Been on Blue Spring about a year now.

July, 2021 – Board Recommendations for Fireworks Date

Saturday July 3rd for fireworks services.

Ski Show same night

Parade same day.

Town Report – Dick Natrop in Weenonah Brattset’s absence:

- Recent fire on Blue Spring Lake Drive brought focus onto obstacles and impediments that are in the right of way. The right of way extends 24 feet 9 inches from center of road. During fire, water truck could not get in due to rocks. The Town has taken action to get the impediments behind the fire signs. Some notices have been sent out. Roads are narrow and parking can cause a problem. Town is considering putting up No Parking/Tow Away signs on all properties. Board input is for more No Parking signs and that we will self-monitor.
- Parking has not been a problem this summer.
- Construction vehicle parking on a temporary basis is allowable.
- Changes on Town board – Peggy Miller has resigned. Board appointed Kathy Olson as intermediate Clerk/Treasurer. Dee will serve as Deputy Clerk. Approved at special board meeting.
- Village of Palmyra has website up thanks to Jim Hannes. Board meeting agendas and minutes will be posted.
- In person voting at Town Hall. Encouraging absentee voting. If you are worried about the US Mail, you can absentee vote and drop your ballot off in the drop box at the Town Hall.
- Fire numbers have become faded. New ones have been ordered and will be replaced.
- Roads in the town:
 - Lowland Rd has been closed a RR tracks. Have to go around to Marsh Rd. RR crossing was closed due to increases in the number and speed of trains. From 25 MPH to 40 MPH. Crossing at Marsh Rd has difficult site lines.
 - Little Prairie Road received grant in excess of \$700,000. Work was scheduled for now but has been postponed until Spring of 2021. Little Prairie Road will be completely rebuilt. Extra funds will be used on other roads, like Marsh Road.
 - Great progress has been made on town of Palmyra roads in the last few years due to the work of Eddie Miller.

Boating Certificates and Social Committee – Roger Igielski

- Boating Safety Issue – last year we tried to encourage people to take boater safety course on line. About 3 1/2 to 4 hours. Cost \$35.00. Only one person took the course (Roger).
- Growing concern about safety on our lake with larger and faster boats. We are looking for respectfulness. Be aware of other’s personal property. Police your kids, your teenagers, your guests.
- You should be 100 feet from other boats.
- A resident has contacted the DNR to come out and observe our lake more often. More frequent supervision by DNR could result in buoys being placed 100 feet from shore all around the lake. The buoys would look bad, make skiing difficult, and make weed harvesting difficult.
- The Boating Rules and Regulations are on our website.

Comments on boater safety:

Dick Schauer – there are more and more boats every weekend. The visitors that are causing problems. We need to enforce the rules on outsiders coming to our lake. How do we enforce our rules on the lake?

Eileen Oelke – Neighbor asked to put reflectors or iridescent stripes on the buoys for visibility at night. Also mentioned that kayaks at night don't have lights on them.

Resident - Eagle Spring Lake has a speed limit of 50 miles per hour on weekends and holidays.

Steve Marcus – Sail boats have the right of way. Most people don't realize this.

Social Committee.

- Social Committee began this year. We have golf clubs and book clubs on the lake. Most people don't know about these. They will be on the website so we can be meeting one another. Tonight, is another tie up. 5PM, come and meet some of your neighbors. Meet more people so you know who are waving at.

Election Results Announced – Jim Hochman

You have elected Paul Cannestra and me to stay on board. Each got 39 votes.

There were no write ins.

Public Comments

James Gallagher - Is there anything going on at the old school house? It's become unsightly. A: It is privately owned. We have asked them. They have a right to keep it that way. If you see them encourage them to finish their project.

John Yoakley – Is there anything we can do anything on Highway H? For those of us who walk around the lake it's becoming more and more dangerous. A: This is a town issue. Enforcement is difficult – because of our location. Budget restrictions and constrictions limit how much county law enforcement can come. The Village Police do not have jurisdiction.

I'm a physical education teacher. The safety issue that bothers her is on roads around the lake. Could we enlarge the shoulders? Signage for reminding people to slow down (Steve Marcus) Speed bumps have been looked into but they cause problems for the snowplows.

Walt Christensen (arriving from other meeting) Introduction: On Jefferson County Board for 12 years and Lake Koshkonong Board 7-8 years. His role here is listed on the Jefferson County website. Today he came for the board meeting that follows the Annual Meeting.

Mr. Dick Schauer walks around the lake twice per day. Highway H is the problem. Bad sight lines due to arborvitae. Perhaps a speed recognition sign. Jim Hochman suggested that Dick Schauer contact Weenonah Brattset to get something done.

Eileen Oelke commented on our weed harvester. Go look at lower spring lake for what our lake would look like without the harvester. We should take care of our harvester. Jim Hochman spoke about conversation between Dick Natrop and himself about why we are going the second time. Doing our best to balance the circumstances. We might need some good will from the Village when it comes times to finalize the new sewer contract. We are indemnified – if anything happens, we are covered legally and financially.

Resident: Can we get larger garbage containers at the boat launch? Resident said he'd pick them up to have them emptied. Dick Natrop will look into it.

Steve Marcus – Are we getting rid of the pebble pile at the bottom of the launch. A: We are working on this. Perhaps an additional cement plate.

11:05AM

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn from: Peter Sommerhauser. All in favor.