

LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Minutes April 17, 2021

The meeting was called to order by L. Plennes at 10:03.

MINUTES

Minutes were approved as written. Motion to approve by A. Fehrmann and second' by D. Henrichon.

TREASURES REPORT

At the August 15, 2020 meeting D. Bartolerio was elected Treasurer by a vote of 15 ballots for and 1 ballot incomplete. D. Bartolerio accepted the position.

Budget: D. Bartolerio noted that we have a 2021 budget of \$19,995 of which we have currently used \$1,315.21. She noted we are on target this year as opposed to the many unexpected expenses incurred last year.

Dam Payment: Dam payment was satisfied for 2021. Those that have paid in full will no longer receive a notice. Anyone that has chosen to pay yearly will receive a notice that includes a due date. Please note, payment **must** be received by treasurer by due date – No exceptions will be made. If not received by due date, payment will be added to your tax bill with interest.

Audit: Banking audit was completed by A. Sowles and J. Schultz with no anomalies found. Thank you to both for volunteering for this task.

CHEMICAL TREATMENT

A. Fehrmann presented results of the discussions he had with S. Graham (DNR) regarding whole lake chemical treatment. Due to the cost (about \$25,000), negative effect on native plants in the water and downstream, as well as the treatment only lasting 1-2 years-not considered a long-term solution, whole lake treatment would no longer be permitted. It was stated that a tech team could review the whole lake treatment plan – shoreline and specific properties would still be considered. C. Dixon will prepare and send in the application form. Timing and temperature of water is critical for application as well as allowing the chemicals to “settle” before waster is churned. A short discussion on “Aqua Thrusters” took place. J. Dixon stated they installed one on their pier last summer and has proved to be beneficial in keeping weeds and sediment from settling around their pier. Costs range from \$1,000 - \$5,000 – some may require permits.

WEED HARVESTING CURRENT AND FUTURE PLANS

Harvesting last summer produced 163 machine loads, 61 truckloads and 258,640 pounds of weeds despite our shortened season. A big shout out to Blue Spring Lake for helping out in our time of need. The harvester has been completely rebuilt and will hopefully hit the water in the next week or two. The new pier will be installed shortly.

The accident report revealed wind, weed placement and primary reason was overload but was deemed an accident – NO FAULT and thankfully no injuries. Total cost of accident was approximately \$43,400.00 of which \$42,400.00 was paid by insurance. \$1,000.00 was our deductible. Operator training will be required prior to operating the harvester. Both previous cutters are interested in working this coming summer. Wind and weather will be considered prior to harvesting. S. Graham has been working with L. Plennes on a harvesting cutting map. The lake has been divided into five sections and will rotate cutting on an as needed basis. Committee agreed to cut six days a week even if it exceeded the budget. Again, wind and weather to be considered. Question asked if volunteer drivers could possibly drive the truck to dumping site to allow cutters to continue harvesting? K. Weiss to check with the village and get back to L. Plennes. Several committee members volunteered to help out.

GEESE DEPRIVATION REPORT

L. Plennes noted that 5 nests and 28 eggs were removed. B. & B. Alveshire will go out again and a 3rd time if needed. A. Fehrmann and P. Zimmerman volunteered to help in efforts to remove the geese from our lake in the future. Thanks to the Alveshire's for their many, many years of volunteering.

CLEAN BOATS/CLEAN WATER

We would like to participate in the Clean Boats/Clean Water program this year. This involves inspecting boats at the boat launch and educating fisherman/women and boaters about the importance of inspecting their own boats, disposing of unused bait and generally preventing invasive species from traveling from one lake to another. If you would be willing to volunteer a few hours over the course of the season, please contact Pat Zimmerman at 414-255-4246 for more information.

We are also interested in applying for a grant so that this can be a part time paid position in 2022. We may be able to split this grant with Blue Spring Lake and are contacting them regarding their interest. A maximum of \$4000 state-cost share is available per boat landing or pair of landings, up to 75% of the total cost. The remaining 25% of the total project costs must be from the grantee in the form of cash, donated labor or services, or "in-kind" items. Applications are due November 1, but new CBCW applicants must notify the DNR staff by September 2nd. Inspectors conduct a minimum of 200 annual hours of watercraft inspection per boat landing or at two landings during weekends, holidays, fishing tournaments, or other high-traffic times occurring from May 1 to October 30.

VACANCIES

Chemical treatment volunteers: J. & C. Dixon

Canvasser volunteers: P. Zimmerman & S. Fehrmann

Thank you to all for volunteering your time.

WISCONSIN BOATING LAWS

L. Plennes noted there were no new boating laws issued for 2021 and encouraged everyone to review the WI boating regulations. She mentioned that "Conservation Enforcers" will now be observing, watching and reporting violators on our lake. She encouraged everyone to call the local police if you see any violators.

DEBIT CARD ISSUED

Committee was in agreement to issue a debit card to L. Plennes. This will be used for Lake District expenses rather than having to use her personal account.

DRAWDOWN

A lengthy discussion took place regarding a drawdown at the end of 2021. P. Cicero shared aquatic plant data from the last drawdown. She stated weather conditions do impact the drawdown effectiveness but did note drawdowns to be a beneficial tool. Committee members mentioned it was nice to see all the ice-fishermen back on the lake this year. A motion to approve a drawdown in 2021 was made by D. Henrichon and second' by A. Fehrmann. Vote to apply for drawdown: 12 votes for 0 against. C. Dixon will complete the application for permit for drawdown. ENCOURAGED TO HOPE FOR A COLD WINTER! L. Plennes will speak to the Village board to request the drawdown as well as closing the lake to ice fishing and all motorized vehicles for the winter.

OPEN DISCUSSION

P. Cicero mentioned the formation of a Jefferson County Farmers-Producer led council which implements practices, promotes and pays for good conservation. She stated some groups have formed strong partnerships with lake groups. May be beneficial to our lake to partner with them.

NEXT MEETING

Temporarily set for July 24, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 12:13