

Q1 2023
LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT MEETING
Village Hall
February 4, 2023

Board Members Present: Carol Dixon, Chairperson, Jody Deichl, Secretary, Debby Bartolerio, Treasurer, John Kannard, County Board Representative, Kathy Weiss, Village of Palmyra Representative.

Attendees: J. Dixon, S. Deichl, J. Tucker, K. Korf, L. Plennes, P. Walker, S. Reynertson, N. Yarwood, M. Wieder, Water Resource Management Specialist A. Watkinson, DNR Representative

The meeting was called to order by C. Dixon at 10:00.

MINUTES - Distributed, approved as written.

A warm welcome to M & K. Korf as they have recently purchased property on Lower Spring Lake.

TREASURER'S REPORT – D. Bartolerio noted that we had a balance of \$1,407.15 left over from 2022's budget. Special assessments from the town and village have been taken care of. We have received a generous donation from both the village \$3,000 and town \$2,000 to be used for lake expenses. A formal thank you will be written and sent. The checking account balance is currently at \$27,038.54.

WEED HARVESTING REPORT – J. Dixon stated that J. Molosky will be the Harvesting Coordinator for the upcoming season. Hoses on the harvester were looked at by Aquarius Systems and they did not feel they needed replacement. A leaking hydraulic motor on the cutter bar will need replacing along with a thermostat and new floor mats on the truck. This will all be done before Spring. The approximate cost is \$650. Discussion took place on winterization of both the truck and harvester. At an upcoming meeting, maintenance responsibilities for both the harvester and truck will be formalized as to which will be fulfilled by the lake district and which by the DPW.

A "SHOUT OUT" was given to J. Molesky and M. Temple for their help with pier removal, to A. Fehrmann for the time-consuming job of power-washing the harvester, and also to S. Halbrucker who consistently went to great lengths to assist with any problems that were encountered. WE APPRECIATE YOU!

BEAVER TRAPPING

J. Dixon reported that Ezra Pett will attempt to trap the beavers. He would need to access private property to do this. More to come as we receive further communications from him.

WATER LEVEL UPDATE

C. Dixon stated on Oct. 10, 2022, 5 village board members and S. Halbrucker looked at the low water level and muck along the shoreline of Zinnia Ave. Discussion of a draw-down, limited funds, and the potential for a water level change order took place. On Nov. 14th, S. Halbrucker, U. Monday, DNR State Dam Safety Engineer, his supervisor T. Schroeder, and W. Disser, Jefferson Co. Engineer, met to discuss the issues that led to the lower water level and the next steps in pursuing a water level change:

- Capability of dam to withstand 4" water level raise – Confirmed by J. De Young from MSA on 1/31/2023 that dam could accommodate 4" raise. U. Monday is concerned about the west bank and will require an analysis with actual calculations from MSA.
- Effect on Hwy 59 dam – to be analyzed.
- Effect on Hwy 59 embankment - DOT will get back to C. Dixon shortly.
- Effect on wetlands would need to be checked.
- Initial petitions are prepared and will be submitted to U. Monday. One petition requests a permanent 4" water level raise and the other a seasonal 4" increase from May-October. Ultimately, all lake district members must unanimously approve.
- Village of Palmyra, DNR, Town of Palmyra must also agree.
- If approved, a public notice would be posted, and if needed, a public hearing held.

We appreciate the time and efforts the board members and S. Halbrucker have taken to address the issue of restoring the water to its past level. More to come as discussions take place.

2020 AQUATIC PLANT SAMPLING RESULTS – M. Wieder provided the results of the 2022 plant survey for Lower Spring Lake. The plant community is becoming more diverse and is beginning to include some native species that have not been encountered in recent years. There was a small decrease in EWM (Eurasian watermilfoil) from 2021 – 2022, coontail was down slightly, while native plants Illinois pondweed and common water weed (elodea) doubled or tripled.

2023-2027 -AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN – M. Wieder stated that the plant management plan should be updated every 5 years and is needed to apply for permits such as harvesting and chemical treatment. Things to consider: Have previous goals been attained? Have goals changed or need to be adjusted? Most of the text has been updated. Maps and graphs need to be updated with current data as well. Recommendations are similar, but adjustments have been suggested, and more input is needed from stakeholders. Recommendations include prioritizing cutting areas on the harvesting map and purchasing a GPS/depth finder device. Upsetting the lakebed could result in losing the harvester permit because nutrients in the sediment are dispersed and promote weed growth.

DRAWDOWN – A. Watkinson would not give a recommendation for or against a drawdown as there is not enough data about results for lakes similar to ours. Although the electrofishing comparisons in our lake showed a positive trend, the catch rate is limited. Pike spawning may be impacted, but water quality may be improved. M. Wieder explained that drawdowns are typically held on a 3-5 year cycle with the purpose of increasing the quality of the lake's habitat. She recommended we pursue a second one since even the mild winter drawdown in '19-'20 had a positive impact on both the control of Eurasian watermilfoil and the health of the native plant community. It was decided that a request would be made to the Village Board for a drawdown during the winter of '23-'24.

OPEN FORUM – If anyone has a good picture of the lake, please email it to L. Mueller to post on the Village website.

NEXT MEETING – Saturday, March 25, 2023 at 10:00AM at the Village Hall.

ADJOURN – Motion to adjourn by D. Bartolerio and seconded by J. Kannard at 12:07.