

LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 25, 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:** In addition to board members, 18 Lake District members and DNR Water Resources Management Specialist Arthur Watkinson.

The meeting was called to order by C. Dixon at 10:03. All were thanked for venturing out on such a blustery day.

**MINUTES** – Minutes from the February 4<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved with the following amendments: M. Uhlman’s name has been changed to M. *Wieder* under Aquatic Plant Management Plan and W. Disser’s correct title is *DNR Water Management Engineer* under Water Level Update section. A. Watkinson’s name will be added under the Aquatic Plant Management Plan: “Recommendations by A. *Watkinson* include prioritizing cutting areas on the harvesting map and purchasing a GPS/depth finder device.”

**TREASURERS REPORT** – D. Bartolerio reported that the budget looks good. We have received a donation of \$2,000 from the Town and \$3,000 from the Village. All tax checks have been received. Upcoming expenses will be the chemical application permit fee of \$170 and the estimated chemical treatment cost of \$5100. Already purchased was the \$500 Garmin sonar/GPS unit to provide accurate depth reading while harvesting in shallow areas.

**WEED HARVESTING REPORT** – J. Molosky noted that peppermint spray has been applied to the interior of the truck, and he was happy to report no sign of any mouse infestation. New floor mats and the sonar/GPS device have been purchased. On Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>, a meeting with the Public Works Committee was held to establish a maintenance/responsibility schedule for the harvester and truck. All parties agreed on the proposed schedule. Thanks to Joe for all his work prior to the cutting season!

**CHEMICAL TREATMENT REPORT** – K. Ksobiech reported that the chemical application has been sent in and approved. Treatment will be in May and property owners will be emailed 2-3 days prior to chemical application. Signage will be placed along affected areas, and we ask that you avoid activity 24 hrs. **BEFORE** and **AFTER** application. Tribune will be applied to the following areas: Beach (paid for by Village), Shore Drive, and Doctors’ Point shorelines. Finger bay, Willow Street and Zinnia Avenue shorelines will receive Weedar 64 & Aquathol K. The cost of the treatment is projected to be \$5,089.25 and the permit fee is \$170. A shout out to Kristi and Arthur for their efforts in getting this approved.

**WATER LEVEL UPDATE** – C. Dixon provided an update on the potential Lake Water Level change order. As stated in the February minutes, many lake district members have experienced low water levels - boats slipping underneath piers, thick muck to where they are unable to launch their boat, etc. Many would like to see the water level restored to the height it was previously. A preliminary meeting was held with DNR and DPW representatives to discuss the water level and the process for a change order. Many steps, calculations, and analyses would need to take place before a change order could happen. To initiate the process, two petitions were circulated at the meeting – one for a seasonal (May –

October) 4" water level adjustment and another for a permanent 4" water level adjustment. One important condition is that ultimately all lake district members must unanimously approve before the water level order can be changed. Before incurring any significant cost, it was suggested that the lake district members be surveyed to see if all property owners are on board with the water level adjustment.

**2023-2028 AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN** – Due to inclement weather M. Wieder was unable to attend. The plan was sent out prior to the meeting for review. A comprehensive 5-Year plan is a prerequisite to receiving a harvester permit and for chemical application permits as well. A. Watkinson noted that not all lake districts are as fortunate to have the help and support of Jefferson County to develop their plans. We certainly appreciate all the efforts and dedication put into our Aquatic Plant Management Plan. THANK YOU, MARISA! With no questions, a motion was made by J. Tucker and seconded by N. Yarwood to approve the 2023–2028 Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Vote was unanimous to approve.

**2023-2024 WINTER DRAWDOWN** – Discussion took place on the pros and cons of a drawdown for the 23-24 winter season. A. Watkinson pointed out that some fish could be negatively affected and that the Fisheree and other winter activities could not take place that year. Everyone agreed that we love seeing the lake enjoyed by all year-round. However, the potential to decrease invasive species, to increase the quality of the lake's habitat, and to compact the sediment are a few of the benefits that can be gained by a no-cost drawdown. Property owners would also have an affordable opportunity to dredge and get rid of muck. At the February meeting, M. Wieder recommended we pursue a second drawdown as even the mild winter in '19-'20 had a positive impact on both the control of Eurasian watermilfoil and the health of the native plant community. A motion by D. Bartolerio and seconded by J. Tucker to petition for a drawdown for '23-24 was made. Vote was 15 in favor, 3 not in favor, and 2 abstaining. It was proposed that a pros and cons fact sheet be put together for members to reference.

**BEAVER TRAPPING UPDATE** – No new updates. Ezra Pett was contacted but was out of town. J. Omdoll noted that there is beaver activity, but he has not seen a dam per se. There is a downed tree blocking the waterway that he will try to get out of the water.

**OPEN FORUM** – E. Ksobiech stated that he will check with the DNR and the previous geese depredation gurus (Bill and Beth) on the proper way to eradicate the geese from Lower Spring Lake.

**NEXT MEETING DATE** – Saturday, June 3, 2023 – 10:00.

**ADJOURN** – Motion to adjourn by D. Bartolerio and seconded by J. Tucker. Meeting adjourned at 11:15.