

LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Annual Meeting

August 16, 2025 10am

Board Members Present: Carol Dixon, Chairperson; Jody Deichl, Secretary; Deb Bartolerio, Treasurer; John Kannard, County Board Representative

Guests: S. Halbrucker, Superintendent of Public Works
D. Rohloff, Harvester Operator at Blue Spring Lake

Attendees: 14 attendees in addition to board members.

MINUTES – The minutes from the June 21st meeting were read by J. Deichl and approved as written.

TREASURERS REPORT – D. Bartolerio compared the 2024 budget to the current 2025 budget. Currently, the truck repairs/supplies is the only line item over budget and only by \$312.00. She noted the chemical treatment cost was under budget by almost \$1,700.00. All other line items remain at budget or slightly under. She did mention that there are outstanding bills, but for the most part the current budget is in good shape. Report filed.

WEED HARVESTING UPDATE – S. Schneiger and S. Halbrucker presented a detailed report of the weed harvesting operation. Following the late start and loss of first harvester operator, the weed harvesting operation is now in full swing. Due to the extreme heat the operator is only cutting about 6 hours a day, but it is going well. Approximately 99 loads of weeds have been extracted and dumped. Belting needed to be replaced on the shore conveyor due to weeds left on it overnight. A hydraulic leak on the harvester has been identified. 12 gallons of hydraulic fluid have been used already this season. Repairs will be addressed when the harvester is pulled from the water in the fall.

WINTER DRAWDOWN UPDATE – D. Wilbur stated that the Drawdown Plan is nearly complete and awaiting sign off by the DNR. He noted all indications point to a drawdown NOT occurring this winter. He noted that the level of milfoil has decreased from 15.7% last year to 10.5% this summer. He did note an increase in the native plant population along with coontail and elodea being very prevalent, causing navigation issues.

VOTE FOR CHAIRPERSON – C. Dixon's term as chairperson will expire following the 2025 annual meeting. Patricia Zimmerman was nominated to fulfill this role. Ballots were distributed, tallied, and verified. Patricia Zimmerman was unanimously voted (16 votes) as the new Chairperson for the Lower Spring Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. She will serve a three-year term. Congratulations and thank you, Pat!

DISCUSSION/CONTINGENCY VOTE TO PURCHASE NEW HARVESTER & TRAILER FOR 2027

C. Dixon stated that the current harvester and trailer are 31 years old. The harvester was refurbished in 2009 and then several parts were replaced in 2020 when the machine capsized. We've spent more than \$14,000 on repairs in the past 4 years with additional repairs needed once the machine is pulled from the water this fall. We've lost over 10 cutting days this summer due to multiple repairs and down time. Two proposals – one from Inland and another from Aquarius were distributed for review. Both machines are equipped with a 10ft. cutting bar and nearly double the weed storage capacity. Each machine would take a year to build. The DNR is offering a 50/50 matching grant. The best chance of being selected for this grant would be to complete and submit the application

in September 2025 for possible April 2026 approval. C. Dixon is proposing we raise the additional funds through tax deductible donations, the sale of our current harvester (approximate value \$15,000), and money from savings. A motion was made by S. Deichl and seconded by D. Wilbur to apply for the 50/50 DNR grant. Vote was unanimously in favor. C. Dixon offered to spearhead the fundraising endeavor and invited others to join her.

D. Rohloff, veteran harvester operator for Blue Spring Lake, has cut with both machines. He was asked to attend the meeting to discuss their pros and cons. He noted that he currently operates the Inland (5 years old) harvester and has spent only about 1.5 total hours of maintenance on the machine. He stated that it is quieter to operate, has less electrical issues than the Aquarius machine, and has fewer “floaters” left behind. In his opinion, the Inland machine is twice the machine than the Aquarius. The Aquarius harvester is also more expensive. He noted that the service from Inland is outstanding. Thank you to D. Rohloff for his time and valuable input.

After further discussion, a motion was made by E. Ksobiech and seconded by S. Deichl to purchase the Inland Harvester for delivery in 2027 contingent upon obtaining financing.

Vote was unanimous to purchase the Inland Harvester contingent upon financing. P. Walker offered to help broker the used harvester when the time comes.

2026 PROPOSED BUDGET – The proposed 2026 budget was previously email/mailed to members for review. D. Bartolerio noted that the herbicide treatment expense was reduced by \$1,250, the harvester supply/repair remained the same as previous budget, and labor cost remained the same as well. She noted that she also included the gas cost of \$3,000 for the next budget, but this cost has not been passed on to us for the last couple years. She also decreased the insurance allotment as well as the administrative expense. The new budget was decreased by \$1,050. She noted that she was unsure whether the Village or the Town would contribute in the future. D. Wilbur offered to attend a Town meeting to seek additional monetary support. A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by J. Dixon and seconded by S. Deichl. Vote was unanimous to approve 2026 budget.

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITORS – B. Nieders and C. Walker were nominated to audit books for 2025. D. Bartolerio will contact them and explain the duties.

OPEN FORUM – C. Hutchinson, Water Resource Management Specialist, sent a report on the health of the lake. Compared to other lakes, Lower Spring is within the average means of water clarity, total phosphorous, and chlorophyll-a. Since 2005, none of these parameters have increased or decreased. Citizen data collection helps in seeing trends and in making management decisions. Thank you to G. Smith for data collecting so many years.

A huge “thank you” to Carol Dixon for her time, efforts and unwavering dedication to the Lower Spring Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District. You have made a difference!

NEXT MEETING – TBD

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn was made by D. Bartolerio and seconded by J Kannard. Meeting adjourned at 11:04.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Deichl