

Minutes from January 18, 2014 Lake District Meeting

Meeting called to Order: New President, Carol Dixon, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Also present were Treasurer Vicki Bradford, Secretary Pat Zimmermann, County Supervisor Sarah Bregant, Village President Dave Turner, Town Chairman Larry Kau, and Patricia Cicero and Susan Graham.

Introductions: New President and Secretary introduced themselves. Carol Dixon also introduced the members of the board in general. Also introduced were new lake district members: Jeff and Debbie Bartolerio, Mike Miljan and Kerry Johnson, Gene and Barb Bevil.

Reading of Minutes: Pat read the minutes from the August 17 2013 meeting. Correction was noted as to the grant amount applied for (\$12,507.30 rather than \$12,434.20). Minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki Bradford, treasurer reviewed the transactions in the checkbook. \$28,186.72 is the balance in the checking account. This is a significant amount and will increase due to new taxes coming in. Vicki would like to transfer the entire \$28,186.72 to our passbook savings account at this time. Bill Alvshire made the motion to transfer the money to the savings account at this time and Bob Wielepski seconded. Those present approved.

Vote on Lake District Banking Institution: Palmyra State Bank needed a witnessed form naming them as our Bank of record. The membership voted to do so and the form was signed by Vicki and witnessed by Debra Bartholomew.

Chemical Permit Grant Status: Steve Schneiger delivered the chemical permit report. Steve will continue as the chemical permit manager and will obtain the permit by the end of January 2014. There was a discussion about whether we will use the same chemicals as in 2013.

Aquatic Plants and Management Update: Patricia Cicero spoke about the importance of plants to the health of the lake. The goal is to protect native plants and reduce invasive species. Two invasive species in our lake are Eurasian milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. In 2012 we administered 2 different chemicals. In 2013 only 1. The chemical with which the lake was treated in May 2013 treats both plants. 61 acres were treated but this is meant as a whole lake treatment. Steve Schneiger, Greg Smith and Ed Shields take water samples on a regular basis which are analyzed to track the chemical dispersal over time. Patricia does pre and post treatment surveys so we know where the species are located. Post has typically shown a reduction in species.

Steve expressed concern over the present limited ability to access the river. The milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed proliferation is impeding our ability to do that. We need to treat the large patch of milfoil in the middle of the lake more effectively so that it won't spread to the rest of the lake. Lily pads in the shallow areas are also a problem but the chemicals do not target the lily pads. A different chemical would need to be used later in the season.

Only 50 lakes in the state had whole lake treatments last year, Lower Spring Lake being one of them. The DNR is learning from our lake as an experiment. Lots of things can affect the chemicals including sunlight. Jim Dixon offered that it might be better to use a combination of chemicals. Carol Dixon would

like to participate in a conference call with John Skogerboe on the chemical treatment of the lake. We would like to be able to eradicate all invasive weeds, but this is not possible. When milfoil breaks apart it can grow anew wherever it settles. Both Upper Spring Lake and the Scuppernong River carry invasive species and unless we can eradicate the weeds in each of those water bodies there is no way to eliminate them in Lower Spring Lake. A realistic goal is to control the weeds.

Lake Clean Up Report: Bill Alveshire reported on 2014 Lake Clean Up. He and Beth will put their boats in the water in March or April and see how bad the debris is. The goal is to do clean up in late April. Several people have already volunteered their help. This will include both the lake and the river. The river cleanup is mainly removing trees and branches that are impeding navigation. It was mentioned that there is a large beaver dam in the river. The DNR takes care of this. The lake cleanup is mainly gathering trash. Josh Gajewski was asked whether he could lower the lake 4-6 inches to better access the trash. Josh advised that it would be easier to clean the shoreline if the lake level was not drawn down.

Dam Repair Overview: Josh gave an overview of the dams. Public Works for the Village is charged with monitoring the lake level. The Hwy 59 dam is 50-60 years old. There is a grant given through the DNR for dam removal and construction and this is something that we are interested in pursuing. To pursue this grant the Village needs to do a dam failure analysis. This involves hiring an engineer and submitting the analysis report to the DNR. The Village hired the engineer back in 2011 and the analysis was completed and submitted. However, the DNR did not approve the analysis. The engineering company thus needed to edit/complete and resubmit the analysis. Until the dam failure analysis is resubmitted and receives final approval from the DNR the Village cannot move forward with seeking the grant. The grant may fund 50% of the dam construction costs, up to \$400,000 and 25% up to \$800,000. So a \$1.25M cost could receive funding of up to \$400,000. The concrete is deteriorating because of freeze/thaw cycles. When the dam on Upper Spring Lake broke and the lake washed out into Lower Spring Lake the dam was further taxed. Josh has been prodding the engineering firm to complete the analysis.

Josh has been working on an emergency action plan in case the dam should break. This includes a plan of action for the Village as well as the district relative to helping downstream owners and residents. There is a contact sheet for them if there is a failure or washout. Josh is staying involved in the entire process.

There is a concern by all that the Village is missing out on grant money and that the dam needs to be repaired/replaced sooner rather than later. Grants are given on a 2 year cycle. It appears that the Village has missed out on the grant for 2014 so the next year they could qualify for would be 2016. They need to push the engineering firm to properly complete the analysis.

When asked how our Lake District could show support for the Village's grant request Josh suggested that we could call local legislators to urge them to continue to provide grant funding. We could also write a letter of support for the grant.

Proposal for Warning Signage: There is concern about submerged trees that could damage passing boats. Bill volunteered to look into this. We discussed putting more buoys near the small island near the

mouth of the bay. Water in this area is very shallow (6 inches or even less). There is a protocol to be followed with the DNR and Steve Schneiger will follow up on this.

Open Forum: No Commentary

Next Meeting Date: The next Lake District meeting will be April 5th at 10 a.m.

Jim Dixon moved to adjourn. Bob seconded.

Submitted: March 17, 2014 by Secretary Pat Zimmermann