

Lower Spring Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

August 29, 2015 Minutes

Call to order: President Carol Dixon called the meeting to order at 11:02 a.m. Treasurer Vicki Bradford and Secretary Pat Zimmermann were also present. In total, 21 Lake District members were in attendance in addition to Patricia Cicero.

Reading of the Minutes: Pat read the minutes from the June 20, 2015 Lake District Meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki Bradford reported that the Lake District's checking account balance is \$10,289.25. 2015 Year End is 1/31/16. The budget shows a \$9105 deficit, however that is prior to receipt of \$13,053 due from the grant. When we receive that money the budget will show that we are in the black.

Vicki will be submitting volunteer hours by the end of September. If you have any volunteer hours to turn in (such as for Clean Boats/Clean Waters) please do so.

The 2016 budget is almost identical to the 2015 budget. The budget has basically been the same for the past 4 years. It has worked well for us. The motion to approve the budget was made and seconded.

Chemical Treatment Report: Patricia Cicero reported on the recent weed tracking activity. The Village of Palmyra helped Patricia to launch a boat in early August while the public boat launch was closed. Patricia's recent foray determined the concentration of native plants as well as Eurasian Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed. Patricia was in a larger boat than what she has used in the past. Thus she could not reach as many points in the lake as access to the shallower areas was limited. She was able to reach 188 points. She noted a significant decline in native plants and has some concern about that. The last year of our grant is 2016. The hope has always been to keep the invasive species to 10% of the lake or less and this has been achieved. It is unknown whether we can obtain future grants. The DNR would have to recommend us for a grant. Patricia is willing to stay on and help us even if we don't qualify for an additional grant.

Boat Launch Construction Report: Al Fehrmann reported that the boat launch is basically completed. New, smaller stones were added to the rip-rap. This should facilitate boat launching without fear of damaging the boats on the rip rap. Peter Walker opined that the boat launch is narrow and crooked and difficult to use. John Olson from the DNR had inspected the ramp and agreed that the ramp was crooked but did not believe that it presented an issue and therefore signed off on it. Peter inquired as to whether there was a performance clause in the contract between the DNR and the contractor. He also made a motion to send a formal letter of complaint to the DNR about the quality of the ramp and offered to write this letter. Dave Henrichon seconded. There were none opposed.

Harvester Operation Update: Al Fehrmann found a farmer, Rick Martin, who agreed to take the lake's harvested weeds this year and next.

Josh Gajewski endeavored to do a dry run launch of the harvester, therefore he launched the harvester and removed it a couple of days later. During the day or two in the water the finger bay was harvested as well as additional specific weedy spots in the lake. Overall there was not much weed activity with the exception of the finger bay. A half day of harvesting yielded one load.

Because of the configuration of the new boat launch, it took 3 ½ hours to extricate the harvester from the lake. We appreciate Josh's efforts and will send a letter of thanks.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters: Because of the boat launch construction only 32 hours have been recorded this year and this is courtesy of Gene Bevil and Dorothy Chappell. A lot of the fishermen who have been approached by Clean Boats/Clean Waters volunteers have already heard about the program so this is a good thing. There were a couple of complaints from fishermen who would like to have a trash can and a port a john at the launch site. The Village, rather than the DNR, is furnishing a trash can as the DNR's credo is that trash should be carried out by the party creating the trash. It is unlikely that we will get a port a john as its positioning will interfere with launching the harvester.

Dam Repair Committee Update: Jim Dixon advised that that the Village Board Ok'd the application for the dam repair grant. Josh Gajewski would like to have a fixed level dam which would be stronger and last longer. The deadline for the grant is 2/15/16.

The Village is going to commit an as yet undetermined number of funds to the project. The Village Board is ~~rather~~ concerned about the shape of the dam. The DNR inspected the dam and has determined an escalated need for repair.

Vote for Secretary: Linda Plennes coordinated the vote for the new secretary as Pat Zimmermann's term is up. With 19 members affirming and 2 abstaining, Deb Bartolerio has been elected our new Lake District Secretary.

Appointment of Auditors: The Lake District's books will be audited in January 2016 once 2015 is closed out. Deb Bartolerio and Linda Plennes will be our auditors.

Open Forum: Bill Alveshire thanked the Lion's Club for a \$1,000 donation to the Lake District. \$500 of the funds was apportioned to the goose roundup and the remaining \$500 went to the Village for the new fence and painting near the beach. We thank Gene Bevil for submitting our request. Thanks also to Bill Alveshire for facilitating the geese roundup and putting together welcome packets for the new lake residents. Bill helped Vicki with IRS contacts too. Bill and Beth Alveshire also updated the Lake District members' contact list.

Bob Wielepski questioned the control of the lake's depth. The dam has a high level mark and low level mark and this gives guidance as to the dam control. Josh has not changed the water levels of the dam as compared to previous years. Jim Dixon suggested that we lobby to keep the water higher when new dam goes in.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be January 30th. The Fishing Jamboree is January 23rd.

Adjournment: At 11:43 a.m. a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jim Dixon and seconded by Bob Wielepski.