

LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
2nd Quarter Meeting
April 21, 2018

Call to order: President Carol Dixon called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. Treasurer Vicki Bradford and Secretary Debby Bartolerio were present. Also in attendance were Kathy Weiss, Village of Palmyra President; Patricia Cicero, Jefferson County Water Resources Management Specialist; and Sue Graham, Wisconsin DNR Lakes Management Coordinator. In addition, 21 Lake District members were present.

Reading/Review of Minutes: Debby read the minutes from the January 20, 2018 Lake District Meeting. The minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki reported that we received \$11,820.29 of the \$15,709.00 in tax revenue. The balance in our 3 savings accounts total \$59,665.92. These funds are being accumulated in anticipation of unexpected harvester costs. The treasurer's report was filed.

2017 - 2021 Aquatic Plant Management Plan: Patricia Cicero provided a draft of the plan via email to the members. The plan detailed past efforts to control the invasive weeds using chemical and mechanical means. It further makes a recommendation to continue to harvest the weeds and provided a chart with current options. Patricia stated that future options may not be limited to what is currently available.

Patricia stated that if the draw down option were done, it would be limited to 4 feet due to the Hwy 59 culvert. She provided a map that approximated the areas that would be exposed at that level. Several questions about a draw down were raised: the chances of another invasive species being introduced and if the dam construction would dictate a draw down. Relative to the invasive species issue, Sue Graham stated that this was unlikely. Relative to the dam construction causing a draw down, Kathy Weiss stated that the dam construction would not require one.

Patricia stated that the "residence time" for water in our lake is 7.5 to 28.9 days. This is used to calculate the amount of time it would take the water to drain from the lake, and conversely, how long it would take to refill. The estimate would be 18 days; however rain and snow melt would affect that number.

A motion to approve the Aquatic Plant Management Plan was made by Jim Dixon and seconded by Dave Henrichon. The motion was approved unanimously.

Chemical Treatment Update: Andrew Sowles reported that our first permit request was conditionally approved, using 2-4-D in the Finger Bay only. Any additional treatment was denied. An application for a second permit was prepared. Based on a survey of the lake owners relative to the severity of milfoil near their shoreline, a request to treat the shoreline with Diquat was submitted.

Andrew further stated, on which Sue Graham expanded, that to be effective, Diquat cannot be disturbed. The bottom of our lake is primarily clay, and the chemical will attach itself to any floating clay rather than the plants. Boating will cause the clay to become suspended in the water. The recommendation to land owners is to refrain from any activity that would stir up the area to be treated for 1 day before and 1 day after the application.

Weed Harvester/Truck Repairs Report: Jim Dixon reported that last year we started 4 weeks later than we wanted, due to the chemical application. In addition, we initially had an ineffective harvester operator, and we were forced to cease harvesting earlier than planned due to mechanical issues. The weed growth in the lake is already concerning. In connection with harvesting, chemical treatments along the shoreline could assist in keeping the invasive weed growth to a more manageable level.

Sue Graham commented that the DNR is striving to achieve consistency in decisions about similarly situated lakes across the state. She also agreed that every lake is unique. She further stated that she will consider our application request carefully and that it was helpful to hear our concerns first-hand.

Patricia Cicero provided a water sample graph that depicted the concentration levels of the chemical treatment last year. The levels were below the required concentration to be effective.

Jim provided a separate report that included an estimate of a May 1 start date for harvesting. The repairs to the cutter coupled with our current operator, Joe Zimmerman, becoming more experienced should reduce the amount of floaters escaping. If there are any concerns or questions, please call Jim @ (262) 337-0249.

The repairs to the harvester were approximately \$14,000 and to the truck approximately \$3,600. We have located a new seat for the truck, which Jim Walslager will install for us.

Clean Boats Clean Waters: Pat Zimmerman stated the purpose of the program was to inspect boats, educate boaters and provide informational brochures. Although we already have milfoil here, there are many other invasive species that we don't have and can help control. ***We are in need of volunteers!!! Please let Pat know if you can help.***

Training opportunities are available. Pat offered to sit with any new volunteers for their first shift. There are also grants available that we could use to have paid inspectors. The application is due in December.

Dam Repair: Kathy Weiss stated that there wasn't any new information and that the bidding process has not started. The hazard rating was officially reduced to significant, which was positive. Within the next month, the DNR and engineers will begin to review the bids. The anticipated start date is August 1, and the lake level would not be affected.

Open Forum: Jim Walslager texted Peter Walker to request a change in the no-wake hours. Jim would like to have the ability to create a wake at least some time during weekday evening hours. The discussion expanded to include 3 holidays in the review. This topic will be added to the next agenda.

Patricia Cicero highly recommended that someone from our Lake District attend the Lakes Conference in Stevens Point next year. Rock Lake Improvement Association is having a workshop on May 12 for lake shore land owners to provide education on environmentally friendly practices.

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be June 9th, and the annual meeting will be August 25th.

Adjournment: At 11:50, a motion to adjourn was made by Jim Dixon and seconded by Bob Wielepski.