

LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

August 15,2020

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 by L. Plennes.

MINUTES

January 25, 2020 meeting were approved as written. Motion to approve by D. Henrichon and seconded by N. Yarwood.

TREASURER POSITION

The treasurers' term for the Lake District is due to expire. Current treasurer was nominated for a second term. Ballot count was 15 for and 1 – incomplete ballot. D. Bartolerio accepted a second term as treasurer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

D. Bartolerio provided the current budget to date. Significant differences noted were herbicide application fees and harvester repairs were less than anticipated and truck repairs were higher than expected. Due to the many unknowns with the harvester, it is difficult to anticipate what the total costs will be as many of the invoices have not been received.

CHEMICAL TREATMENT UPDATE

L. Plennes provided an update from S. Graham and P. Cicero. She stated they did not see a lot of improvement with the last two chemical treatments. They noted there is an undercurrent which does not allow for the chemical to sit long enough to provide favorable results. Does feel the drawdown was beneficial to the east end of the lake.

CLEAN BOAT/CLEAN WATER

No report provided.

WATER CLARITY/TESTING

G. Smith noted that the lab is now open and back on schedule. Water is clear several feet down and looks good. Our numbers have been within normal range.

A lengthy and heated discussion regarding the current water level took place. There are many differing opinions and suggestions on how the current level has been calculated. Many questions were raised regarding cost of electronic monitoring, why we have it, what benefit it provides, what level the engineer was using as baseline, etc. L. Plennes is meeting with the engineer late August to see how we can move forward and will provide an update following the meeting.

DAM PAYMENT INFORMATION

D. Bartolerio provided a handout on the different dam payment options for homeowners who chose to participate in the loan for the dam. Please note the deadline of November 1, 2020 if you choose to pay your regular payment or pay off your balance. You can also choose to have the amount added to your 2020 tax bill. A reminder notice will be sent out in October.

OF NOTE: A favorable interest rate was negotiated by the board for your benefit. Please be respectful of who this will impact should you choose to withhold your portion of the dam payment!

WEED HARVESTER STATUS

L. Plennes stated our current harvester will have a new engine and will hopefully be in the water soon. Once in the water they can then test the hydraulics, mechanics and check for additional damage. We will essentially have a new machine when finished. Discussion regarding a spare engine that was purchased and stored at the village several years ago took place. L. Plennes to investigate its whereabouts. Members in attendance had no problem with additional cutting on Saturdays and Sundays to get the weeds under control. A map and rotation have been devised to cut through September and into October. She noted that the insurance company will cover the damage to the harvester and that an investigation into the mishap showed there was no wrongdoing. No fault of the harvester driver, no mechanical issues, no penalties/fines, thankfully no injuries – just a MISHAP. Due to an exclusion clause in the insurance policy the diesel spill expense will not be covered. The emergency response fee of \$3500 will most likely be out of pocket. It is anticipated that the boom (mechanism to soak up diesel fuel) should be removed shortly. Again, no fine imposed!

Blue Spring Lake graciously offered their (new) weed harvester and cutters for four days – 10-12 hours a day. They cut 60 loads of vegetation in the four days they were on our lake. Just for comparison, Blue Spring Lake cuts about 90 loads of vegetation on their lake for an entire summer! We will provide payment for their cutters and for fuel used. We cannot thank them enough for their generosity!

Some members of the Lake District feel a new weed harvester is necessary. A handout was distributed providing estimates, advantages and options of a weed harvester, similar to the one used on Blue Spring Lake. A lengthy discussion on the cost, different types of cutters, outstanding bills, management of weeds, ability to partner with another lake, took place. The Lake District members in attendance felt it was premature to discuss a new harvester and that a committee should be formed to explore all the various cutter options available so we can be prepared if and when a new harvester is necessary. A motion to table a new harvester was made by A. Fehrmann and seconded by B. Alveshire.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

L. Plennes noted that several invoices are still outstanding regarding the harvester. A new winch is needed on the trailer, two used sections of pier have been purchased to ensure safety when unloading weeds and miscellaneous truck repairs.

D. Bartolerio presented the proposed 2021 budget. The harvester permit amount was reduced to 150.00. 2021 budget approved and will be filed with noted change.

GEESE DEPREDATION REPORT

B. Alveshire reported that nine nests were destroyed. That is 18 adults and 46 eggs. One nest was missed so we had seven total geese on our lake. He stated that they will again waive their depredation fee again this year. The Alveshires were thanked for their efforts in keeping the geese off our lake!

STATE REQUIRED ANNUAL AUDIT

J. Schultz and A. Sowles volunteered to perform the state required annual audit. D. Bartolerio will provide all necessary documents for review.

OPEN DISCUSSION

The process of chemical treatment was again addressed. Many questions as to why was it not successful, what else can be done, do we have other options, is it affordable, what are other lakes doing? A Fehrmann volunteered to gather additional information.

A drawdown was also discussed as an option to contain weeds and allow homeowners the option of dredging – weather permitting. Since the permit is good for 5 years a motion to apply for a drawdown was made by A. Fehrmann and seconded by S. Reynertson. L. Plennes will look into this option and report back.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lower Spring Lake District would like to acknowledge the following individuals for their help and continued interest in our Lake District:

Greg Smith, Jim Walslager, Dick Rohloff, Village employees Scott and Al. Your dedication, time, and talents are so appreciated and we can't thank you enough!

Meeting adjourned at 11:50.