

Lower Spring Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

June 20, 2015 Minutes

Call to order: President Carol Dixon called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Treasurer Vicki Bradford and Secretary Pat Zimmermann were also present. Total attendance was fourteen.

Reading of the Minutes: Pat read the minutes from the March 14, 2015 Lake District Meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer's Report: Vicki Bradford reported that the Lake District received a bill for \$21,718.25 for the chemicals used to treat the lake this spring. This amount was similar to that received in 2014. We expect the grant will reimburse us about 50% of that amount.

We have 2 CDs coming due in June 2015. Vicki shopped rates at neighboring banks and was able to obtain a more favorable rate from Palmyra State Bank than what they originally offered. However, they could not match the rates given by the Citizens Bank of Mukwonago, so the CDs were moved to CBOM. Two and four year CDs were purchased at the rates of .9% and 1.5% respectively. The checkbook and passbook savings accounts remain with the Palmyra State Bank.

Chemical Treatment Report: Patricia Cicero reported on the pre-treatment plant survey which she conducted. 229 sites were sampled. Eurasian Water Milfoil was found at 64 sites and Curly Leaf Pondweed was found at 26 sites. It was decided that 2, 4-D would be used to treat the Eurasian Water Milfoil and Endothall would be used on the Curly Leaf Pondweed. Treatment was completed on May 12, 2015. It was decided that post treatment chemical testing would not be done this year as the results were not expected to be different than in previous years and the state would no longer pay for it, leaving the Lake District to pay the bill had we chosen to proceed with the testing.

Patricia will complete a summer plant survey to determine the concentration of native plants. Chemical applications kill invasive species thereby allowing opportunities for the native species to flourish. College students will assist her with this survey which is expected to begin in late July or early August and take 4 days.

Boat Launch Construction Report: Al Fehrmann reported that construction began in early May. Activity has been sporadic. Concrete slabs are now in the lake. It is hoped that the project will be completed in mid-July. After the construction is complete WDOT must inspect and approve the work before the launch is opened to the public.

Harvester Operation Update: The harvester cannot be placed in the lake until the boat launch construction is complete so it may be mid-July or later before the first weed cutting will take place. Josh Gajewski will have the harvester set to go. Al Fehrmann reported that he inspected weed growth on the lake and the only real problem area is in the finger bay. That will be one of the first areas attended to by the harvester. As in years past, Scott will do the cutting. ~~Mike Temple will provide back-up.~~ At present

we do not have a place to dispose of the weeds once they are cut. Al is checking with Dorothy Chappell for suggestions. Perhaps some local farmers or Old World Wisconsin will have some interest. The lake chemicals that are present in the weeds are not harmful to crops and 2, 4-D is the chemical present in Weed N Feed per Al.

Geese Depredation: The geese depredation endeavor previously voted on and approved by the Lake District members is to take place June 23 and is expected to take 2-3 hours. 4-5 volunteers will help spot the geese so that the employees from the Department of Agriculture can more quickly round them up and remove them from the lake.

Clean Boats/Clean Waters: Dorothy Chappell has been educating fishermen along the shoreline which is the only option since the boat launch has been closed. The program will not be in full swing until the launch is reopened and this has had an adverse effect on volunteer hours. Dorothy will be reaching out for volunteers and anyone interested in helping should contact her. She will be happy to conduct the necessary training.

Dam Repair Committee Update: On June 2 the newly formed Dam Repair Committee met for the first time. In attendance were Winona Bradset Brattsett from the Town of Palmyra, Josh Gajewski from the Village of Palmyra, Mike Fischer from the Lions Club and Jim Dixon from the Lower Spring Lake District. Dave Cox from the Village was unable to attend, and Blane Poulson from Jefferson County was not present.

The committee discussed the condition of the Mill dam and the ensuing consequences should it fail. They also discussed possible options to repairing or replacing the Mill dam including the use of the Route 59 dam. Josh did not believe that would be a viable option. The past contributions by the Village, Lion's Club, County, and Lake District were enumerated, and the immense value of the lake to the greater Palmyra Community was recognized. Winona Brattsett stated that the Town would be unable to contribute to the project due to their lack of funds.

The Village is still working on the grant. A Spillway Capacity study has been completed and given to the engineers. ~~The engineering study on the Mill dam is still being completed.~~ The grant application cannot be submitted until the Engineering report has been completed and either the cost of repairs or the type of dam and its cost is known. It is believed that the grant will fund at 50% with a cap of \$200,000 (i.e if the new dam cost is \$400k the grant would pay \$200k), but this is being further explored.

The DNR regulates all of the lakes in Wisconsin. The DNR gives hazard ratings based on ~~what~~ **how much damage** would happen downstream if a dam failed. This rating has nothing to do with the *viability* of the dam. ~~It has everything to do with the resulting downstream damage.~~ The higher the hazard rating the greater the likelihood that a grant would be approved should a dam require repair or replacement. ~~It is believed that~~ **the** hazard rating for the Lower Spring Lake Mill dam is high.

The Graef engineering firm will complete and submit their final report to the DNR. We would like to know the expected completion date for the Engineering report and the deadline for submission of the grant application.

~~The Town has made it clear stated that they have no funds to contribute to the project.~~

The committee will not meet again until the cost of the dam repair or replacement is known.

Open Forum: The Lake District Secretary's position will be up for election at the August meeting. Pat Zimmermann has decided to step down. A nominating committee is being formed.

Al advised that the emerald ash borer has infected a number of trees on his property and if homeowners have ash trees on their property that they wish to save they may want to look into commercial products currently on the market.

Two homes on the lake have sold recently and several more are for sale. This means there will be new residents to welcome to our lake community. Dorothy Chappell is no longer serving as the welcoming committee and Bill Alvshire has volunteered to take her place.

Next Meeting: Our last meeting of 2015 will take place on August 29 at 11 a.m. at the beach pavilion. This will be our annual picnic. The main course will be provided and attendees are asked to bring a dish to pass. Sharon Fehrmann will co-ordinate the picnic.

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