

SPOONER LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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SEPTEMBER 2, 2017

ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

The Spooner Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (Spooner Lake District) held its annual meeting and budget hearing at the Spooner Town Hall, N6124 Blooming Vale Road, Spooner, at 10:01 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Mort Dahl, Ed Fischer, Nancy Hanson, and Michael Plisky.

Absent: Commissioner Joe Cuskey.

Persons in Attendance: Joe Banick, Polly Banick, Glenn Carr, David Cooperrider, Fran Cooperrider, Mark Cooperrider, Nancy Cooperrider, Penny Cuskey, David Dartt, Pat Dartt, Peggy Engel, John Fenniman, Kirk Gilman, Frank Gray, Lourdes Gray, Randy Hanson, Howard Hill, Marilyn Hill, Gene Holloway, John Meacham, Eric Olson, Shalesha Olson, Matt Peterson, Brent Rush, Barb Saunders, Mike Saunders, Mark Schultz, Debbi Stocco, Frank Stocco, Duane Seitz, Greg Style, Charlie Swanson, Roger Waak, and Steve Waak.

Chairman Plisky presided.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Plisky led the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2016

Commissioner Hanson moved to approve the District annual meeting and budget hearing minutes of September 3, 2016. Commissioner Dahl seconded. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Cuskey absent.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Spooner Lake District Board Nomination and Washburn County Board Supervisors' Approval of Joe Cuskey to Serve as Spooner Lake District Commissioner Representing the Washburn County Board Supervisors for a Term Ending at the 2020 Annual Meeting

Chairman Plisky announced Commissioner Cuskey decided to decline serving another term. Chairman Plisky thanked Commissioner Cuskey for his

contributions to the District and complimented him for his outstanding efforts on the Board.

Chairman Plisky referred to Spooner Lake District By-laws, Article V - District Board of Commissioners, Section 1 – Composition, stating the Board of Commissioners consisted of five persons, three elected by the membership, and one each appointed by the County Board and by the Town of Spooner Board upon the nomination by the District Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Plisky moved to nominated Mark Schultz to serve as Spooner Lake District Commissioner representing the Washburn County Board Supervisors for a term ending at the 2020 annual meeting. Commissioner Fischer seconded.

Mark Schultz briefly introduced himself.

There was discussion regarding the recollection of action taken in 1994 to increase the number of Commissioners by 2 to ensure the majority would be District property owners; the 1987 District By-laws not being amended in 1994 to reflect the increase in the number of Board of Commissioners; there being no mention of increasing the size of the Board in 2014 when the District By-laws were revised; the District having been managed by 5 Commissioners for many years; and researching the composition of the District Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Plisky indicated increasing the Board membership by two persons would be contrary to District By-laws and State law.

There being no further nominations, the motion by Chairman Plisky to nominate Mark Schultz to serve as Spooner Lake District Commissioner representing the Washburn County Board Supervisors for a term ending at the 2020 annual meeting, and seconded by Commissioner Fischer was carried unanimously with Commissioner Cuskey absent.

The Board concurred to place an item on its next meeting agenda for a report regarding the District By-laws and records relating to the number and composition of the District Board of Commissioners.

2. Election of One Spooner Lake District Board Member Whose Term Ends at Annual Meeting 2020

Chairman Plisky stated Commissioner Hanson was interested in serving another term on the Board.

Commissioner Dahl moved to nominate Commissioner Hanson to serve as Spooner Lake District Commissioner for a term ending at the 2020 annual meeting. Commissioner Fischer seconded. There being no further nominations, the motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Cuskey absent.

3. Discussion on Prevention of Zebra Mussels in Spooner Lake

Commissioner Fischer referred to the zebra mussel examples brought by Mike Saunders. Commissioner Fischer also referred to the information made available by the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department relating to the zebra mussel situation and efforts being undertaken at Big McKenzie Lake. Commissioner Fischer spoke about the zebra mussels' adverse environmental impacts on a lake, and the negative economic effect on lake property values. Commissioner Fischer talked about the efforts to eliminate and / or prevent the spread of zebra mussels. Commissioner Fischer referred to the Spooner Lake District Clean Boats Clean Waters Program watercraft inspections.

Chairman Plisky made reference to the Shell Lake District charging a fee for each boat entering Shell Lake. Chairman Plisky stated the Shell Lake District had expanded the hours of their Clean Boats Clean Waters Program watercraft inspections and had increased the number of employees to cover the expanded hours.

There was discussion regarding the idea of Spooner Lake District also charging a fee for each boat entering Spooner Lake at the County Highway H boat landing; expanding the hours of the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program watercraft inspections; doing further research on establishing and collecting a boat fee; and working with the Town of Spooner Board Supervisors regarding a fee for each boat entering Spooner Lake at the County Highway H boat landing.

The District supported the concept of collecting a fee for each boat entering Spooner Lake.

Chairman Plisky stated an item would be placed on the next Board meeting agenda regarding the concept of collecting a fee for each boat entering Spooner Lake.

4. Report on Spooner Lake Algae and Weed Monitoring and Abatement

Chairman Plisky indicated Commissioner Cuskey had informed him the Spooner Lake 2017 algae and weed monitoring and abatement had been completed by the contractors within the budgeted amount and in accordance with the permit issued by the Department of Natural Resources. Chairman Plisky mentioned the algae and weeds were especially bad this year as a result of the lack of snow cover, the early spring, and the high volume of boat activities chopping plants and weeds. Chairman Plisky noted there was initial research on harvesting both manually and mechanically; and if there was interest by the District members, the Board would continue exploring the feasibility of implementing these alternative abatement methods.

There was discussion regarding the manual and mechanical harvesting processes; contracting for the harvesting services; purchasing the harvester equipment; the Spooner Lake harvester history; seeking more information from

harvesting service providers and harvester vendors; considering initial and ongoing costs of purchasing, operating, and storing a harvester; the ability to harvest algae and weeds as well as skim them; contacting lake districts and associations with harvesting experience; additional weed areas having been brought to the attention of the contractors for inclusion in the future monitoring efforts and abatement processes; a lake drawdown; positive and negative impacts of a lake drawdown; providing sufficient information in the lake management plan update relating to alternative algae and weed abatement methods; the Department of Natural Resources permit and oversight requirements; finding the proper balance in managing the natural and environmental advantages and limitations of Spooner Lake; the impact of nature on the conditions of Spooner Lake; the severity of the algae and weeds in 2017; and seeking the advice of a professional regarding alternative algae and weed abatement methods.

Brent Rush moved to authorize the Board to: (1) investigate the alternative manual and mechanical harvesting methods for algae and weed abatement; (2) present a proposed plan, cost analysis, and report to the District; and (3) hire a consultant in an amount not to exceed \$3000 to assist the Board in these efforts. John Meacham seconded.

Brent Rush moved to amend the motion to authorize the Board to: (1) investigate (a) the alternative manual and mechanical harvesting methods for algae and weed abatement; and (b) a lake drawdown; (2) present a proposed plan, cost analysis, and report to the District; and (3) hire a consultant in an amount not to exceed \$3000 to assist the Board in these efforts. John Meacham seconded. The motion carried by majority vote with Joe Banick and Mike Saunders voting "No" and Commissioner Cuskey absent.

5. Report on the Spooner Lake Clean Boats Clean Waters Program: (a) Watercraft Inspection at the County Highway H Boat Landing; and (b) Supervisor Job

Commissioner Hanson acknowledged the Spooner Lake District had been awarded a \$4000 grant for the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program watercraft inspections, which were conducted on weekends between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

Commissioner Dahl pointed out Ron Boushon, who supervised the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program, would no longer be working because of health issues. Commissioner Dahl noted a job description had been drafted for future use.

Chairman Plisky stated Mabi Plisky had volunteered to supervise the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program watercraft inspection employees for the last three weekends.

Commissioner Hanson suggested special consideration be given to the employment of a Clean Boats Clean Waters supervisor and workers who would be more experienced in interacting with difficult boaters.

6. Report on Spooner Lake Management Plan Update

Chairman Plisky indicated the current Spooner Lake Management Plan was approved in 2013 by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Chairman Plisky mentioned the District would need to have it updated for DNR approval by the end of 2018. Chairman Plisky noted the plan served as a guide in the care and maintenance of Spooner Lake, and enabled the District to apply for permits and grants benefitting the lake. Chairman Plisky pointed out it would be necessary to hire consultants to do specific environmental and technical work as well as work with a District committee to update the Spooner Lake Management Plan. Chairman Plisky encouraged District members to submit their names and contact information to him for consideration to serve on the committee.

7. Report on Spooner Lake District Seeking Grants for the (a) Lake Management Plan Update; (b) Algae and Weed Monitoring and Abatement; (c) Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program; and (d) Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring, Education, and Control

Commissioner Hanson pointed out it would be increasingly more difficult to successfully obtain a grant award because of the number of agencies, limited funds, and merit of competing grant applications.

Chairman Plisky stated the Department of Natural Resources Spooner staff might be able to help the District improve the possibilities of obtaining grants.

Commissioner Hanson moved to authorize the Board to: (1) research and submit an application for the most viable grants regarding the (a) Lake Management Plan Update; (b) Algae and Weed Monitoring and Abatement; (c) Clean Boats, Clean Waters Program; and (d) Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring, Education, and Control; and (2) if necessary, enter into an agreement with a consultant to write the grant applications. Commissioner Dahl seconded. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Cuskey absent.

8. Report of the Audit Committee

Commissioner Fischer stated he and Commissioner Dahl met with Commissioner Hanson, Treasurer, to conduct the annual audit review of the bank statements and financial records. Commissioner Fischer reported the annual audit review showed the District financial information was in good order.

Chairman Plisky thanked Commissioners Fischer and Dahl for conducting the annual audit, and complimented Commissioner Hanson for her work as Treasurer.

9. Treasurer's Report, Budget, and 2018 Taxation of Spooner Lake Property Owners

Commissioner Hanson referred to the Treasurer's Report as of August 15, 2017, which was mailed to all property owners in advance of the meeting, and highlighted the 2017 budget and 2018 proposed budget. Commissioner Hanson indicated the 2018 proposed budget reflected tax levy income of \$36,000, which was the same as 2017. Commissioner Hanson suggested maintaining the tax levy income for 2018 at the same level as 2017. Commissioner Hanson noted that reducing the tax levy income by \$10,000 would not result in big tax savings for property owners.

John Meacham moved to approve:

(1) the 2018 proposed budget, which included (a) authorizing the Board with the assistance of a consultant to explore alternative algae and weed abatement methods with a proposed plan, cost analysis, and a report to the District, (b) authorizing the Board to enter into the necessary contracts regarding the 2018 Spooner Lake algae and weed monitoring and abatement, (c) authorizing the Board to enter into the necessary contracts with consultants regarding the Spooner Lake Management Plan update, and (d) authorizing the Board, if necessary, to enter into a contract with a consultant to write grant applications; and

(2) setting the 2018 tax rate to generate \$36,000 in tax levy income subject to and in accordance with state law and Spooner Lake District By-Laws. Brent Rush seconded. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Cuskey absent.

10. Status of Spring through Fall Season Lake Activities

Chairman Plisky noted Spooner Lake had been busy with boating, fishing, water skiing, etc.; there were balloons tossed between boats and into the lake during the Fourth of July boat parade, which should not be done; and the buoys and dock would be removed at the appropriate time.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

There were no Commissioner communications on informational items of business other than on scheduled agenda items.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Brent Rush expressed concern about the number of geese and geese poop in Spooner Lake which contributed to the weed problem.

John Fenniman, Town of Spooner Chairman, expressed his appreciation to the Board for their management of Spooner Lake. Mr. Fenniman encouraged the District members to support the Board. Mr. Fenniman indicated it might be possible for the Town of Spooner to help the Spooner Lake District in some manner to further protect the lake environment.

ADJOURNMENT

Brent Rush moved to adjourn the District meeting at 11:50 a.m. in order for the Board to meet immediately to reorganize and establish the meeting dates in 2017-2018. Peggy Engel seconded. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Cuskey absent.

MORTON DAHL
Secretary