

SPOONER LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

www.spoonerlakewi.com

SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

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 10:02 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

Persons in Attendance: Joe Banick, Polly Banick, Gene Benck, Frank Brantner, Glenn Carr, Lana Cook, Fran Cooperrider, David Dartt, Pat Dartt, Duane Sarge DeBoer, Dean Dierschou, Peggy Engel, John Fenniman, Akemi Fischer, Frank Gray, Lourdes Gray, Howard Hill, Robert Holt, John Kreutzer, Paul Leeder, Carol Meacham, John Meacham, Greg Olson, Joy Peterson, Matt Peterson, Claudia Risler, Ron Risler, Brent Rush, Robert Sanders, Mike Saunders, Charlie Swanson, Kim Waak, Roger Waak, Steven Waak, Jerry Williams, Martha Koch Williams.

Chairman Plisky presided.

Chairman Plisky introduced Town of Spooner Chairman John Fenniman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Plisky led the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING OF SEPTEMBER 2, 2017

Commissioner Dahl moved to approve the District annual meeting and budget hearing minutes of September 2, 2017. Commissioner Hanson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Spooner Lake Survey and Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update Status

Chairman Plisky indicated the survey work would be underway through October 2018 and the management plan work would be done starting in November 2018 through April 2019. He mentioned this work had to be done by the District and approved by the Department of Natural Resources every 5 years. He noted the Aquatic Plant Management Plan guided the Board on the operation of the District. Chairman Plisky

pointed out the management plan meeting dates, agendas, and minutes would be available on the District website.

2. Clean Boats Clean Waters Program Update

Commissioner Dahl reported that the May to August 2018 Spooner Lake Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Program resulted in 1080 boats being inspected with no violations, and that the Labor Day Weekend boat launch activity was expected to be high. He indicated the main problem at the landing was power loading. Commissioner Dahl also stated John Richter, Clean Boats Clean Water Coordinator, would not be available to do the work next year.

Chairman Plisky announced that Hunter Denison, who worked with the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department, was interested in the 2019 CBCW Coordinator position.

3. Aquatic Invasive Species Identification Update

Chairman Plisky mentioned the prevention of zebra mussels was the top priority of the District.

Commissioner Fischer Zebra referred to the zebra mussels found in Big McKenzie Lake, Burnett and Washburn Counties, in October 2016. He noted the zebra mussels quickly multiply and attach to hard surfaces in lakes and rivers resulting in environmental and economic negative impacts. He also referred to the veligers, which were microscopic baby zebra mussels. He pointed out that any boat which had been in a zebra mussel contaminated lake was a serious threat to a lake. Commissioner Fischer stated the calcium level in Spooner Lake was suitable for zebra mussels to grow well.

Chairman Plisky reported that the Spooner Lake veliger testing results would be made available in the fall; and that the 3 zebra mussel plate samplers in Spooner Lake would be collected in the fall so the attached material could be submitted for testing. He indicated Spooner Lake was one of a handful of Washburn County lakes proactively performing zebra mussel veliger tests and installing zebra mussel plate samplers.

Chairman Plisky referred to the Town of Spooner Board Supervisors' adoption of Ordinance No. 08-13-2018, authorizing the District to (a) maintain a decontamination station at the County Highway H launching ramp area to help with the top priority of preventing zebra mussels; and (b) retain a \$5.00 launch fee to be collected to support in part the District activities.

Town of Spooner Chairman John Fenniman stated the effective date of Ordinance No. 08-13-2018 was January 2019 approving a \$20 Season Launch Pass for Town of Spooner residents and non-resident property owners, and a \$5 daily launch fee for Town of Spooner non-resident property owners and the general public.

There was discussion regarding the County Highway H boat landing needing improvements.

Town of Spooner Chairman Fenniman suggested persons interested in improvements to the County Highway H boat landing should attend a Town of Spooner Board meeting to offer ideas and input.

4. Algae and Aquatic Plant Management Update

Chairman Plisky reported the consultant treated 24 acres of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) in early June and 21 acres of algae in late June and July.

There was discussion regarding: (a) pros and cons of treating and not treating algae; (b) the Board efforts in researching the alternative manual and mechanical harvesting methods for algae and weed abatement; (c) impacts and results of a lake drawdown; (d) validity or not of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) advice to obtain 100% property owner support to obtain approval of a lake drawdown application; (e) determining impartial sources of information to understand a lake drawdown; and (f) making improvements to the County Highway H boat landing during a lake drawdown.

Commissioner Schultz moved to take a non-binding vote of attendees in favor of or opposition to a lake drawdown. Howard Hill seconded.

The discussion continued relative to: (g) impacts and results of a lake drawdown on affected bodies of water; and (h) importance of the Aquatic Management Plan Update addressing a lake drawdown.

Commissioner Hanson moved to amend the motion to further investigate the advantages and disadvantages of a lake drawdown. Commissioner Fischer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The motion offered by Commissioner Schultz and seconded by Howard Hill to take a non-binding vote of attendees in favor of or opposition to a lake drawdown was carried by majority vote with Akemi Fischer, Joy Peterson, and Matt Peterson abstaining.

Chairman Plisky summarized the purpose and use of a harvester and a skimmer. He indicated a harvester, conveyor, trailer, and dump truck would cost approximately \$200,000. He mentioned a skimmer, conveyor, trailer, and dump truck would cost about \$110,000. Chairman Plisky stated an alternative to purchasing equipment would be a professional services contract to perform harvesting or skimming services at an estimated cost of \$250 per hour.

There was discussion concerning the: (a) District's past harvester ownership experience relating to the difficulty recruiting volunteers to operate and maintain it, and the harvester being able to clean Spooner Lake in one day; (b) ongoing harvester ownership related expenses such as insurance, maintenance, and storage; (c) DNR focus on a harvester or skimmer being used in the main navigation areas rather than

individual property owner shorelines; (d) going out to bid for a harvesting and skimming professional services contractor; (e) a professional services contractor performing the harvesting and skimming work for a period of time to evaluate its effectiveness; (f) determining the possibility of another lake district(s) being interested in sharing the harvester and skimmer purchase, operation, and maintenance expenses; (g) dredging purpose; (h) DNR disapproval of dredging; and (i) treatment of CLP and algae as recommended by a consultant and approved by DNR.

John Kreutzer moved to prepare a request for a bid to obtain a proposal from at least two contractors to perform Spooner Lake harvesting and skimming services for the District as well as for interested, private property owners. Brent Rush seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Grants Summary and Status

Commissioner Hanson presented and reviewed Treasurer's Report 2018 as of August 31, 2018. Commissioner Hanson stated the District was awarded a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) \$4000 Clean Boats Clean Waters Grant; a \$9909 Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Education, Prevention, and Planning Grant for the Survey and Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update; \$24,340 AIS Control Grant to help defray the expenses associated with the monitoring and treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed. She also referred to a \$1000 Town of Spooner donation to help offset the Survey and Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update expense, and DNR reimbursement for permits issued to the District.

6. 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.

Commissioner Fischer moved to accept the annual audit review of the bank statements and financial records. Joy Peterson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Treasurer's Report, Budget, and 2019 Taxation of Spooner Lake Property Owners

Commissioner Hanson referred to and highlighted the Proposed Budget 2019, which was mailed to all property owners in advance of the meeting. Commissioner Hanson indicated the 2019 proposed budget reflected tax levy income of \$36,000, which was the same as 2018. Commissioner Hanson suggested maintaining the tax levy income for 2019 at the same level as 2018.

John Meacham moved to approve:

(1) the 2019 proposed budget, which included (a) authorizing the Board with the assistance of a consultant to continue exploring 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 2019 Spooner Lake algae and weed monitoring and abatement, (c) authorizing the Board, if necessary, to enter into a contract with a consultant to write grant applications; and

(2) setting the 2019 tax rate to generate \$36,000 in tax levy income subject to and in accordance with state law and Spooner Lake District By-Laws. Bob Sanders seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Election of Two Board Members Whose Term Ends at Annual Meeting 2021

Chairman Plisky stated the terms of Commissioners Dahl and Fischer end at the conclusion of the annual meeting, and Commissioners Dahl and Fischer were interested in serving another term on the Board.

Commissioner Schultz moved to nominate Commissioners Dahl and Fischer to serve as Spooner Lake District Commissioners for a term ending at the 2021 annual meeting. Commissioner Hanson seconded. There being no further nominations, the motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

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

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Matt Peterson indicated he wondered how the weeds compared to other years.

John Meacham mentioned he hoped the buoys would be removed prior to the first snowfall.

Joe Banick suggested asking the Department of Natural Resources whether there were any lake drawdowns.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Plisky adjourned the District meeting at 11:45 a.m. in order for the Board to meet immediately to reorganize and establish the meeting dates in 2018-2019.

MORTON DAHL
Secretary