

SPoonER LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

www.spoonerlakewi.com

MAY 25, 2019

SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

The Spooner Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (Spooner Lake District) held a special district meeting at the Spooner Town Hall, N6124 Blooming Vale Road, Spooner, at 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

Persons in Attendance: Patricia Arenholz, Joe Banick, Polly Banick, Aaron Bowser, Jeanne Bruce, Glenn Carr, Ed Chaney, Mandie Cichy, Don Cuskey, Gary Cuskey, Penny Cuskey, Pat Dartt, Dean Dierschou, Duane DeBoer, Nicole DeBroux, John Fenniman, Akemi Fischer, Kirk Gilman, Frank Gray, Randy Hanson, Barb Keelan, Mike Kolthoff, Paul Leeder, Dan McClenthen, Pat McClenthen, Carol Meacham, John Meacham, Jay Nordstrom, Mabi Plisky, Wayne Poteet, Matt Peterson, Neil Robinson, Brent Rush, Mike Saunders, Duane Seitz, Charles Sleight, Howard Snow, Corey Starr, Greg Style, Charlie Swanson, Brent Waak, Howard Waak, David Wieneri, Jerry Williams, Martha Koch Williams, and Tom Zudonyi,

Chairman Plisky presided.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Plisky led the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

John Meacham moved to approve the District annual meeting and budget hearing minutes of September 1, 2018. Commissioner Fischer seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioner Hanson presented and reviewed the Treasurer's Report 2019 as of May 22, 2019. Commissioner Dahl moved to receive the Treasurer's Report 2019 as of May 22, 2019, subject to audit. Jeanne Bruce seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

Chairman Plisky introduced Town of Spooner Chairman John Fenniman, City of Spooner Mayor Gary Cuskey, and Washburn County Highway Commissioner Frank Scalzo.

Chairman Plisky thanked the Board members for spending many individual and collective hours in meetings and on work of the District.

1. Clean Boats Clean Waters Program

Commissioner Dahl indicated the Clean Boats Clean Waters Inspectors were working at the County Highway H landing on the weekends.

2. Lake Drawdown Report

Chairman Plisky referred to the Lake Drawdown Report dated May 1, 2019, with information from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and Ecological Integrity Service, which was mailed to the District membership. Chairman Plisky indicated Commissioner Schultz and he held meetings with the Washburn County Highway Commissioner and DNR staff relating to a Spooner Lake drawdown. He summarized the drawdown information and process.

There was drawdown discussion regarding: (1) success of a drawdown could be impacted by the weather conditions; (2) past Spooner Lake drawdown information available to the DNR indicated there was no long-term impact on the lake environment; (3) approximate distance from the shoreline to be exposed with a 3-foot drawdown; (4) opportunity for property owners to manually remove weeds in the exposed area near the shoreline; (5) whether there was a possibility of discovering problems such as septic systems and wells; (6) risk of new weeds taking root in the exposed area near the shoreline; (7) drawdown not being the answer to all weed concerns; and (8) refilling Spooner Lake in a timely manner to reduce the possibility of harming the environment.

Washburn County Highway Commissioner Frank Scalzo stated Spooner Lake had a good supply of water and the water refill process would not take long as soon as the ice disappeared on the lake.

The lake drawdown discussion continued relating to: (9) reducing or eliminating shoreline ice damage with a drawdown; and (10) implementing an annual 1-foot drawdown to help address the shoreline ice damage.

Washburn County Highway Commissioner Scalzo stated Spooner Lake could be drawn down 1-foot annually.

The lake drawdown discussion resumed relative to: (11) benefits of having detailed drawdown documentation for future reference; (12) fish spawning occurring in the spring; and (13) drawdown process costs to the District.

Washburn County Highway Commissioner Scalzo stated there should be no drawdown process costs to the District.

The lake drawdown discussion restarted concerning: (14) almost impossible access to the lake from the southern area as a result of weeds; (15) drawdown benefit to improve access to the lake in the southern area; (16) consideration of the drawdown impact on the lake resort business; (17) obtaining a Town of Spooner letter in support of the Spooner Lake drawdown; (18) potential impacts of a drawdown on ice fishing; (19) a good number of lakes in the area available for ice fishing; (20) less fishing of Spooner Lake could improve the fisheries; (21) providing drawdown process and timeline information to lake property owners and monitoring the shoreline in advance of the drawdown; (22) posting drawdown information in advance for the public at the two landings; (23) access to Spooner Lake could not be prohibited without approval of the DNR; and (24) consideration of drawdown impacts on wildlife.

Gary Cuskey moved to proceed with a Spooner Lake 3-foot drawdown in 2019-2020. Glenn Carr seconded. The motion carried by majority vote - 4 dissenting votes.

3. Contract Harvester / Skimmer Report

Chairman Plisky referred to the Contract Harvester / Skimmer Report dated May 1, 2019, summarizing the proposals, which was mailed to the District membership. Chairman Plisky indicated Commissioner Schultz and he met to prepare the Requests for Proposals information, consider the proposals submitted by bidders, and discuss the report contents. He highlighted the contract harvester / skimmer report; and stated the work was intended to be done on a trial basis with a follow-up report to the District membership for consideration and action.

There was discussion regarding: (1) past harvesting / skimming experience being lots of work, small fish killed, similar to mowing a lawn by having to repeat the process; (2) importance of ensuring the harvester / skimmer equipment was thoroughly cleaned before being used in Spooner Lake; (3) chemical treatments on Spooner Lake having been a successful effort to manage weeds and to facilitate navigation of the lake; (4) Spooner Lake was the only lake in the area approved by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to perform chemical treatment of Filamentous Algae, and it probably would not be permitted in the future because of its ineffectiveness; (5) only the floating Filamentous Algae was chemically treated; (6) difficulty of harvesting Filamentous Algae unless it was collected with weeds; (7) some weeds would not be collected by the harvester / skimmer and would float to other areas of the lake; (8) a majority of the Board (Chairman Plisky voting "No") decided not to perform chemical treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) and Filamentous Algae in 2019; (9) Ecological Integrity Service would conduct a lake survey in 2019 to evaluate and document the areas and growth of CLP; and (10) property owners should contact the DNR about individual shoreline area concerns.

Wayne Poteet moved not to proceed with the contract harvesting / skimming on Spooner Lake in 2019. Gary Cuskey seconded. Commissioner Fischer raised a point of order that a motion should be phrased in the positive, not the negative. Wayne Poteet and Gary Cuskey withdrew the motion and second.

Commissioner Fischer moved to proceed with contract harvesting / skimming on Spooner Lake in 2019 on a trial basis. Jeanne Bruce seconded. The motion failed by majority vote - 5 affirmative votes.

Joe Banick moved to contract with Lake Restoration, Inc., to perform chemical treatment of the Spooner Lake navigation channel in 2019, subject to the approval of the DNR. Gary Cuskey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Spooner Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan - 2019

Chairman Plisky thanked Frank Gray and John Meacham as well as the Board members for helping develop the Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan.

Mabi Plisky stated the public input period would end on June 3; Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental would incorporate the public comments and the District comments and action into the APM Plan; on June 10, forward the APM Plan to the DNR for review and approval within 60 days; and the APM Plan would be a guide to manage Spooner Lake through 2024.

5. Aquatic Invasive Species Identification Program

Commissioner Fischer encouraged District members to attend the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference on Friday, June 21, 2019, at the Hayward High School in Hayward. Commissioner Fischer stated persons interested in attending the conference could contact him.

Commissioner Fischer moved to approve the reimbursement of the registration fee of \$45 per person for 5 district members to attend the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference on Friday, June 21, 2019. Chairman Plisky seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Plisky urged District members to support using the decontamination station at the County Highway H landing on boats and trailers entering and leaving Spooner Lake. Chairman Plisky indicated it was an important effort in helping to keep Zebra Mussels out of Spooner Lake.

There was discussion about area and regional fishing clubs being informed about compliance with the Washburn County ordinance requiring decontamination of boats and trailers.

Chairman Plisky again thanked the Town of Spooner for permitting the District to keep the \$5 launch fee collected at the County Highway H landing to offset some of the Spooner Lake management and maintenance expenses. Chairman Plisky mentioned the Town of Spooner would issue a seasonal pass to residents and property owners for \$20 and additional seasonal passes for \$5 per boat.

There was discussion about the possibility of the Town of Spooner exempting Spooner Lake District property owners from the launch fee.

Town of Spooner Chairman John Fenniman suggested persons interested in changes to the launch fee ordinance should attend and comment at a Town Board meeting.

6. Election to Replace One Board Member Whose Term Ends at Annual Meeting 2020

Chairman Plisky noted Commissioner Schultz was resigning due to a serious family illness. Chairman Plisky pointed out Commissioner Schultz had been very helpful and thanked him for his efforts as a Board member. Chairman Plisky asked for a volunteer to fill Commissioner Schultz's term ending at the 2020 annual meeting. Nobody volunteered. Chairman Plisky encouraged the membership to consider volunteering and asked that interested persons contact him.

Mabi Plisky, Board Clerk, also pointed out a volunteer was needed to assume her duties after the annual meeting and budget hearing.

Chairman Plisky stated the Board would hire a part-time Board Clerk if there were no volunteers to do the work.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Fischer thanked Mike Saunders for bringing samples of Zebra Mussels for District members to view.

Commissioner Schultz thanked everyone for their support. Commissioner Schultz indicated he would continue to help the District, if possible.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Mike Kolthoff inquired about budgeted monies for chemical treatment. Commissioner Hanson stated any unspent monies designated for chemical treatment would remain in the budget.

Charlie Swanson and Brent Waak suggested holding the District annual and special meetings at a larger facility.

Wayne Poteet mentioned the District should have a long-term plan to treat weeds.

Commissioner Hanson stated the District had a plan and the District membership actions today changed the plan.

Commissioner Fischer referred to the Spooner Lake Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan, which was currently under review for input, had been changed by the earlier District membership actions.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Plisky adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

MORTON DAHL
Secretary