

SPOONER LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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AUGUST 31, 2019

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 10:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Absent: None.

Persons in Attendance: Joe Banick, Polly Banick, Jeanne Bruce, Glenn Carr, Amanda Cichy, Fran Cooperrider, Don Cuskey, Gary Cuskey, Dave Dartt, Pat Dartt, Dean Dierschow, Bill DuCharme, Peggy Engel, Dave Ethers, Akemi Fischer, Joe Gerten, Frank Gray, Randy Hanson, Howard Hill, Marilyn Hill, Bob Holt, John Hockbein, Bill Jackson, Shirley Jackson, Barbara Keelan, Mike Kolthoff, Carol Meacham, John Meacham, Jay Nordstrom, John Nordstrom, Matt Peterson, Mabi Plisky, Brent Rush, Ed Rusin, Bonnie Sanders, Robert Sanders, Paul Schilling, Eric Severson, Howard Snow, Debbi Stocco, Charles Swanson, Greg Style, Howard Waak, Kim Waak, Steve Waak, and Stan Zatkoff.

Chairman Plisky presided.

Chairman Plisky thanked the Town of Spooner, represented by Chairman John Fenniman, for the use of the Town Hall to hold the District meetings.

Chairman Plisky acknowledged St. Francis de Sales School for providing the use of chairs to accommodate all the meeting attendees.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Plisky led the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL DISTRICT MEETING ON MAY 25, 2019

Bob Sanders moved to approve the special District meeting minutes of May 25, 2019. Commissioner Hanson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Grants Summary and Status

Commissioner Hanson stated: (a) a request for expense reimbursement would be submitted to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update Grant of \$9909 upon final payment of all invoices; (b) a request was submitted to the DNR for approval of an extension, which was pending, on the Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant of \$24,340 for the remaining balance of \$14,768; and (c) a request for expense reimbursement would be submitted to the DNR on the 2019 Clean Boats Clean Waters Grant of \$4000 for the remaining balance of \$3000.

2. Clean Boats Clean Waters Program and Decontamination Station

Chairman Plisky indicated that between May 4, and August 18, 2019, the Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Program Inspectors inspected 865 boats, contacted 1860 people, and worked 450 hours on weekends and holidays. Chairman Plisky mentioned the CBCW Coordinator Hunter Denison had done a good job and was interested in being the Coordinator again in 2020.

Chairman Plisky noted all the Zebra Mussel tests were done in July and August and submitted to the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department, and the test results would be available at a future Board meeting.

Commissioner Dahl pointed out the watercraft launch fee was generally well received by the public.

There was discussion regarding: (a) fewer bass tournaments in 2019 than previous years; (b) concern about not all bass tournament boats using the decontamination station; (c) difficulty in knowing in advance about bass tournaments which were usually held on weekdays; and (d) only one District member providing CBCW Program volunteer time in addition to the Board members.

3. Spooner Lake Three-Foot Drawdown

Chairman Plisky acknowledged Chris Thompson, Washburn County Highway and Dam Committee Chairman, and Brian Danielsen, Washburn County Highway Commissioner, for their support in approving the three-foot drawdown. Chairman Plisky thanked the District members who attended the Washburn County Highway Department public drawdown informational meeting and Highway and Dam Committee meeting in support of the drawdown. He indicated a postcard with drawdown approval and related information was mailed to property owners and area service providers for boats, docks, and lifts.

There was discussion relating to concern about docks and lifts left in Spooner Lake during the winter season not being easily visible to snow mobile riders.

Chairman Plisky mentioned he submitted a drawdown information article published in the *Spooner Advocate* this week, and he posted drawdown information signs at the Mann Road landing and County Highway H landing areas.

There was discussion relative to improving the hole in the County Highway H launch ramp area created by boat power loading.

Chairman Plisky noted an effort would be made to improve the County Highway H launch ramp area during the drawdown. Chairman Plisky pointed out a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff member suggested the possibility of: (a) installing a second ramp at the County Highway H landing area; and (b) grant monies being available to install a second ramp at the County Highway H landing area.

There was discussion regarding: (a) the DNR pre-drawdown fish population survey conducted this week and hopefully a future post-drawdown fish population survey for drawdown references; (b) a past drawdown fish population informal survey showing no consequential impact on fisheries; (c) shoreline area and timing of nuisance plant and weed removal; and (d) future annual one-foot drawdowns.

Chairman Plisky encouraged District members to manually remove nuisance plants and weeds from the dock and shoreline in an area that is 30 feet or less in width, except in a sensitive area where the opening is limited to 25 feet, to help property owners maintain access to the lake and maximize the benefit of a drawdown. (Sensitive area information and map are available in the 2019 Spooner Lake Aquatic Plant Management Plan on page 7 of the document at the Spooner Lake District website at <http://www.spoonerlakewi.com/2019%20Spooner%20Lake%20APM%20Plan%20Final.pdf>.)

Bill Jackson moved to approve Chairman Plisky continue as the lead on all related drawdown and County Highway H launch ramp area work after leaving his position on the Board. Gary Cuskey seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

4. 2020 Lake Management - Filamentous Algae, Curly Leaf Pondweed, and Navigation Channel

Chairman Plisky indicated that between May and August a total of \$2590 had been collected in watercraft launch fees.

Chairman Plisky mentioned the water clarity, temperature, chlorophyll, and phosphorus tests had been conducted in July and August.

Chairman Plisky noted the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) had approved the Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan this week.

There was discussion on an annual one-foot drawdown regarding: (a) helping to minimize or eliminate ice ridge shoreline damage; (b) maximizing the time to use the lake before beginning the drawdown; (c) other Washburn County lakes routinely requesting annual drawdowns; (d) District needing to inform the Washburn County Highway Department of its interest in an annual one-foot drawdown; (e) lessening the impacts on wildlife with the timing of the drawdown; (f) measuring one foot near the

shoreline to estimate the drawdown impacted area; and (g) providing drawdown information to the District membership in May.

Gary Cuskey moved to approve Chairman Plisky send a letter or e-mail to the Washburn County Highway Commissioner requesting a Spooner Lake annual one-foot drawdown. Howard Hill seconded. The motion carried with one dissenting vote and request to defer the one-foot drawdown to as close as possible to October 15.

There was discussion on Filamentous Algae relating to: (a) Department of Natural Resources (DNR) not being supportive of approving copper chemical treatment, and inquiring with DNR on likelihood of obtaining approval of future chemical treatment; (b) Spooner Lake being the only lake in area approved by DNR for chemical treatment; (c) obtaining advice on chemical treatment from consultant Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Services and chemical treatment contractor Jim Bartlett of Lake Restoration, Inc.; (d) copper chemical being modified to address environmental concerns; (e) area of lake most impacted; (f) chemical treatment only providing temporary relief; (g) drawdown helping reduce the problem; (h) no copper chemical treatment; and (i) keeping an open mind on future treatment options.

The District membership consensus was to: (a) determine the results of the drawdown on Filamentous Algae; (b) obtain advice on chemical treatment of Filamentous Algae from consultant Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Services and chemical treatment contractor Jim Bartlett of Lake Restoration, Inc.; and (c) maintain an open mind on new Filamentous Algae treatment options in the future.

There was discussion on Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) relative to: (a) obtaining survey information on the results of no chemical treatment in 2019 from consultant Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Services so the District could make a more informed decision on action in 2020; (b) a majority of the Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan Update Committee and Board having decided there would be no chemical treatment in 2019; (c) no chemical treatment for 2 or 3 years to determine results and appropriate future action; (d) chemical treatment since 2008 had succeeded in helping control CLP growth; and (e) applying for a 2020 chemical treatment permit in the event it was decided to proceed.

Glenn Carr moved to: (a) apply for a 2020 CLP chemical treatment permit and to apply for an Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant; and (b) make a decision on whether or not to proceed with CLP chemical treatment in 2020 based on the survey and recommendation of consultant Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Services. John Hockbein seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Plisky presented a map showing the 2019 chemical treatment of the main navigation channel and a second navigation area approved by the Board for which ultimately no 2019 permit application was submitted to the DNR because it would not have been processed in time to be effective this season.

There was discussion on: (a) whether or not to chemically treat the navigation channel in 2020 for a second consecutive year; (b) the cost to chemically treat the main navigation channel and a second navigation area would be approximately \$9000; and

(c) extending the main navigation channel by approximately 500 yards because of the conditions in the area.

Gary Cuskey moved to approve applying for a 2020 chemical treatment permit for the main navigation channel including an extension of approximately 500 yards and the second navigation area. Marilyn Hill seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Report of the Audit Committee

Commissioner Fischer reported that Commissioner Dahl and he met with Commission Hanson 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 Commissioner Hanson for the good job, and thanked Commissioners Fischer and Dahl for the audit work.

6. Treasurer's Report, Proposed Budget 2020, and Taxation of Spooner Lake Property Owners

Chairman Plisky stated the District membership was being asked to approve the 2020 budget giving direction to the Board.

Commissioner Hanson presented and reviewed an updated Treasurer's Report and proposed 2020 budget as of August 31, 2019.

There was discussion on the proposed 2020 budget regarding: (a) investing the \$20,000 Reserve for Rapid Response to Invasive Species to earn a higher return while limiting a penalty for withdrawing the necessary funds in an emergency, and authorizing the Board to make the investment decision; (b) maintaining the current mill tax rate for 2020; and (c) eventually increasing the Reserve for Rapid Response to \$40,000 as monies were available.

John Nordstrom moved to approve a 2020 budget which includes: (a) investing the \$20,000 Reserve for Rapid Response to Invasive Species to earn a higher return while limiting a penalty for withdrawing the necessary funds in an emergency, and authorizing the Board to make the investment decision; (b) maintaining the current mill tax rate for 2020 to generate \$36,000 in income subject to and in accordance with state law and Spooner Lake District By-Laws; (c) eventually increasing the Reserve for Rapid Response to \$40,000 as monies were available; (d) authorizing the Board to enter into the necessary contracts for the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program, drawdowns, and 2020 lake management regarding Filamentous Algae, Curly Leaf Pondweed, and navigation channel areas based on the actions and consensus decisions made during the meeting today. Bill DuCharme seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Election of Two Board Members

- a. One Board Member Vacancy, Representing the Washburn County Board Supervisors, Term Ends at Annual Meeting 2020
- b. One Board Member, Representing Town of Spooner, Term Ends at Annual Meeting 2022

Chairman Plisky opened the nominations for one Board Member, representing the Town of Spooner, whose term would end at the annual meeting 2022.

Commissioner Hanson nominated Bill DuCharme. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Bill DuCharme briefly introduced himself. The District membership unanimously approved Bill DuCharme to serve on the Board, representing the Town of Spooner, for a term ending at the annual meeting 2022.

Chairman Plisky opened the nominations to fill one Board Member vacancy, representing the Washburn County Board Supervisors, which term ends at the annual meeting 2020.

Jay Nordstrom volunteered and nominated himself. There being no further nominations, the nominations were closed. Jay Nordstrom briefly introduced himself. The District membership unanimously approved Jay Nordstrom to fill the Board Member vacancy, representing the Washburn County Board Supervisors, which term ends at the annual meeting 2020.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Chairman Plisky thanked the District membership for their support in serving on the Board, and he especially thanked his wife, Mabi Plisky.

Commissioner Hanson acknowledged the tremendous service by Chairman Plisky and Mabi Plisky in serving the District over the last six years.

PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS

Glenn Carr complimented and thanked Chairman Plisky and Mabi Plisky for their outstanding service to the District.

Paul Schilling inquired about whether water quality tests had been done at the main inlet of Crystal Brook as it related to a trout farm.

Commissioner Dahl stated the trout farm was closed.

Brent Rush asked if the launch fee could be collected all year round.

Chairman Plisky stated it would be difficult to collect a launch fee all year round.

John Meacham pointed out the watercraft launch activity had increased at the Mann Road landing as a result of the fee collected at the County Highway H landing.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Plisky adjourned the District meeting at 11:33 a.m. so the Board could immediately meet to reorganize and establish meeting dates in 2019-2020.

MORTON DAHL
Secretary