

SPOONER LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
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SATURDAY, MAY 29, 2021 10:00A
WASHBURN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS PAVILLION, SPOONER, WI
SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP BOARD MEETING MINUTES

ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Jay Nordstrom, Nancy Hanson, Pat Inman, Ed Fischer, and Mort Dahl

Absent: none

Stand for the pledge of allegiance.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Hanson presented the treasurer's report. \$597 has been collected from the boat launch. Don and Penny Cuskey have been collecting, thank you. \$1600 has been paid out to Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW). \$15,000 has been spent on legal fees to date. \$10,000 of \$18,000 tax levy has been received. Mabi Plisky, commented on Spooner Advocate publication. The meeting agenda's will be submitted differently to the Spooner Advocate, for information/posting and not for publication. The second tax installment was received. A grant reimbursement for Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) was submitted. Legal fees were also incurred.

A motion was made by Mort Dahl to accept the treasurer's report as reported. Jay Nordstrom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

BUSINESS ITEMS

1. Mike Cuskey moved to approve the previous minutes from 9/5/20 and 2/21/21. Motion was seconded by a District Member (name was not understood).
2. Ed Fischer discussed the background of the proposed Campground. A Minneapolis law firm was originally hired to help oppose the campground. Currently a law firm in Madison is working on the opposition. The Board of Adjustment is looking at the documentation to determine if any decision was made in error by the zoning committee. If an error was made it could result in the reversal of the issued conditional use permit.

Mike Cuskey asked for the board to give a description of the proposed campground project. Ed Fischer stated that a 200 site seasonal RV campground is proposed. This will bring additional economic activity for Spooner and it was stated that it will negatively result in overuse of the lake and lowering of the lake water quality. Craig Solum did a study in Burnett County on the effect of campgrounds to property values. The proposed campground does not currently have access to the lake. Chris Thompson stated that Craig Solum was hired by an opposition group and his report was not considered as evidence in the Burnett County decision. Mike Sanders stated that Wisconsin Rapids had a similar situation and put in a large RV park. Jay Nordstrom stated that these campground sites do not have access to the lake, however, the property owner of the proposed campground does own the property adjacent to the lake.

Pat Inman stated a concern is that they are very limited in what can currently be done regarding weed control. WDNR would prefer chemicals not be used for weed control. There is a concern from GLIFWC about two sensitive areas that need to be protected in the area of the campground. There is not a lot of documentation to support that weed harvesting will help control invasive species. We need to be careful in what we expose the lake to.

Chris Thompson asked about the dollar amount of legal fees spent to date. Nancy Hanson stated that \$15,000 has been spent. A question was asked about what intention the campground has for the property adjacent to the lake. Thompson stated that it is intended to have piers for rent to the campground. Thompson stated that if piers are installed it will be permitted and regulated by the DNR. The DNR has to approve all planning processes of the campground. Pat Inman stated that there is documentation stating that the DNR has suggested that this is a bad idea. It was stated that the residents of the lake have an invested interest in Spooner Lake to protect their property. Pat Inman stated that the intent of the Lake District is to protect the lake. Thompson stated that Burnett County had a study completed on the financial impacts of campgrounds on lakes and it was determined that there was none.

Ed Fischer stated that there is someone else interested in purchasing the property that would turn a portion of it into conservatory.

3. A motion was made by Ed Fischer to allocate an additional \$25,000 for legal fees for the appeal process. Mort Dahl seconded. Discussion of the Motion: Keith Johnson stated that the boat landings are not going to be able to handle the influx of boats that a campground will bring. Miles Macone stated that he is on the Washburn County Economic Development Board and the board has not received any new requests, the school enrollment is falling, and there are not jobs available. Tourism is a large base of the economic base of Spooner. Akemi Fischer stated that she is not against development, but it should not come at a cost to the quality of the lake. The Lake District was created to protect the lake. A question was asked about the monies for the legal fees coming from the budget line intended to protect from invasive species. Nancy Hanson stated that the legal fees would come from the general line item and not the budget line for invasive species. Judy Cuskey stated that she has been a resident of Spooner Lake for many years. The residents are being taxed to protect the lake. She does not agree with spending \$25,000. She also stated that there are rules that will need to be followed regarding docks and piers. Ed Fischer stated that Miles Macone should have stated his friendship with Chris Thompson before stating his support of the proposed campground. Those in favor, 51. Opposed, 8. Abstained, 1.
4. The treatment of the Curly Leaf Pondweed was completed.
5. The weed harvesting will begin in August and go on for five days. This will include the main channel and will depend on time permitting will go into the secondary channel. The raising and lowering of the lake will happen every year. A question was raised about the dates, to

determine when boats will need to be removed. It was asked if raising and lowering of the lake was beneficial to residents. Mike Cuskey stated that it has been beneficial.

6. Pat Inman stated that the watershed plan needs to be updated. It was initially done in 2007. She is looking into several grants and the Lake District has been approved to apply for the grant funding. She is contacting other organizations to request collaboration. The Watershed Planning Grant Application will be written over the summer and is due in September. Further information will be provided at the fall meeting.

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

Mort Dahl stated that his term on the board is done in September. There are generally 6 meetings a year and the mission is to protect the lake. He made a request for volunteers to take his place.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mabi Plisky requested an update on the boat launch fees. Jay Nordstrom stated that those who paid for a seasonal pass were sent one. Plisky stated that the Town of Spooner passed an ordinance that residents may obtain a pass for \$20 and non-residents \$40. It is also stated in the ordinance that the passes can be obtained from the boat landing. The Town of Spooner Board also stated in the ordinance that the fees will go back to them and be used to maintain the boat launch. Nancy Hanson stated that boat launch will not be manned to collect launch fees.

Next Meeting August 7, 2021.

A motion to adjourn was made by Mort Dahl at 11:22a. Seconded by Nancy Hanson. Motion Carried.