

SPOONER LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2023 9:00A

AG RESEARCH STATION

W6646 HWY 70

SPOONER, WI 54801

FALL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Joe Banick, Ed Fischer, Nancy Hanson, Pat Inman, Logan Ludwig present and are hereinafter referred to by their initials.

Absent: none

The first listed actor on a motion is the movant. The second, the second. "MCU" means the motion carried unanimously. -MCU

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

LL called the meeting to order at 9:00a.

Stood for the pledge of allegiance.

MINUTES: NH/Jeanie Bruce moved to approve the board meeting minutes of September 3rd, 2022. MCU.

TREASURER REPORT:

NH gave the Treasurer's report. Column 1 actual- \$60,000 tax income, CBCW grant monies, boat launch income \$2,159. Thank you to the Plisky's for collecting and counting money every week. \$500 circuit court donations. Column 2 expenses- \$7,800 CBCW, \$20,000 lake treatments along with the \$4,600 boat launch income used for weed control (includes carry over of 2022 monies), secretarial services, liability insurance (open meetings lawsuit), legal fees for circuit court, leaving a balance available for working monies of \$25,000. \$50,000 bank balance of which \$30,000 is designated for AIS emergencies. Mike Plisky/Jeanie Bruce moved to approve the treasurer's report for audit. MCU

BUSINESS ITEMS:

1. Report of Financial Audit— EF stated that PI and himself posted a meeting of the board where they audited the records of the district. The checking balance, income documents, and receipts were examined. The audit passed. Gary Cuskey/ Nancy Hanson moved to approve the audit. MCU
2. Report of Volunteer Groups—
 - a. Citizen Lake Monitoring Network—Deb and Rich Shipman
They explained the water sampling process that they executed provided to them to perform by WDNR. The information that is collected by the Shipman's and the data from the WDNR is used to monitor the water quality and trends of Spooner Lake. To view the information search the "lakes" portion of the WDNR website. June, July, and August samples were taken.

- b. Nancy Hanson gave a recap of the CBCW, inspectors are present Friday, Saturday and Sunday. They reported 525 boats in, and 383 boats out. Inspectors spoke with 2065 people. A few incidents were encountered and managed.
3. Q & A with Lake Experts—
- a. Steve Schieffer, Lake Biologist, Ecological Integrity Service, LLC
A full lake plant survey is completed every seven years. Over many years Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) has been an invasive species that the district has been combatting. Spooner Lake has been highly variable with CLP. WDNR has changed their permitting to only allow treatment on beds 5 acres or more. One 12 acre bed was treated this year. Schieffer stated that he believes CLP has been down on area lakes. A survey will be done this fall. A broad spectrum herbicide is used for treatment in the spring.
 - b. James Bartlett, Lake Restoration, Inc.
Residents were interested in individual applications this year. Bartlett worked on applications for several weeks. Once submitted, the WDNR denied the applications. After further discussion with WDNR, they have said that they will listen to residents with navigational issues summer 2024. He requested that Spooner Lake residents report beds to the district. They will then pass on the information for Bartlett to include the area when he surveys. The weed growth can be highly variable every year. The CLP bed that was treated is near Mann's Landing.

Schieffer stated more data is needed on drawdowns to fully understand the effects and results. In his opinion a 6" drawdown will not mitigate plants.

Schieffer stated that Filamentous Algae is a stringy algae. When it decomposes it floats to the surface. Motor traffic cuts plants and makes them float to the surface. The Filamentous Algae created "mats" when this happened. Historically this algae was treated with copper compounds that is no longer recommended. It is naturally occurring in lakes and is a sign of excess nutrients. This algae growth will vary with different yearly parameters. There are mechanical treatment options and the board plans to research the options and expense. Bartlett stated that there are product options for mitigation, however, the nutrients remain. It is legal to remove a 30' swath by hand. No herbicides or machine can be used.

Pat Inman reported that she went to the Northwest Wisconsin Lakes Conference.

- 4. Update on WDNR Application for Shoreline APM Treatment— JB reported. Individual property owners did their own shorelines in the past. This year it was not permitted. WDNR will discuss the possibility of permitting 2024.
- 5. Update on Muck Maid Applications— A dozen property owners signed up for muck maid applications. This has been proven to reduce the muck.
- 6. Discussion of Navigation Channels and Vote on Future Treatments— LL reported that the navigation channels were open quickly after treatment was applied. Mark Schultz/ Gary Cuskey made a motion to chemically treat the channel through Lake Restoration again in 2024. MCU LL stated that the commission will work with Lake Restoration and WDNR to apply for the permitting.
- 7. Discussion of Curly Leaf Pondweed and Vote on Future Treatments— Jeanie Bruce/ Gary Cuskey made a motion to treat the CLP for 2024. MCU
- 8. Discussion of Filamentous Algae Treatment— Discussed earlier in the meeting by Steven Schieffer and James Bartlett. If treated, this would occur in late summer. Schieffer stated that Copper

Compounds are no longer permitted because of the way it accumulates. There is a new chemical, but has not yet been permitted by WDNR. Filamentous Algae is highly variable year to year. Removal of Filamentous Algae is not currently in the budget.

9. Lake Drawdown— NH stated that a drawdown of 1' was done in the past. Last year this was changed to 6". The town must also submit a report that the drawdown is supported by them. Boating will remain the same through September. October 1 start of drawdown is recommended. Mike Plisky/ Gary Cuskey made a motion to move the start of the drawdown date to October 1st. MCU
10. Status of North Camp Litigation— EF gave a recap of the North Camp Litigation. The Washburn County Zoning department was asked to approve a 200 site RV park. This was approved and then appealed. The appeal was lost and it then moved to Circuit Court. Fischer discussed the waste water treatment capacity requirements. North Camp properties has developed 50 sites on the property with septic systems of 30 gallons per day. There will be a zoom link available through the Washburn County Clerk of Courts of the circuit court. If the district prevails in court, North Camp Properties will have the opportunity to appeal. The district would then discuss with the legal counsel to determine if an appeal should be made.

There is an additional lawsuit that involves members of the board being sued by North Camp for open meetings violation. There has been a motion to dismiss. Out of 30 raised violations, only one had merit. If this lawsuit is lost the liability insurance will cover all but civil penalties.

Inman discussed the argument of "what is a campground" with WDNR. The statute of 30 gallons per day has not been updated for waste water discharge.

11. Proposed 2024 Budget— Hanson proposed to leave the tax levy at \$60,000. CBCW grant will be applied for, it will most likely be received. \$2,000 budgeted for boat launch income which will be used for weed control. CBCW inspectors have been budgeted \$8,000. \$25,000 was budgeted for lake treatments. Office Supplies. Secretarial services. \$15,000 legal fees. \$2,000 for civil legal fees. Hanson stated that lake treatments grants do not score high enough on Spooner Lake to be awarded. One reason Inman gave was that WDNR was targeting new 1st time applicants. Inman stated that our aquatic plant management plan must be updated to perform lake treatments next year. Mike Plisky/ Mark Schultz made a motion to approve the proposed 2024 budget. MCU Discussion was raised on the CBCW inspectors receiving a raise in pay. A raise was given in 2022 to increase their rate to \$15. It was decided to give a \$200 bonus to each inspector.
12. Absentee Voting and Election Procedures— LL reviewed the election process. A recommendation to review the bylaws. If it is determined that changes should be made it will be brought back to the board and added to the agenda of upcoming meetings.
13. Election of SLD Commissioners (2 positions)— Pat Inman and Nancy Hanson have terms ending. Polly Banick/ Mike Plisky made a motion to nominate Pat Inman for reelection. MCU Jeanie Bruce/ Mabi Plisky moved to reelect Pat Inman. MCU

Mike Plisky/ Mabi Plisky made a motion to nominate Nancy Hanson for reelection. MCU Logan Ludwig/ Gary Cuskey moved to reelect Nancy Hanson. MCU

COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Gary Cuskey made a motion to adjourn at 10:59a. Second by Logan Ludwig. –MCU.