

SPOONER LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 11, 2025 9:00A

SPOONER TOWN HALL

N6124 BLOOMING VALE ROAD

SPOONER, WI 54801

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Commissioners Joe Banick, Brad Englund, Ed Fischer, Nancy Hanson, Pat Inman present and are herein after referred to by their initials.

**Absent:** none

At 9:00a the scheduled meeting of the Spooner Lake District was called to order by Chair Brad Englund.

NH/PI-- A motion was made to approve the minutes of October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024. MCU

**Treasurer's Report:**

Commissioner Hanson presented the treasurer's report. Report given through 12/31/24. Grant monies are ready and submitted for CBCW. We ended the year with \$48,359 with ~\$30,000 held for rapid response, leaving a balance of \$18,359.61 available in working capital for 2025. EF/PI-- moved to approve the financial report for audit. MCU

**BUSINESS ITEMS**

1. **Treasure Report-Discussion and motion for secretarial services—** NH/PI made a motion to increase the compensation for secretarial services by \$50 per quarter equaling \$200 per year. MCU
2. **Steve Schieffer—**
  - a. **CLP Update:** Schieffer provided a CLP summary handout. Bed 7 was the only bed treated last year totaling 12.5 acres. A pre and post treatment survey was completed. The post survey shows a great decrease in the presence of CLP after treatment. The treatment stops the turions of the CLP process from growing. CLP has to be continuously treated year after year because turions can stay viable for a number of years. Bed D-24 has varied in size over the years but appears to be getting smaller. It is also adjacent to bed 7 where treatment has occurred. It is not likely for WDNR do give permits for beds under 5 acres. The treatment of the navigational channel in June could have some effect on the CLP beds if they are robust at the time of treatment. Englund inquired whether the effects of the inlet encourages CLP growth? Schieffer stated that is possible. CLP likes cool shallow water. Winter conditions with little snow, like occurred in 2023-2024, have positive impacts on CLP growth. Schieffer speculates that it is possible that the depth or thickness of the filamentous algae may allow or hinder the growth of CLP. This does not mean that the district should or does embrace the growth of the algae. The APM plan just ended. The WDNR is more likely to award a permit with a current/active

plan. Schieffer indicated that the lake would not be harmed based on the current CLP numbers if CLP treatment was put off one year. This will also help alleviate additional cost to the membership for the APM plan. PI/EF A motion was made to defer the CLP treatment and pre and post treatment surveys for 2025 after consulting with lake biologist, Steve Schieffer. MCU Englund will contact Jim Bartlett to let him know that the APM is expired and to explain the discussion the board had pertaining needed permits.

- b. **Mizzen chemical treatment:** When a lake has adequate nutrients available like Spooner Lake the lake water quality will be good, but will have a lot of plant growth. A lake will either be plant dominated or algae dominated because the nutrients will have to go somewhere. In Spooner Lake the aquatic plants are dominant. Mizzen is copper based and it is not shown to be healthy for the aquatic fish population. Schieffer inquired with the WDNR and they stated that is not likely to receive a permit for Mizzen treatment. Inman inquired about the wild rice presence on Spooner Lake. She stated that she has spoken with Conrad St. John of the St. Croix Tribe and he may work with the Spooner Lake District to restore wild rice on the lake. There would need to be a feasibility study completed. Mabi Plisky asked if there would be a negative impact to encouraging wild rice growth on the lake? If there were hugely successful beds it could hinder navigation.
- c. **APM discussion, short and long term:** The current APM ended in December. The plan will need to be updated. If the plan is needed in a short time, the plan will need to be self funded. If there is a longer period of time that could be taken for the plan, there would be time to possibly have it grant funded. The grant process is highly competitive. A rough draft of the grant is due in September. Schieffer provided 3 options.
  - i. **Option 1:** If a grant is applied for in November of 2025, the earliest the plan could be updated would be March of 2026. The final plan would be available for use in the Spring of 2027.
  - ii. **Option 2:** Self fund the plan and start now. Survey plants summer of 2025. Finish plan fall of 2025. If approved, the plan would be available to use for 2026 management practices.
  - iii. **Option 3:** Proceed and self fund the plant survey, then apply for a grant to update the plan. This would make the plant survey data available for the plan update.
- d. **Plant survey costs:** A full lake point intercept survey, late season is required and is not anticipated to exceed \$5800. This is required to update the APM. A full lake point survey in early season (for targeting CLP) is recommended and would cost \$1850. This is the same survey that has been previously completed. An APM plan update usually costs \$6500-8500. A maximum cost without grant funding for the whole process would be approximately \$16,150. If a grant is received, the cost would be approximately \$6150 with \$10,000 being covered by the grant. That includes both surveys above.

Mabi Plisky inquired whether Steve Schieffer would be available to do the plan if needed and he stated that he is not available. Englund inquired with Cheryl Clemens, Harmony Environmental, and she indicated that she would be available to do the plan. Schieffer can provide a few more options if Clemens is not available. Mabi Plisky stated that the

plan should be all inclusive with options that are also rationalized to be sure that all lake management practices that the district would like to do are covered in the plan. Schieffer provided grant application options for the district board to investigate. He also indicated that our watershed management plan is dated and needs work. He went through the elements that would be included in a comprehensive plan if the board decides to move in that direction. Schieffer recommended consistent annual water chemistry/Secchi depth data collection. This will build a consistent dataset that can be utilized for any future management decisions.

BE/NH A motion was made to contact Steve Schieffer to conduct a full lake point intercept survey for both early and late season. MCU

- e. **Special session to approve self funding APM plan:** Hanson stated that the board did not plan funds in the budget for the APM plan. The board is allowed to expend \$5,000 without district approval. There is \$10,000 for CLP treatment. That would afford \$15,000 to be used from the budget. Hanson stated that timing is more important than the issue of finances. Hanson also stated that the May meeting could be advertised as a “special meeting” to present the reorganization of funds to be used for the plan development. NH/PI made a motion to undertake the APM plan in 2025 along with self-funding that plan subject to membership approval at a special meeting in May. MCU
  - f. **Discussion and motion to apply for extensions of current APM plan for 2025:** This option is not available and was not discussed.
3. **NWRPC discussion and action on APM—** Inman stated that NWRPC recommended all lake districts fund their own APM plans. The grant application, if awarded, has other strings attached that make the process more tedious. Cheryl Clemens completed this plan for us in the past. NWRPC has also submitted a quote for the plan completion. The board had discussion stating pros and cons between the two options. Clemens is knowledgeable of Spooner Lake is comfortable working with Schieffer. NH/EF A motion was made to solicit proposal from Steve Schieffer, Ecological Integrity, and Cheryl Clemens, Harmony Environmental, for cost and time frame to update expired AMP plan. MCU The board discussed briefly the citizen planning component of the APM Plan.
4. **Northcamp and open meeting litigation action—** Fischer update on the open meeting violation lawsuit. The lawsuit has reached a negotiated end. The first proposal to negotiation was not accepted. The second, two hours of open meeting instructional video for the entire board was approved. Fischer has sent out these links to the board. This needs to be completed by the end of this month. Fischer will clarify the requirements of the order and share that with the group. It was recommended to send Englund an email stating the day and time that each finished the instructional video.

The CUP lawsuit hearing has been scheduled for May 12<sup>th</sup> at 3p. Fischer sent out an email describing the document due dates to file briefs with the court. If an appeal is needed when the CUP lawsuit is finalized, this will need to be brought to a membership meeting.

**COMMISSIONER COMMUNICATIONS**

The next meeting will be 9a, April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The May meeting will now be considered a special district meeting on 5/24/25. Englund will make the arrangements to use the Spooner Ag Research Station.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mabi Plisky volunteered to be a citizen representative for the APMP committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

JB/BE made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:50p. MCU