

LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT SAINT GERMAIN, WI

Elected Commissioners

Steve Sward, President
Erv Stiemke, Treasurer
Carole Koldoff, Secretary

Appointed Commissioners

Ted Ritter, Town of Saint Germain
Dave Zielinski, County of Vilas

PHONE CONVERSATION REPORT OF AUGUST 11, 2006

Caller: Mr. Kelly Thiel, Assistant District Supervisor, U. S. Dept. of
Agriculture, Rhinelander, WI 369-5221
Called: Ted Ritter, Commissioner, Little Saint Germain Lake District
Subject: Beaver control on Muskellunge Creek

Following execution of the contract this July with the Lake District to remove all beavers and beaver construction between Little Muskellunge and Little Saint Germain Lakes, Mr. Kelly provided the following status report:

1. Very few beavers were found in the creek area. There is evidence of ongoing trapping which is apparently controlling the population.
2. Approximately 25-30 old, inactive dams were entirely removed from the stream, some with the use of explosives. It appears that proper removal of old beaver dams from the creek has not occurred during the past 40 years, perhaps longer.
3. Observation of the creek by USDA will continue through this fall, including aerial surveillance, and any new beaver construction that might develop will be removed.
4. The culvert under Pincherry Road was installed at too high an elevation to allow proper stream flow and should be re-installed. This has been discussed by Mr. Thiel with Mr. Larry Stevens of the Vilas County Forestry Department who acknowledges the problem culvert. Mr. Thiel suggests that the Lake District follow up with Mr. Stevens in an effort to have the culvert corrected.
5. The stream is now flowing unrestricted other than the obstruction caused by the culvert. Mr. Thiel was quite impressed by the water quality in the creek and by the cold ground water flowing into the creek. A long term property owner at approximately mid-point between the two lakes informed Mr. Thiel that trout survived in the creek many years ago. Mr. Thiel believes the creek should be re-classified as a cold water stream and believes it may be possible for trout to once again live in the creek if the unimpeded stream flow is maintained.
6. Annual USDA contracted maintenance of the creek is advised by Mr. Thiel to assure that optimal stream flow is maintained. The Lake District will be approached next spring by USDA and offered a contract which will likely be 50% or less of the 2006 cost of \$4,968.

END