

**LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE PROTECTION
AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT
ST. GERMAIN, WISCONSIN**

Elected Commissioners

Steve Sward, President
Erv Stiemke, Treasurer
Carole Koldoff, Secretary
5844 Prince Court
Lisle, IL 60532

Appointed Commissioners

Ted Ritter, Town of St. Germain
Jay Verhulst, County of Vilas

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 4, 2005, ANNUAL MEETING

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Steve Sward at 9:02 a.m. at the St. Germain Community Center.

In Attendance: Commissioners in attendance were Steve Sward, Erv Stiemke, Ted Ritter, and Carole Koldoff; Jay Verhulst was absent. Approximately thirty-five Lake District members were present.

Approval of Agenda: After Steve Gilbert, DNR fish biologist for Vilas County, was added to the agenda per his request, Debbie Benson moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Barbara Steinhilber. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Review of Minutes from 2004 Annual Meeting: Motion to approve the 2004 Annual Meeting minutes was made by Hank Kosanda, seconded by Dick Kenney. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Financial Report/Budget: Erv reviewed the figures on his 2004 Financial Report (as mailed in advance with meeting notice). Robert Nussbaum asked when the \$20,000 escrow was established and questioned the interest rate we are receiving on our accounts. Erv explained that at the time we received the five year exotic species management grant, the DNR required us to place \$20,000 in an escrow account. We actually received \$29,000 for this grant which Erv immediately deposited into the escrow account. Erv advised that all Lake District money is held in a Money Market Account currently paying approximately one-half per cent interest.

Joan Scheffler questioned the \$3,210 figure shown as income from the Sayner St. Germain Fish & Wildlife Club, reimbursement of our portion of the town grant, and then shown below as an expenditure. Erv explained that we give \$2,000 to the Sayner St. Germain F&W Club for fishery expense and water quality and, through a matching formula, they return between \$3,000 and \$3,500 to us. Our portion of the town grant was \$3,210, so we took it out of there, and it was a wash with no cost to the district.

Erv then reviewed the total estimated expenses and 2005 budget (included with the meeting notice). Although we budgeted \$2,000 for fish stocking/water quality, the

Sayner St. Germain Fish & Wildlife Club changed their formula this year to a maximum contribution of \$1,000 from any one lake, so Erv held back \$1,000 for 2006.

There were no expenditures in connection with a proposed web site for which we had budgeted \$2,500.

Dick Kenney questioned the \$15,000 expense for native weed control, as native weeds were not cut in 2005. Erv explained that the \$15,000 will carry over, and later in the meeting we will discuss the new figures for 2006.

Robert Nussbaum questioned an almost 17 per cent reduction in aeration expense, yet an increase of over 25 per cent in the 2005 budget. He questioned how there could be a reduction, especially in the cost of electricity, and yet an increase in the new budget. Erv explained that, in addition to electricity and operation of machinery, there are always maintenance expenses and additional costs such as the replacement of posts, ropes, and signs. Mr. Nussbaum then asked for a clarification of footnotes "a" and "c" on the budget which was given by Erv.

Motion to approve the financial report was made by Greg Loesche, seconded by Debbie Benson. Motion approved by unanimous vote.

Exotic Species Management Update: As John Manki was unable to be present, Ted Ritter was asked to bring us up to date on the current status of the exotic species. Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) was identified in 2002. We were to have a three year heavy chemical application in 2003, 2004, and 2005. The results were everything that we hoped for--CLP is apparently all but non-existent, but not eradicated. From this point forward, we will proceed with the original plan which is to monitor and respond as needed. We know that there is a small colony of CLP in South Bay. We will need to watch that next spring, and decide then, depending on size, whether it can be physically hand pulled or needs to be chemically treated. At this point, the large expense for the annual herbicide application three year plan for CLP has expired, and we will monitor in the spring to see where we are. There will likely be some plants coming up that we will need to respond to; however, the large, heavy mats of 2002 are a thing of the past.

In the meantime, Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) popped up first in West Bay, and we started spot treating that last year. As we feared, it got out of West Bay, and showed up in East Bay and Lower East Bay. All of those places were chemically treated this spring, and the results were good. Some original beds in West Bay are re-developing. Mark Hiller was diving a week or so ago, and found some small colonies starting to erupt again. We considered applying a second chemical application this fall yet. We did two last year that were very effective. The concern is that the herbicide used for EWM is not a contact herbicide like that used for CLP. A contact herbicide burns the plant on contact; 24D is systemic which means that the plant absorbs it into its system, and gets down and kills the root. For the chemical to be effective, the plant has to be in an active growth stage. At this late date, we are at a point where EWM has pretty much topped out its growth for the year, and is now producing roots at the top of the plant.

The next thing that will happen is those plants will break up and set those pieces (the roots) adrift, and that is primarily how it spreads. It is at a point now where it would not absorb very much of the herbicide. The Board has come to the conclusion that it would not be cost effective to do a second application at this time of the year, but we will pursue it next spring, Next summer, if a second application is needed, we will need to make that decision in July, so that we have enough time to get the permits, send out riparian notices, etc. If we hadn't pursued the EWM in West Bay for the past few years, the situation would be much worse there. EWM will never be 100% eradicated, but with some aggressive treatment next year, we should be able to continue to keep it at a modest level. Hopefully, we will get to a point where chemical treatment can be done every other year rather than every year.

Ted mentioned the five year management plan to which we will be adhering. Among other things, that plan calls for an annual evaluation of the plant growth. A professional consultant will be coming onto the lake in the spring, and, using a GPS and a grid system that has been established, he will check the same places year after year for CLP and EWM. After that survey has been done in the early spring and the supporting diving has been done, we will get together and review the plan for 2006, see what adjustments need to be made to it, and move forward. As you drive into Eagle River crossing the Wisconsin River near the Honey Bear Restaurant, on the left-hand side you will see a green mat covering Watersmeet Lake. This is an example of what can happen to a lake if nothing is done. EWM is shore to shore everywhere, and you can't get a boat with an engine through it. West Bay is too deep to look like that, except for the shoreline, but No Fish Bay, South Bay, and East Bay could look exactly like Watersmeet Lake without controls for EWM. Control is expensive, but we have programs and funding in place.

Larry Acker asked if we could hire some divers now to pull the EWM out in small areas. Ted said that Mark Hiller advised that the water clarity is very poor now. Also, diving is a theoretical control measure, but is not as effective as it would seem that it could be. Steve stated that in terms of cost, benefit, and over-all results, it is our collective judgment that chemical treatment vs. diving is the right procedure.

A question was asked regarding the results of the sample that was sent out last year to determine if it was a hybrid. Ted stated that it came back as native. We have both native Milfoil and Eurasian Water Milfoil in our lake. There are lakes around the country that have hybrid Milfoil growing in them, but in no case has the Wisconsin DRN found a lake where the hybrid is growing and where there is also both native and Eurasian. Hybridization has always been introduced as a hybrid. Hybridization does not appear to be happening in our lake, but we will keep monitoring it. Debbie Benson asked if we could possibly do three applications next year, since we didn't do two this year. Ted said that three applications would probably not be advisable, since the growing season is not long enough. Steve stated that it is our goal to introduce only that amount of chemical necessary to do the job. Joan Scheffler asked if there would be any benefit to marking these areas with buoys to make sure that boats don't go through and spread it. Ted advised that it will automatically fragment anyway, since it propagates itself. Hank

Kosanda asked if it was ever determined how EWM got into our lake. Ted advised that it most likely arrived as most of the non-native life forms come in--as bilge waters in ocean containers via the Great Lakes. There is now federal legislation pending that would require ocean ships to exchange bilge water at sea.

Native Weed Control Update: When Cliff Schmidt was here in June treating EWM, Erv took him around South, No Fish, and Upper and Lower East Bays. He thought we would be harvesting the first part of August. However, as the summer progressed, the weeds did not seem to get to the top, and the commissioners collectively decided not to cut. The paddlewheels Cliff uses to cut disturbs the water tremendously, and since we have had such good water quality, he recommended that we not harvest at that time. At this point, it does not look like we will do any cutting this year, so we will carry the money budgeted over to 2006, and there will be no levy for harvesting. This was a very unique summer--the water temperature held for some time at 85 degrees on the surface, the lake level was very low, and the water was much clearer. Since there were no big thunderstorms here, we stayed very dry, and the nutrients were not washed into the lake. Although the water became pea green in the last few days due to a heavy wind, until then it was surprisingly clear.

USGS 2005 Lake Study Report: Steve asked everyone to pick up a copy of the USGS 2005 study and report on the table, and the members then watched a video tape of Bill Rose and Dale Robertson discussing the highlights of the report.

Steve advised that a sediment study was conducted the first week of August, and although we were hoping to have some preliminary results for the Annual Meeting, we do not have them yet. We expect those results shortly, and they will give us a very good idea of where we go from here. Before we develop a program with alum, we need to be reasonably confident it would result in significant improvement of the algae problem. This has been the best year on East Bay, because the Creek water is very low. Hank Kosanda asked if we are aware of any other lakes that have done extensive testing. Ted went to a meeting in Madison recently, and is not aware of any other lakes that have studied this problem thoroughly. Robert Nussbaum asked if we could ask for a rebate on the aerator that is not working properly. Ted explained that the problem is primarily in the placement. Steve said that the cost was modest for the one that does not work properly. The Board has discussed and is looking into making changes to that system. We need to focus first on remediation in East Bay. In the future, we may also want to look at a second station in South Bay, as water does not migrate over the sand bar there. Ted Nelson asked whether we would be going forward next year with alum treatment. Steve said that our goal is to present a proposal subject to the sediment study at this time next year. Joan asked whom we would be using. Steve said it would probably be Foth & Van Dyke. Overall, they have done a credible job, and he explained that USGS is a government data collecting agency.

Regarding the non-working blower in East Bay, Steve Gilbert suggested that we might want to consider two blowers with a separate unit for each system, but housed in the same building. Rather than trying to salvage the non-working blower, he thought we

might look at another site off the north shore of East Bay where there is a fifteen foot hole, and set another unit there. Erv advised that the blower has a broken motor, and the problem is getting another property owner to have the house located on his or her property.

Report from Steve Gilbert, DNR Fish Biologist for Vilas County: Steve provided information on recent studies and stocking. He passed out fisheries information sheets on bluegill, pumpkinseed, and black crappie. Currently, there are many large bullheads in Little Saint, but hardly any small ones. We also have lots of small bass, primarily large mouth. Forty-nine thousand fingerling walleye were stocked this year.

Self-Help Program and Water Sampling: Cliff Colberg, who lives on No Fish Bay, is now doing the self-help program around 50 to 60 hours a year. A new dissolved oxygen and temperature meter has been purchased.

Town Lakes Committee Report: Ted advised that five or six other towns now have active lake committees. St. Germain is still the role model for others to follow. Larry Acker was thanked for his time and talents given constantly and faithfully to the Committee. The Lakes Fair this year was great, and gave us lots of good feedback. Ken Stofflet and Tom Best are our representatives on the Town Lakes Committee. They have been on the Committee for two years now, and would both like a reprieve. We would like to have two people, preferably year-round residents, volunteer to meet approximately monthly as representatives of Little St. Germain Lake. The Town Lakes Committee gave Little Saint \$12,000 for a non-native plant control program that we would not have received without the Town Lakes Committee. Please let Ted Ritter know if you are interested in being on the Committee.

Boat Landing Improvement Project: Mark Hiller has been asked to contact the WVIC and the WDNR regarding monies available. The Lake District could also put some money into the project. We are going to look into possibly putting in concrete pads.

Approval of Levy for 2006: First, there was a motion to approve a \$28,000 levy if we get a town contribution. Since we will have three different projects next year, Greg Loesche then made a motion, seconded by Tom Schwartz, that we leave the levy at this year's rate of \$43,000. Steve Gilbert suggested that we put the money into separate accounts. Joan Scheffler said the Board has done an excellent job in annual budgeting, and thought it unnecessary to budget more money than we have plans for next year. She believes that the annual levy should not cover projects one or more years down the line, as those projects should be paid for by the current property owners. Steve said that he would feel better if we approved a larger levy for specific projects, and advised that anything over \$5,000 needs the approval of the membership. The motion to approve a levy of \$43,000 was then put to a vote, and approved by a majority of the membership.

Election of Commissioner to Fill Expiring Term of Steve Sward: Steve advised that he was not campaigning for another term as President. However, since he is now retired and will be in St. Germain more or less full time, he would be willing to serve

another term. There being no other nominations from the floor, Dick Kenney made a motion that Steve be elected President for another term, seconded by Barb Steinhilber, and unanimously approved.

Public Concerns: Robert Nussbaum would like the Annual Meeting day changed. Ted advised that a motion would need to be made regarding next year's meeting, and then added to next year's agenda. Dick Kenney asked if it could be changed to the Saturday of Labor Day weekend rather than Sunday. A motion was made by Robert Nussbaum, seconded by Greg Loesche, to add this item to next year's agenda.

Greg Loesche advised that the weeds were horrendous by the island in East Bay. The problem is primarily elodea, an aggressive native plant that moves in after non-natives have been removed. In the future, we may have to look into managing elodea. A property owner can take this problem up with the WDNR. They are entitled to create an opening fifty feet wide in front of their property at the property owner's expense.

Adjournment: Robert Nussbaum moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Larry Acker. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13 a.m.

Carole Koldoff, Secretary