

MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 3, 2000

The 2000 annual meeting was called to order by Commissioner/President Steve Sward at 9:30 a.m. in the St. Germain Community Center with approximately 80 people in attendance. Commissioners Ted Ritter and Charles Wranosky were absent. Marc Dean sat in to take notes of the meeting in the absence of Ted Ritter, Secretary.

Minutes of the 1999 annual meeting and the financial report had been mailed to all district property owners with the notice of the 2000 annual meeting. The treasurer's report was explained by Commissioner/Treasurer Erv Stiemke. A motion to approve both the meeting minutes and the treasurer's report was then made, seconded and approved by voice vote.

Mr. Michael Sealander and Mr. George Wagner, DNR Fish and Game Wardens presented the status of the "Rules of the Water" and their enforcement efforts on Little Saint Germain Lake. Electronic range finders were used by the wardens this past year to monitor compliance with distance rules. Aircraft was also used in conjunction with wardens in boats to pinpoint violations by watercraft operators. The most common violations for which citations were issued included failure to operate watercraft at no wake speed in no wake zones, operating watercraft within the restricted distances from shorelines, docks and other boats and failure to have sufficient or appropriate personal floatation devices on board. It was also mentioned during this report that Vilas County now has a new deputy for water and snowmobile patrol. Consequently there is now more enforcement on Little Saint Germain Lake by the Sheriff's office as well as by DNR wardens.

Larry Acker, Fisheries Committee Chairperson and Steve Gilbert, DNR Vilas County Fisheries Biologist presented a joint fisheries report. Mr. Gilbert's memo of August 25, 2000 regarding increasing the minimum size limit on muskellunge in Little Saint Germain Lake to 45 inches is enclosed with these minutes. Also enclosed is Mr. Gilbert's letter of August 31, 2000 to Larry Acker addressing fisheries issues for Little Saint Germain Lake. Larry Acker reported that of the \$8,000 budgeted for fish stocking in 1999, only \$200 was spent due to problems with the hatchery. The \$200 was used for purchasing fat head minnows for the Saint Germain Fish and Wildlife Club rearing pond. This donation in conjunction with money from the Saint Germain Chamber of Commerce, the Town of Saint Germain and the Moon/Alma Lake District resulted in 2,335 small mouth bass of 4" to 6" in length being planted in Little Saint Germain Lake. 6,000 walleye of 6" to 8" in length were also planted (from the 1998 lake district budget). The DNR also stocked 9,000 extended growth walleye 7" to 9" in length.

Mr. Phil Korth of the consulting/engineering firm of Foth and Van Dyke presented an update on the status of the district's water quality projects. A copy of the USGS report on "Hydrology, Water Quality and Phosphorous Loading of Little St. Germain Lake" is enclosed with these minutes. A grant in the amount of \$124,000 has been awarded to Little Saint Germain Lake for the purposes of installing two aeration systems to overcome loss of oxygen during winter months and for continued study of the phosphorous/algae problem in the lake. Specific property owners in upper east bay and south bay are being contacted in the hopes of the district being granted easements on which the aeration systems can be installed. It is questionable whether installation

of either aeration system will be completed in time for operation during the 2000/2001 winter season. More information regarding a proposal to address the phosphorous loading problem will be forthcoming during 2001.

Steve Sward presented an overview of weed harvesting operations performed on Little Saint Germain Lake this August. A weed harvesting service was contracted with in response to the extreme weed growth experienced this summer. \$10,000 was spent cutting weeds in No Fish bay and select areas of South and East bays. It is likely that cutting will become necessary again next summer and perhaps for several years beyond until the heavy growth cycle of weeds common in the lake comes to an end. Marc Dean has graciously volunteered to coordinate all aspects of weed harvesting.

The proposed budget and tax levy was discussed. A motion was made, seconded and approved by voice vote to amend the proposed budget by reducing fish stocking from \$8,000 to \$2,000 and increasing weed harvesting from \$10,000 to \$21,000 thus increasing the budget and levy to \$40,000. (A tax levy ballot is enclosed with these meeting minutes.)

Nominations were called for to fill the expiring three year commissioner term currently held by Ted Ritter. Ted had indicated prior to the meeting that he would be happy to pass the job on to someone else but that he would accept the job for another term if no one else was interested. Ted was then nominated in his absence. There being no other nominations, Ted was elected by voice vote.

A public concern was raised from the floor regarding the need for a buoy to control speed at the east entrance to No Fish bay. This issue will be addressed prior to placement of regulatory and hazard buoys in the spring of 2001.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m..

Minutes prepared by Ted Ritter, Secretary.