

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

Elected Commissioners
Ted Ritter, President
Erv Stiemke, Treasurer
Lou Mirek, Secretary

Appointed Commissioners
Todd Wiese, Town of Saint Germain
Mary Platner County of Vilas

**Annual Meeting Minutes
8-31-08**

08:00 Meeting was called to order by Ted Ritter

Introduction of Board of Commissioners

Motion to Approve Agenda by Barb Piterle, seconded by Dick Canie,
Motion approved.

Motion to approve 2007 meeting minutes by Rod Nipper , seconded by
Steve Sward and approved.

Financial report was reviewed by Erv Stiemke. No questions presented.

Status reports:

1. Water Clarity update

USGS and DNR reviewed Barr's proposal of water alum treatment in
Lower East Bay.
USGS and DNR were not convinced that periodic anoxic conditions (lack of
dissolved oxygen) is triggering the phosphorous release which results in
algal blooms.
. Barr clarified their findings stating that they feel conditions do exist and
that perhaps the phosphorous release is coming from the lake sediment
where dissolved oxygen levels have not been monitored.

It was recommended that there be one more study which would include
taking and that perhaps the phosphorous release is coming from the lake
sediment where dissolved oxygen levels have not been monitored.

: Two public informational meetings were held during the summer to seek comments regarding proceeding with the additional study. Following nearly unanimous public support, the board of commissioners decided in early July to accept the offer from Cliff and Amy Kohlberg to collect the samples. The project commenced in mid-July.

Results of the summer water study will be reviewed by Barr, USGS and DNR before further consideration of Barr's alum treatment study findings is given.

Depending on the results of the summer water study, any of the following are possible scenarios as DNR responses to a permit application and financial support for an alum treatment:

1. Give us the permit and no money and we pay the whole \$400,000
2. Give us the permit and a Lake Protection Grant for \$200,000 and we come up with the other \$200,000.
3. No permit

Meeting attendees will be asked later in the meeting to choose between authorizing the District to levy as a 2008 tax the first year payment on a \$400,000 loan to be amortized over eight years (in the event an alum treatment permit is issued) or to wait until the permit is issued to consider authorizing the expense to proceed.

2. Fishery update

Steve Gilbert reported that our 2008 musky population of fish over 30 inches is .25fish/acre which is average for a stocked lake in our area. There are no problems with viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS). In 1997 there was .15 musky/acre. We have a better average now.

The stocking program was suspended several years ago due to the low oxygen levels in the winter resulting in poor success in the stocking program. Our aeration success supports the re-enactment of the stocking program. Therefore, there was discussion on the re-enactment of the walleye stocking program. This would be extended growth (7-8") walleyes. They are \$1.75-2.00 each. The recommendation is 5 fish/acre. We would

then stock about 5000 fish for \$10,000. The survival rate for fish this size to grow to the 15 inch length would be 20% or 1,000 fish.

Steve addressed that the aeration system probably could have been turned off earlier this last year. He will advise when it should be turned off to decrease our electrical expenses.

3. Exotic plants control update

We are in a milestone year. We are in the 5th year of our 5 year plan which ran from 2004 thru 2008.

Recap: 2002 discovered curly pond weed
 2003 discovered Eurasian water milfoil
 2004 put together 5 year plan, obtained state funding

We were the first lake in the DNR 18 county northern region to put together plan and receive state grant funding. We projected cost to be \$240,000. We received \$120,000 grant and we funded \$120,000.

Our objective was to reduce the AIS enough to proceed with maintenance without state aid.

Planned cost: \$240,000
Actual cost: \$270,000 \$30,000 over

We are making great progress. The density of the AIS is a fraction of what it was but cost is increasing.

Statewide the funding available has increased from \$1.5 mil to 4.3 mil annually

. The grants are no longer 50/50 but are now 75/25 with the state providing 75% funding and the local cost share being 25%

The state is allowing a 15% overrun in response to Erv Stiemke's request for additional state aid for the initial five years, we will be receiving an additional \$4,500.00 And the local cost share being 25%

. We will be receiving a total of \$18,000 to offset this years costs.

With a projection of the next 5 years costing \$270,000, the state will provide \$202,500 and we will provide \$67,500.

We are in need of volunteers to put together the next 5 year plan to keep our AIS at a sub-nuisance level. Eradication is unlikely. This new team may take 5-6 months of work. You will be working with Onterra, Inc.

We are in need of more lake monitors. We thank Tom Best, Mark Hiller, Lou Mirek, John Manki and Ted Nelson for the lake monitoring that was done. If you are interested in learning lake monitoring, please contact Tom Best at Idle Hours Resort. It is necessary to be very specific of the location where you have sited the AIS.

There was a question asked about the fish kill that occurs at the same time as the herbicide application. This is just a coincidence. This fish kill is from a bacteria and not to be concerned about it.

4. Town Lakes Committee activities update – Lee Holthaus, Lou Mirek

Town Lakes committees are advisors to Town Boards.

Lou Mirek – we received an in-kind grant in which 50% volunteer hours for dollar matching from the state.

Little Saint needs to provide 94 volunteer hours by the end of September as its contribution to the town project to be eligible for Grant reimbursement . We have just less than 50 hrs at this time.

Our Committee encompasses Little Saint, Big Saint, Alma, Moon, Lost and Found Lakes.

Our activities are: Flea Market Booth – education and watercraft inspection
Training

Boat Inspections at boat landings
Lake Monitoring (continues until ice)
Beverage Coasters – Clean Boats/Clean waters
Shopping Bags
Placemats

We are in need of volunteers, please contact Lee Holthaus or Lou Mirek.

Our grant information is submitted in November.

5. Public Boat landing improvement opportunity report

Yearly we receive a letter from Wisconsin Valley Improvement Corp. offering an opportunity for cost sharing involving a lake improvement project. Two individuals from the lake volunteered to look into suitable projects and offer their recommendations for consideration at the annual meeting.

They are proposing a boat landing upgrade consisting of restructuring of parking and ramp area and adding a second dock. Cost per contractors is \$25,000. WVIC agreed to pay \$12,500. We would have to get a DNR approval.

Another thought was to reposition the existing pier to be more in the middle so that both sides could be more accessible for launching.

Without prior contact between the DNR and our Lake District committee, the DNR upgraded the pavement. This would have to be ripped up if we plan to do our proposed improvements.

Paul Bruggink, DNR Woodruff office, knows the plans for boat launches and resurfacing, etc. 6-8 years out. Paul Bruggink needs to be contacted to see their plans for our boat launch and access area.

Regarding seeking assistance with our invasive species management program, WVIC will not assist with anything other than purple loosestrife control as that is the only species their dam operating license obliges them to address.

Website status/Email broadcast system – e at “littlesaint.org”

We are looking for suggestions. If you want to receive emails, send us your email address.

Hosting fees for the website have been waived by Northern Net Exposure as their contribution to our District

Action Items:

1. SLOW/NO-WAKE zone between No-Fish and East Bays. This would need approval by DNR.

Steve Sward made motion to table this issue to next years meeting, it was seconded and passed.

2. Approve 2009 budget and supporting tax levy

Motion to approve \$69,000 budget as presented by the board of commissioners for 2009 by Jim Kelsey, seconded by Gary Blessie. One opposed. Motion passed.

3. Long Term Funding for possible alum treatment in Lower East Bay

If we do not receive the grant, we would have to fund \$400,000 for 8 years at no more than 7.04%. This would be \$66,000/yr for 8 years.

Steve Sward made the motion to approve the \$66,000/yr with the understanding that if we do receive a state grant, the money would carry over to the next year's budget and there would be an adjustment of the amount levied. This was seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion:

Steve Gilbert expressed concerns with the amount of money being spent with no measurable outcomes/goals such as degree of water clarity, desired phosphorous level, unintended consequences, and change in plant and fish community. Ted Ritter clarified that there is no guarantee but the hope is that the water clarity of May or June will continue throughout the summer with no spikes in algae blooms. Worse case scenario is this is a \$400,000 experiment with no beneficial results.

. Steve Gilbert expresses concern that with increased clarity could produce more weeds growth. Ted states Barr could not guarantee this would not happen. Steve Sward felt the property value is being affected by our present

water clarity. Todd Wiese presented the fact that Lake Delavan benefited greatly from this “experiment”. Ted also shared the District’s history of total valuations and annual levies so that attendees could understand the impact of a \$400,000 levy on individual tax bills.

There are 2 other potential areas that may require treatment in the future at an additional cost beyond the \$400,000 Lower East bay treatment.

If a permit is eventually issued and if we apply for grant funding, the earliest we would have an answer to the grant application would be June. Therefore, if we do not approve a levy of \$66,000 for the first year payment of a \$400,000 loan, we will need to postpone treatment for one year.

We will not request the loan until after we receive the permit.
Motion to increase the 2008 levy by \$66,000.

Approved: 28
Opposed: 10
Motion passed.

Levy status at this point:	\$69,000	budget
	\$66,000	alum treatment
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	\$135,000	subtotal

4. Fish stocking walleye of extended growth.

Ted Nelson made a motion to approve up to \$10,000 for stocking of extended growth walleyes. It was seconded by Ken Kopecki. Motion passed.

Levy status at this point:	\$69,000
	\$66,000
	\$10,000
	<hr/>
Approved	\$145,000

There was discussion of the Fish-Wildlife \$1000 investment from which we now have \$2100 which is used for a variety of line items.

5. Election of Commissioner for expiring term of Erv Stiemke

Erv has been in this position for the 28 years that it has been in existence minus a brief hiatus of about two years.

Erv is willing to continue because he is working on a grant which is complicated, but he would like to start training someone to take over his duties at the end of his next term.

Ted requested someone work in an apprenticeship with Erv to take over in 2011.

Steve Sward made a motion to nominate Erv Stiemke. Paul Abbott seconded the motion. Approved unanimously.

6. Time and Date for 2009 annual meeting

Ron Nippen made a motion to have next meeting the Sunday of Labor Day weekend at 9AM. Cheryl Kelsy seconded the motion. Approved.

7. Adjourn

Mr. Loesche made a motion to adjourn. Lee Holthaus seconded the motion. Approved. Meeting was adjourned at 11:30am.