

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

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

Appointed Commissioners
Walt Camp Town of Saint Germain
Mary Platner County of Vilas

Budget Hearing 9-5-10

9:00 am Hearing was called to order by Chairman Ted Ritter.

Introduction of Board of Commissioners

Erv Stiemke presented the 2009 year end financial report & 2010 Budget. (Copies distributed)

Ted Nelson questioned amount planned to be spent on 2010 exotic weed control.

Dick Kenney questioned expenses on landing improvements for 2010. Erv explained line items pertaining to each issue.

Budget hearing closed.

2010 Annual Meeting

Annual meeting called to order at 9:12 am.

Ted introduced WDNR Representative Dr. Mike Meyer, Kevin Gauthier - Lake Specialist, and Steve Gilbert - Fisheries.

Motion to approve agenda in any order, by Walt Camp, 2nd by Mary Platner, motion passed.

Minutes of 2009 were posted. Motion by Dick Kenney to accept the minutes, 2nd by Barb Steinhilber, motion passed.

Reports:

1. Shoreline Restoration Project Update – Mike Meyer, DNR

District had received grant for shoreline restoration, measuring ecological benefits of restoration projects. Completed Moon Beach Camp project this past summer. Awarded \$93,000 for Little St. Germain Lake restoration. He visited 14 properties on the lake that were interested, 8 of them have altered shorelines. Six have had considerable alterations completed. Next step is to wrap up planning this fall with the property owners to be implemented in spring. Dick Kenney asked if there was a cost to the property owner. There is a requirement that the property owner & the project provide 25% match of total cost.

2. Public Boat Landing Improvements – John Manki not available

Ted explained main elements are a new roadway down to the ramp area and installation of a 2nd permanent dock, handicap parking area, new ramps in the water, rock obstructions removed, and holes filled. Came in under budget by about \$1,300. WVIC paid about 55% of project. Completed before Memorial Day.

3. Invasive Plant Control Status – Ted Ritter

Making progress on Curly-leaf pondweed, may be able to start backing off on chemical treatments. Eurasian Water Milfoil still a challenge to control. Will participate in post treatment project taking water samples to be analyzed by U.S. Army Corp lab to determine how chemicals are breaking down. Kevin

Gauthier from the DNR is coordinating project for Vilas County lakes. A requirement for the grant is to provide 200 hours of watercraft inspection at boat landing. District hired interns to handle those hours due to lack of sufficient volunteer hours. Treatment plans for 2011 will be being finalized soon. Markers available from Tom Best to identify suspect invasive plant locations on the lake.

4. Fish Stocking – Lou Mirek

Last October the District planted 5000 walleyes at public launch and at Black Bear launch, average size 7". Scheduled for \$10,000 this year to get 5000 more walleyes, waiting on health certifications on fish, and planning to do stocking this October. Steve Gilbert would like to be notified and would prefer plan to do stocking after the fall DNR population survey. Survey results are posted on DNR website and will also be placed on lake district website. Ted Nelson found small dead musky on No Fish Bay. Steve said it may have been a natural fish.

5. Lake Management Plan Update Status Report – Ted Ritter

Everything done requires permits from the state and a management plan that needs to be updated. District's five year plan has expired and new plan will be posted on website after it's approved.

6. Alum Treatment Status Report – Ted Ritter

Two years ago Barr Engineering proposed we do alum treatment to improve water clarity. DNR had questions before issuing permits. Letters from DNR handed out. Revisions to the treatment proposal were also handed out outlining treatment plan modifications, reduced dosages, post treatment monitoring requirements and contingency planning. Issues need to be resolved this winter in order to get treatment done in 2011.

Points to consider (1) estimated cost of about \$450,000-\$500,000 plus unknown factors, (2) no state funding available. 2010 Proposal to Re-Assess Phosphorus Loading from Muskellunge Creek was handed out. Water clarity improved last fall and into this spring, Board feels that it may be a result of the work contracted four years ago with USDA when they did a thorough removal of beaver dams in Muskellunge Creek.

Dale Robertson of USGS is interested in re-evaluating Muskellunge Creek to determine how the modifications affected the phosphorus loading to the lake and how that affected the water quality in the lake. Project could cost up to \$86,000, grants may be available and USGS would cover 30% of costs. Four options were presented ranging from \$16,000 to \$58,000 cost to the District. There's money in the bank from two years ago for Alum Project which was collected for loan payments that could be used for this study project and project could get started next month.

Erv discussed the need for removal and reinstallation of the culvert under Pin Cherry Road on Muskellunge Creek. Steve Gilbert said data collected in the proposed stream study and published in a technical report could be interpreted for future planning. Mary Platner asked if there were any models based on other stream studies that may be applicable to this situation.

Barr's study indicated treatment of East Bay would provide a benefit to No Fish Bay and South Bay areas but would probably not benefit West Bay directly. Kevin Gauthier mentioned he had not seen the USGS Muskellunge Creek proposal as yet, in fact Ted just got it recently.

John Anderson questioned whether we should do the 2 year study without interpretive reports now and get the reports later.

Action Items:

1. Approve/amend Proposed 2010 Tax Levy as presented in budget hearing:

Erv reviewed the 2011 proposed budget and tax levy. To continue at the present pace the base levy would be \$46,500. Motion to approve the 2010 levy at \$46,500 made by Dick Kenney, 2nd by Carole Koldoff. Steve Gilbert suggested walleye stocking every other year allowing for evaluation and more success than every year. May want to hold off on \$10,000 expenditure this year. Ted called for the question on the motion to proceed with \$46,500 levy. One opposed, motion passed. Lee Mueller approved the motion to keep budget

at \$46,500 and hold \$10,000 fish stocking spending to 2012, 2nd by Tom Groth. Discussion: Jeff Grimm asked if double stocking was a problem. Steve Gilbert said we would not be overstocking next year with \$10,000. Ted clarified that the motion authorizes the collection of the money this year but to be held until 2012 for stocking. Jeff Grimm asked if stocking back to back years creates any problems. Steve Gilbert didn't feel that overstocking would be an issue with 5000 fish each year or doing 10,000 fish every other year, but would need to notify the DNR Fisheries in advance. Tom Schwartz asked if it would be more beneficial to stock other parts of the lake. Scatter planting is part of the plan.

Ted called for the question. Do you want to put a hold on the \$10,000 motion. Motion failed. Bonnie Helm made a motion to remove the \$10,000 from the previously approved motion and new base line levy be approved at \$36,500, 2nd by Barb Steinhilber, motion passed.

Add-ons: Muskellunge Creek proposed water quality study- Paul Abbott questioned if the \$30,000 included the interpretive reports. Ted uncertain and would need to have that clarified. Whatever is approved by the district would still need to be approved by the DNR. Ted Nelson made a motion to exercise Option 1 to do 2 year data collection with interpretive reports currently budgeted at \$58,100 but allowing spending up to the full \$66,000 already collected from Alum Treatment funds, 2nd by Tom Schwartz. Erv said we currently have \$87,000 in aquatic plant management fund. Barb Steinhilber asked if they would still pursue a grant. Ted said that was not proposed and could create a delay in proceeding with the project. Cost share is 30% with USGS. Ted called for the vote on the motion. Motion passed.

We will review the proposal with the DNR and Dale Robertson. Levy will stay at \$36,500.

Town lakes committee has funds to cover a boat landing sign kiosk project proposed by Ted Ritter. Tom Groth made a motion to take on the project with no levy expense to the Lake District, 2nd by Karl Schalk, motion passed.

The final levy is set at \$36,500.

4. Elections:

Ted Ritter announced that he will not seek another term as a commissioner but will work with the new commissioner. Floor was opened for nominations. Mary Platner said an appointment could be made from outside the District but position must be filled. Ted suggested it be someone who is here most of the year to handle District business. Mary said the District could go to a five member board and hire a secretary or treasurer to do handle those duties. Ted mentioned that would have to be presented in advance of the Annual Meeting in order to be voted on at the Annual Meeting so that would need to come up next year. Ted will continue to do the website management. With no nominations the Commissioners would need to appoint someone or the District may need to be dissolved. Teleconference meetings could be an option but would need to purchase the equipment to do so.

It was suggested that a letter to the property owners be sent to point out the projects that would not take place if the District dissolved. Property owners not present need to be made aware of what is at stake.

Paul Abbott stepped up for the position, 2nd by Steve Gilbert. Mary Platner stated that a written secret ballot is required. Paul Abbott was elected unanimously.

Bonnie Helm called for a round of applause for Ted Ritter's years of service.

Time and Date for 2011 Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting – Sunday of Labor Day Weekend at 9 am.
Motion made by Ted Ritter, 2nd by Tom Mueller, motion passed.

Motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lois Ruediger