

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

Elected Commissioners

Tom Groth, Chairman
Tom Schwartz, Treasurer
Cheryl Kelsey, Secretary

Appointed Commissioners

Tom Christensen, Town of Saint Germain
Carolyn Ritter, Vilas County

<http://www.littlesaint.org>

MEETING MINUTES

St. Germain Community Center

Thursday, January 10, 2019, 1:00 P.M.

Meeting was called to order by Tom Groth, Chairman, at 1:05 p.m. Commissioners present were Treasurer, Tom Schwartz, Secretary, Cheryl Kelsey, Town of St. Germain, Tom Christensen & Vilas County, Carolyn Ritter.

The Agenda for the meeting was a Discussion with Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company regarding the possibility of future water draw down and timing on Little St. Germain Lake to improve water quality by releasing Phosphorus.

Representatives present from Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC), 2301 North Third Street, Wausau, WI were:

1. Peter Hansen, Vice President of Operations
2. Ben Niffenegger, Manager of Environmental Affairs
3. Scott Blado, Environmental Specialist

Representatives from the Wisconsin Dept. of Natural Resources (WDNR) were:

1. Stephen J. Gilbert, Fisheries Team Supervisor
2. Kevin Gauthier – 715-356-5211, ext. 214

Eric Dantoin, (edantoin@usgs.gov) was also present. He was originally involved in the Study that was done on this subject by the USGS, published and presented to us in 2018.

Tom Groth began the Meeting by reading an introductory statement about the Little St. Germain Lake District's understanding on how the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company controls the level of the Lake throughout the year.

Ben Niffenegger began by describing how the water is drawn down on Little St. Germain Lake. The "release" starts in mid-November and they usually drop the lake about 2 feet, throughout the winter months. The initial draw down is about 2 inches before the Ice and the rest under the ice until late March, about 1.5 inches per week.

In an attempt to find management strategies to improve the water quality, the idea of drawing down the water at different times was proposed to see if we could benefit by “releasing the Phosphorus” and getting it out of the lake before the ice forms.

Kevin Gauthier said he would contact the Wisconsin River representative from the DNR to see how this would impact the river downstream from our Dam.

We were informed that the Dam tender has a spreadsheet given at the beginning of the year and the target elevation of the lake is set by the Federal Regulation Commission.

It was also discussed if there would be any Wisconsin State Grants available.

The draw down would need to be in cooperation with the WVIC, DNR, USGS and the Little St. Germain Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District.

We would need to continue to monitor water quality and of course, would not want to impact the fishery. At this time, Steve Gilbert reported that the Walleye fishery is doing good.

Any plan to propose a draw down would need to be presented at our Annual Meeting where the Stakeholders would vote. We would then continue to monitor the lake during the summer of 2020 and we would not begin the first draw down until the Fall of 2020.

It was agreed we would get together again in the spring to continue the discussion.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:08 p.m.