

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

**Friday, June 14, 2019, 1:00 p.m.
St. Germain Community Center**

Call to Order - Meeting was called to order at 1:16 p.m. by Tom Groth, Chairman. Commissioners present were Tom Schwartz, Treasurer, Cheryl Kelsey, Secretary & Carolyn Ritter, Vilas County. Tom Christensen, Town of St. Germain was absent.

The purpose of this Meeting was to meet with Dane Whittaker, Graduate Research Assistant from Arizona State University's School of Sustainability.

They were asking Lake Organizations to participate in the Vilas County Lake Organization Study. They were asking questions about the lake history and governance practices for lakes.

The Vilas County Lake Organization Study is part of a 5 year project funded by the National Science Foundation. Nine research institutions and conservation agencies have teamed up to undertake a study assessing links among people, lakes and fish in Vilas County, where lakes and fishing hold tremendous value economically, socially and culturally.

The Summer of 2019 is the project's second field season. Scientists will be out on lakes estimating fish populations and taking water measurements. There might be researchers on Boat Landings asking anglers about their trips. They were meeting with lake organizations to learn about their structures, operations and goals.

Dane Whittaker led the discussion and had 2 other researchers with him to take notes. He started the questions with asking how people use the lake. We explained that our lake is a very busy recreational lake. Boaters use it for skiing, wake surfing, enjoyment and of course fishing.

He asked about the Lake Goals, we responded telling him about the things that the District currently has in place, such as: Winter Aeration to improve/help the Fishery, matching

funds for the local Fish & Wildlife Club, foster habitat projects and continue working with the DNR regarding fish stocking. This past year they stocked 240 Muskies.

They asked about our Future Outlook and we explained that we have just finished our Lake Management Plan that was approved by the DNR, and that we continue to work on the water quality and trying to control the spread of AIS. The Fishery is obviously a focus of ours as well as the DNR because of the continued fish stocking program.

We explained about our plan to do Mechanical Harvesting this summer, if warranted, to combat Southern Naiad and that we had a Permit in place with the DNR if needed.

They asked why in the past we choose Chemical Treatments vs. hand harvesting to battle AIS. We explained that Chemicals have been unsuccessful in the larger areas, where some areas of the lake are too deep or spread out for the chemicals to work, we have used the DASH boat the last couple of years.

We explained that at one time, Little St. Germain had 43 Resorts about 40 years ago, and now only about 17 remain.

We further discussed how the study will be shared with the Wisconsin Lakes Convention. They're also working with the Vilas County Land and Water Department.

If we have questions, Dane told us we could contact him at: dwhitta2@asu.edu or the team at: fishscapes@carvinstitute.org.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.