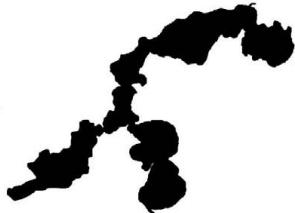


**LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE
PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 129
St. Germain, WI 54558**



Newsletter #13 Fall, 2016

ATTENTION LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE OWNERS!

This newsletter is mailed annually to share information between the Board of Commissioners and District property owners. The District website is available at www.littlesaint.org for more information.

Note: Mailing labels are obtained from the Vilas County tax records. All address changes must be made in writing to the Vilas County Treasurer in Eagle River.

Board of Commissioners

Elected Commissioners:

Chairman	Dave O'Malley	September 2016	ddomalley@tds.net
Secretary	Cheryl Kelsey	September 2018	sellthenorthwoods@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Schwartz	September 2017	tom01schwartz@gmail.com

Non-Elected Commissioners:

Town of St. Germain	Tom Christensen	stgspart@frontier.com
Vilas County	Dennis Nielsen	dennyn41@hotmail.com

Little St. Germain Annual Newsletter

Hello everyone, it has been another interesting year on the Lake! We wanted to give you the latest information on what has been happening so you are up to date and ready to participate in our Annual Meeting coming up on **Sunday Sept 4, 2016**. We need your continued involvement to improve Little St. Germain Lake!

Invasive Aquatic Weed Control- The war on Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed continued this year with treatment of about 33 acres in total at a cost of \$23,200. This included a number of chemical spot treatments of problem areas identified through a pretreatment aquatic plant survey done by our consultant Onterra. Note that maps of the treatment areas can be found on our website: www.littlesaint.org. Our consultant also did a follow-up survey a few weeks after treatment to determine how effective the treatment was. We have not seen a final report yet but we should have some results by the Annual Meeting. Note we did not receive a new DNR grant for invasive weed control this year but were able to use remaining funds from last years' grant to help offset the cost.

Mechanical Harvest of Nuisance Native Weeds - Our contractor, Cliff Schmidt harvested about 34 tons of weeds on July 6th- through July 8th in South Bay and No Fish Bay. He got a lot of work done over a few days for a cost of \$6,300. With DNR permits and notices, the total cost was about \$7,900. This harvest was also based on the plant survey done by Onterra. As we mentioned in the previous newsletter our permit for harvesting was limited to travel lanes in areas where the native weeds were determined to be at nuisance levels. We cannot mechanically harvest invasive weeds so some of the cutting area had to be limited to avoid further spreading of Milfoil. We have proposed budgeting for mechanical harvest again next year as needed. A big thanks to **John Burger** for letting our contractor use his **Estrold Resort** landing and also a big thanks to the **Richards Family** for allowing the weeds to be disposed on their property.

Aeration System Management- As you will remember, we had another unusual winter last year. John Vojta is doing a great job and getting the systems figured out. That is a good thing, as the lake took its time freezing enough to start the pumps and get the border marking in place. Ordinarily we spend about \$1,100 per month in electric bills to power the pumps. In January we started and spent \$176. February \$790, March \$1000, and April \$130. So nature helped us with our costs this year. This is an effort well appreciated by the fish, and fishermen.

Water Quality Study and Beaver Control- Water quality monitoring is continuing under the three year study by the U.S. Geological Survey to determine if water flows out of the lake at the dam could be managed in a way to reduce phosphorous levels in the lake and improve water quality. This study is planned to be completed next year and is a follow-up to the previous U.S.G.S study nicknamed "Beavers, Bubbles and Ice" which documented water quality improvements through beaver control and impact of winter aeration on the lake. We contracted with USDA for beaver control again this year in Muskellunge Creek to minimize impacts from beaver dams.

Fishery Management- DNR has done an extensive survey of the fisheries in the lake and also conducted a creel census to estimate angler hours of effort and numbers of fish caught. Steve Gilbert, DNR Fisheries Manager will attend our meeting and give us an update on fisheries information. His report can be found on our website: www.littlesaint.org.

Aquatic Plant Management Plan Grant- We received this new grant in the spring. The grant enables us to work with consultants and create a 5 year plan to better improve and protect our water quality, fishery, and fight the spread of invasive aquatic plants. Our consultant will kick off the planning effort this fall, and we will hold a meeting to obtain land owner input and support for the 5 year plan. Stay tuned for the date of that meeting! The Plan will be a better one with your input.

Clean Boats Clean Waters- This year, as in the past, we have partnered with UW Oshkosh to have interns at the landing for a total of 300 hours during the summer. They were stationed there on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays in the early morning and afternoons. We know that boaters want to do the "Right Thing", but they were there to help educate and inspect the boats and trailers. We sure don't want AIS entering our lake and certainly don't want to export it either.

LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

2016 BUDGET HEARING & ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 4, 2016 - 9:00 A.M.

St. Germain Community Center

8:30 a.m. - Social Gathering – Coffee, Sweet Rolls & Sign In

9:00 a.m. – Budget Hearing – Tom Schwartz will present the proposed 2017 Budget

Approval of Agenda

Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting Minutes

Treasurer's Report – Tom Schwartz will present the 2015 Financial Report

Reports

AIS Report

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

Muskellunge Creek Beaver Control

USGS Update

Fishery Report – See www.littlesaint.org for full Report

Action Items

- **Aquatic Plant Management Planning Grant – Set meeting date**
- **AIS Weed Control for 2017 – Discussion & Vote**
- **South Bay Weed Harvesting – Discussion & possible action**
- **2016 Tax Levy – Discussion & approval to support expenses for 2017**
- **Election of Commissioner for expiring term of Dave O'Malley**

Open Discussion

Set Time for 2017 Annual Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, Sept. 6, 2015

St. Germain Community Center

A Social Gathering was held prior to the meeting at 8:30 a.m. where there were coffee

and sweet rolls served. There was a sign-up sheet where 48 people registered.

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman, Dave O'Malley. Commissioners present were Tom Schwartz, Treasurer, Mary Kim Black, Vilas County and Cheryl Kelsey, Secretary.

Approval of Agenda – Erv Stiemke motioned and Dick Brooks seconded. Motion approved.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from Sunday, August 31, 2014 - Mary Kay Briggs motioned and Bob Roe seconded. Motion approved.

Budget Hearing – Tom Schwartz presented the Proposed 2016 Budget.

Treasurer's Report – Tom Schwartz reviewed the 2014 Financial Report in detail. This report was included in our Newsletter as well as can be found on our website.

REPORTS

AIS Report – Dave O'Malley reported on the results of our Spring 2015 treatment. The DNR reduced the actual treatment area from the original permit to less than 50 acres. They did not want to allow a repeat “all basin treatment” of Lower East Bay. Tom Schwartz accompanied Amy Kay from Clean Lakes on August 5th and toured the areas that were treated. They noted that those areas were much improved, but they found some Eurasian Milfoil in some new areas. Onterra will be going out again to do another survey of the lake in the Fall.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters – The program monitors boats entering and leaving our lake at the boat landing by interns from UW Oshkosh. Our intern, Aaron educated people about the need to remove the weeds before entering and when exiting the lake. We all agree this is a great program and should be continued.

Muskellunge Creek Beaver Control – Dave O'Malley reported that we are continuing the Creek beaver control project with the USDA. The water in the creek is being monitored and continues to run clear without the beaver dams, which helps improve water quality in the lake.

USGS Phosphorous Study – We're continuing the 3 year study regarding the phosphorous that enters the lake from Muskellunge Creek and have extended the contract.

Fishery Report – Steve Gilbert, DNR Fishery biologist was not able to attend the meeting. He has provided his report to us which is posted on our website: www.littlesaint.org. Copies of the report were also available at the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Aquatic Management Plan Grant – Discussion on applying for another grant for \$7,500 to update our Aquatic Management plan with the help of Onterra. Barb Steinhilber motioned and Dick Brooks seconded. Motion approved.

AIS Grant for 2016 – Discussion to have Eddie Heath from Onterra prepare our Grant application for 2016. Tom Groth motioned and Erv Stiemke seconded. Motion approved.

South Bay Weed Harvesting – There was a lengthy discussion regarding the increased Weed growth that emerged in South Bay this summer. It was identified as Southern Naiad, which has not been seen in the lake before. Before we can Harvest the weeds, we would need to identify the areas where the weeds are using GPS and then apply for a Permit from the DNR in December or January in the hopes that it would be approved. We would then be prepared for next summer, if needed. It was also discussed that the weeds in parts of No Fish Bay and Upper East Bay were worse than we've ever seen them. Bob McWilliams motioned to look into Weed Harvesting for next year. Mary Kay Briggs seconded. Motion approved.

2015 Tax Levy – Tom Schwartz led the discussion for the 2015 Tax Levy to support the expenses for 2016. There was a lengthy discussion to amend the proposed budget to include \$40,000 for Native Weed Control (weed harvesting), of which \$30,000 would come from funds other than the levy and \$10,000 would be added to the 2015 Levy. Judith Napierala motioned and Bob Roe seconded, motion approved. Based on the Amended budget, Erv Stiemke motioned to amend the Tax Levy to \$45,700. Bob Roe seconded. Motion approved.

Election of Commissioner for Expiring Term of Cheryl Kelsey – Dave O'Malley asked for nominations for Commissioner. There were no nominations. Dave then asked Cheryl if she would consider staying on for another 3 years, and she agreed. Dick Brooks motioned and Barb Steinhilber seconded. Motion approved.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Planning for Weed Harvesting – Erv Stiemke volunteered to help talk to the land owners that have allowed the weed harvest to be dumped on their property. The Richards family (near Black Bear Resort). Estrold's Resort is where the Harvest equipment accessed South Bay in the past, and he said he would talk to John Burger. Bill Radostits and Steve LaRiviere also volunteered to help with the planning. Gary Hamm from No Fish Bay also volunteered to help. It was suggested we form a Committee to work on this project.

Construction near Dam – Lynn Upthagrove from Cedaroma Resort reported that she has been kayaking down the river near the Dam and noticed a plastic bag covering what looks to be a Hydrant near the dam. She thought maybe after the construction, they forgot to remove the bag. We will send a note to Tom Christensen asking about this.

SET TIME FOR 2016 MEETING – Discussion about whether the Labor Day weekend is the best time for the meeting and it was agreed that other times of the year are too busy for most homeowners. Erv Stiemke motioned that we have the meeting on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2016. Greg Loesche seconded. Motion approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

LITTLE SAINT GERMAIN LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2015

Cash Basis Statement of General Funds

Year Ending December 31, 2015

BALANCE TRANSFERRED FROM 2014	\$178,240.53
2014 TAX LEVY RECEIVED IN 2015	\$46,504.00
TOWN OF ST. GERMAIN FOR EXOTIC WEED CONTROL	\$4,686.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>\$170.91</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$229,601.44

EXPENDITURES

LABELS, NOTICES, POSTAGE, OFFICE, ETC.	\$790.90
SEMINAR	\$0.00
DUES	\$380.00
LAKE EXPENSES	<u>\$2,955.72</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$4,126.62
INSURANCE EXPENSE	\$3,839.00
NATIVE WEED CONTROL	\$0.00
EXOTIC WEED CONTROL	\$27,191.08
LAKE SURVEY - USGS	\$13,609.00
CLEAN BOATS - CLEAN WATERS	\$1,132.50
FISHERY EXP/WATER QUALITY	\$1,000.00
LONG TERM AQUATIC PLANT MGT & WATER QUALITY	\$1,808.00
AERATION OPERATING EXPENSE	<u>\$8,489.52</u>
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	\$61,195.72
 BALANCE CARRIED OVER TO 2016	 \$168,405.72

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
December 31, 2015

ASSETS

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$3,472.78
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	<u>\$164,932.94</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$168,405.72

LIABILITIES & BALANCE CARRYOVER

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$0.00
BALANCE CARRYOVER TO:	
2016 AERATION EXPENSE	\$14,000.00
2016 EXOTIC WEED CONTROL	\$80,000.00
LONG TERM AQUATIC PLANT MGT & WATER QUALITY	<u>\$74,405.72</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & BALANCE CARRYOVER	\$168,405.72

SAYNER ST. GERMAIN FISH & WILDLIFE CLUB INC

12/31/14 BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR LAKE IMPROVEMENT EXP	\$2,051.00
DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION 2015	\$1,000.00
FISH & WILDLIFE CONTRIBUTION	<u>\$3,102.00</u>
12/31/15 BALANCE	\$6,153.00

BUDGET ESTIMATED SUMMARY OF 2016 EXPENSES

	2016 Actual Exp Through 8/1/16	Est. Addl Exp To End of Yr	Total Est. Exp	2016 Budget	Under/Over Budget
Operating Exp	\$670	\$6,000	\$6,670	\$7,000	\$330
Insurance Exp	\$0	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$0
Clean Boats - Clean Waters	\$3,681	-\$2,550	\$1,131	\$1,200	\$69
Native Weed Control	\$1,576	\$30,000	\$31,576	\$40,000	\$8,424
Exotic Weed Control	\$24,801	\$0	\$12,400 a	\$60,000	\$47,600
Fish & Wildlife Fund	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Buoys	\$247	\$1,000	\$1,247	\$2,000	\$753
Fish Stocking	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Aeration Operation Exp	\$6,134	\$4,100	\$10,234	\$13,000	\$2,766
Water Quality/Creek	-\$2,782 b	\$5,800	\$3,018	\$3,000	(\$18)
Totals	\$35,327	\$48,850	\$71,776	\$131,700	\$59,924

a Existing Grant will refund 50% or \$12,400

b Received \$7,445 from DNR as advance on Lake Planning Grant

2017 PROPOSED BUDGET & 2016 TAX LEVY

	Proposed Budget	Funds Other Than Levy	Proposed Levy
Operating Exp	\$7,000		\$7,000
Insurance Exp	\$4,500		\$4,500
Clean Boats - Clean Waters	\$1,200		\$1,200
Native Weed Control	\$20,000	\$15,000 a	\$5,000
Exotic Weed Control	\$35,000	\$35,000 b	\$0
Fish & Wildlife Fund	\$1,000		\$1,000
Buoys	\$3,000		\$3,000
Fish Stocking	\$0	\$0	\$0
USGS 2014-17 Survey	\$15,000		\$15,000
Aeration Operation Exp	\$15,000		\$15,000
Water Quality/Creek	\$3,000		\$3,000
Totals	\$104,700	\$50,000	\$54,700

a From LT Plant Mgt & Water Quality

b \$30,000 from LT Plant Mgt & Water Quality, \$5,000 from Town Lakes

	Levy	Mil Rate
2013	\$43,400	\$0.02784
2014	\$46,500	\$0.02894
2015	\$45,700	\$0.02792