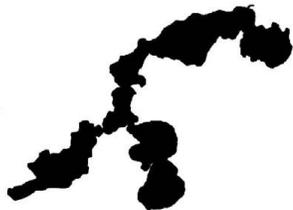


**LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE
PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 129
St. Germain, WI 54558**



Newsletter #15 Fall, 2018

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	Tom Groth	September 2019	tom.groth@frontier.com
Secretary	Cheryl Kelsey	September 2018	sellthenorthwoods@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Schwartz	September 2020	tom01schwartz@gmail.com

Non-Elected Commissioners:

Town of St. Germain	Tom Christensen	stgsport@frontier.com
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Little St. Germain Annual Newsletter

2017-2018 Chairman's Letter

Each year brings its own weather patterns and this year was no different. After an unusually winter-like early April, we went into summer for the month of May with heavy rains. I suspect that caused the earlier than normal algae blooms which began in June rather than July.

For those who do not know (which could be many of you), last year's annual assembly voted down the alum treatment proposal and the vote was not close. So the only way left to us to address the high phosphorus levels in the lake, though to a much lesser degree, is based off of the finished United States Geological Survey (USGS) report which the Lake District assembly directed to have done a number of years ago. It is now completed.

Permit me to share with you a summary of the report by way of a portion of its abstract. The report is meant "to describe the current input into and export from Little St. Germain Lake and evaluate how water releases at different times of the year could affect the amount of phosphorus being released from the lake, potentially affecting water quality in the lake.....By focusing the release of water at times when phosphorus concentrations near the outlet of the lake are highest, export of phosphorus from the lake could increase by about 60 to 80 pounds annually.....Increasing phosphorus export from the lake should improve the long-term water quality of the lake."

The study shows that the best time for water to be released would be in the middle to late September as well as late February to ice out in April. Those two times would get the most available phosphorus out of the lake. Working with the Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company which oversees the release of water from our dam, we would hope to execute the findings of this USGS report. The board is wishing to bring this to you at the annual meeting for your input and direction to go forward with such an endeavor.

On other notes, the winter of 2017-2018 was challenging for our lake. Not just the cold and snow, but our aeration systems gave us trouble. The station on South Bay was down just about every day in February and March. Our dedicated contractor, John Vojta (of J&J Services LLC), was out at that South Bay station just about every day restarting the system. Thanks to you John for keeping us running! John found the problems we were having and replaced both motors and several electrical parts. Then he found that the blower on South Bay needed replacing. The DNR noted fish kill in both South and East Bays (with South Bay getting most of it). But it would have been much worse had John not been so dedicated. It shows how important our aeration systems are to the lake.

We were prepped and ready to cut native weeds should the crop have gotten out of hand this year. Fortunately the traffic lanes were decent enough and we did not need to do so. Please remember that this is available to us only if absolutely necessary, for traffic lanes only, and in areas without invasive species.

Managing exotic weeds was done again this year by use of divers and hand pullers in West Bay, known as DASH (Diver Assisted Suction Harvest). Our Consultant from Onterra mapped this spring and the work was done in late July - early August. Chemical treatment is not as effective in most areas of West Bay as the weeds are usually on the steep drop-offs and it is hard to keep the chemicals in one place for the time period needed for the herbicides to be effective.

We are still working through the lengthy process of the Lake Plan. This Plan will enable us to perhaps do chemical treatment for AIS in future years though at a larger acreage and more dense coverage of AIS needed before applications can be done than in the past. The Lake Plan will give us a road map to manage the Lake's water quality, fishery, and overall health. You have been able to provide input with the survey sent out last year as well as a time frame in spring for commenting on the report itself. You can see the initial document on our website. It will bring you up to date with what the rest of us know at the moment.

As you see, there are a number of things which took place this year, and I hope to see you at the meeting for constructive dialog. Tom Groth, Chairman

LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

2018 BUDGET HEARING & ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 2, 2018 – 9:00 A.M.

ST. GERMAIN COMMUNITY CENTER

AGENDA

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

9:00 a.m. – Welcome & Introduction of District Commissioners

Budget Hearing – Treasurer, Tom Schwartz will present the 2017 Year End Financials, 2018 Year to Date Budget & Expenses, 2019 Proposed Budget & 2018 Proposed Tax Levy

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of 2017 Annual Meeting Minutes – Sept. 3, 2017

REPORTS

1. Muskellunge Creek Beaver Control
2. USGS Report — Go to: www.littlesaint.org
3. AIS-DASH Boat Update & Report
4. Lake Management Planning Update
5. Mechanical Harvest - Native Weed Control
6. Clean Boats Clean Waters - Boat Landing
7. Little St. Germain Boat Landing Update
8. Fishery Update
9. Wake Board Boat Ballast Issues - West Bay

Action Items

1. Discussion & Possible Action Re: Compensation for Commissioners
2. Approval of 2017 Financials
3. Approval of 2019 Budget
4. Approval of 2018 Tax Levy
5. Election of Expiring Term of Cheryl Kelsey

New Business

Open Discussion

Set Time for 2019 Meeting

Adjournment

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Sunday, Sept. 3, 2017 - 8:30 a.m.

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 Voter Certificate where 37 people registered.

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Chairman, Tom Groth. Commissioners present were Treasurer Tom Schwartz and Secretary Cheryl Kelsey.

Budget Hearing – Treasurer, Tom Schwartz presented the 2018 Budget and reviewed the numbers.

Approval of Agenda – Erv Stiemke motioned and Judy Napierala seconded, motion approved.

Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes – Sept. 4, 2016 – Steve LaRiviere motioned and Barb Steinhilber seconded, motion approved.

Treasurer's Report – Tom Schwartz presented the 2017 actual expenses and it was noted that we underspent the budget by about \$18,000. Tom also gave a summary of the 2016 Financial Report and noted that we have a CD at MBank for about \$115,000.

There was a brief discussion about the Aeration system and cost to operate. Tom Schwartz explained that we had a break in the system on East Bay last winter. Ted Ritter suggested that we “test” the system in Fall to see if there are any breaks.

Motion was made to accept the Financial Report by Doug Olejniczak and seconded by Erv Stiemke, motion approved.

Reports

Muskellunge Creek Beaver Control – Tom Groth read a report from Kelly Teal, from the USDA. The Beaver Control was effective again this year and we will continue with the current plan.

Invasive Weed Control & DASH Boat – Cheryl Kelsey reported that there was a minimal amount of Aquatic Invasive Species in the lake this season, so the District employed a local company, Aquatic Plant Management, that used a combination of Hand Harvesting and a DASH (Diver Assisted Suctioning Harvesting) Boat as a way to contain what is still in the lake. The cost to the District was \$19,700. Onterra will be doing another Fall survey of the lake to report the results.

Mechanical Harvesting – Tom Groth reported that we did not harvest any “native weeds” this year. As of the 1st of July, South Bay was still clear of the weeds that we saw in the summer of 2016. It was determined to skip this year.

Fishery Update – Tom Groth read Hadley Boehm's report. She indicated that 14,700 Walleye will be stocked this fall. They will also continue the Fall electro fishing survey as well. No young of year walleye were captured.

Action Items

Approval of Alum Treatment Feasibility Study – Tom Schwartz explained what Onterra told us about the proposed Alum treatment. The Feasibility Study would cost about \$8,500. Greg Loesche motioned to move forward with a study and Charlene Watry seconded. There was a lengthy discussion with the members in attendance and most were reluctant to move forward with a study. Motion failed by unanimous vote.

Approval of Alum Treatment Financing – Tom Schwartz explained that Onterra estimated that the cost of the Treatment with interest would be about \$650,000. The item was discussed in detail and was removed from the 2018 Budget.

Approval of 2018 Budget – The Feasibility Study amount of \$8,500 was removed from the Budget. Motion to approve as amended was made by Steve Gilbert and seconded by Barb Steinhilber, motion approved.

Approval of 2017 Tax Levy – The amount of \$48,200 was motioned by Doug Olejniczak and seconded by Steve LaRiviere, motion approved.

Election of Expiring Term of Tom Schwartz – Tom Schwartz indicated that he would consider remaining for a 3rd term as a Commissioner. Motion was made by Judy Napierala and seconded by Barb Steinhilber, motion approved.

New Business –

Back Up Motor for Aeration System – It was suggested that we purchase a back up motor for the Aeration system, due to the fact that our motors are getting older.

Open Discussion – Ken Jackson discussed the possibility of putting some Fish Cribs in the lake. He also talked about some more Tree drops to help the fish, as was done several years ago.

Dave O'Malley also mentioned the Healthy Lakes Initiative and mentioned that a General permit from the DNR would be needed for the Fish Sticks or Cribs to be dropped into the lake.

Set Time for 2018 Meeting – It was agreed that the best date is still the Sunday of Labor Day. Therefore, the meeting will be set for Sunday, Sept. 2, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the St. Germain Community Center.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made Barb Steinhilber and seconded by Jim Kelsey, motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

LITTLE SAINT GERMAIN LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2017

CASH BASIS STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUNDS

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017

BALANCE TRANSFERRED FROM 2016		\$43,329.22
2016 TAX LEVY RECEIVED IN 2017		\$54,703.00
UNALLOCATED FUND CD		\$115,588.35
INTEREST INCOME		\$389.23
ACCOUNTS PAYABLE		<u>\$12.00</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE		\$214,021.80

EXPENDITURES

LABELS, NOTICES, POSTAGE, OFFICE, ETC.	\$1,344.04	
DUES	\$50.00	
LAKE EXPENSES	<u>\$1,878.19</u>	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES		\$3,272.23
INSURANCE EXPENSE		\$3,778.00
NATIVE WEED CONTROL		\$120.00
EXOTIC WEED CONTROL		\$23,928.63
LAKE SURVEY - USGS		\$23,600.00
BUOYS		\$1,663.70
CLEAN BOATS - CLEAN WATERS		\$1,287.75
FISHERY EXP/WATER QUALITY		\$1,000.00
LONG TERM AQUATIC PLANT MGT & WATER QUALITY		\$14,397.55
AERATION OPERATING EXPENSE		<u>\$7,787.39</u>
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES		\$80,835.25

BALANCE CARRIED OVER TO 2018 **\$133,186.55**

**STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
December 31, 2017**

ASSETS

CHECKING ACCOUNT		\$53.49
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT		\$2,680.30
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT BMO UNALLOCATED		\$130,452.76
TOTAL ASSETS		\$133,186.55

LIABILITIES & BALANCE CARRYOVER

BALANCE CARRYOVER TO:		
AIS SEGRATED FUND MM BMO		\$130,452.76
2018 BUDGET EXPENSES		\$59,700.00
AIS SEGRATED FUND		<u>-\$56,966.21</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & BALANCE CARRYOVER		\$133,186.55

SAYNER ST. GERMAIN FISH& WILDLIFE CLUB INC

12/31/16 BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR LAKE IMPROVEMENT EXP		\$8,204.00
DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION 2017		\$1,000.00
FISH & WILDLIFE CONTRIBUTION 2017		<u>\$1,051.00</u>
12/31/17 BALANCE		\$10,255.00

BUDGET ESTIMATED SUMMARY OF 2018 EXPENSES

	2018 Actual Exp Through 8/1/18	Est. Addl Exp To End of Yr	Total Est. Exp	2018 Budget	Under/Over Budget
Operating Exp	\$165	\$5,000	\$5,165	\$7,000	\$1,835
Insurance Exp	(\$1,275)	\$3,900	\$2,625	\$4,500	\$1,875
Clean Boats - Clean Waters	\$5,151	-\$3,863 a	\$1,288	\$1,200	(\$88)
Native Weed Control	\$300	\$0	\$300	\$15,000	\$14,700
Exotic Weed Control	\$580	\$25,000	\$25,580	\$25,000	(\$580)
Fish & Wildlife Fund	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Buoys	\$1,886	\$0	\$1,886	\$1,500	(\$386)
Aeration Operation Exp	\$13,249	\$1,000	\$14,249	\$15,000	\$751
USGS Study	\$16,600	\$0	\$16,600	\$0	(\$16,600)
Water Quality/Creek	\$4,252	(\$1,000) b	\$3,252	\$3,000	(\$252)
Totals	\$41,908	\$30,037	\$71,945	\$73,200	\$1,255

a Existing Grant will refund \$3863 at end of season.

b Existing Grant has \$2,400 to be refunded on completion of Plan.

2019 PROPOSED BUDGET & 2018 TAX LEVY

	Proposed Budget	Funds Other Than Levy	Proposed Levy
Operating Exp	\$7,000		\$7,000
Insurance Exp	\$4,000		\$4,000
Clean Boats - Clean Waters	\$1,200		\$1,200
Native Weed Control	\$20,000	\$10,000 a	\$10,000
Exotic Weed Control	\$28,000	\$20,000 b	\$8,000
Fish & Wildlife Fund	\$1,000		\$1,000
Buoys	\$3,000		\$3,000
Fish Stocking	\$0		\$0
Aeration Operation Exp	\$12,000		\$12,000
Water Quality/Creek	\$2,000		\$2,000
Totals	\$78,200	\$30,000	\$48,200

a From Unallocated Fund

b \$15,000 from Unallocated Fund, \$5,000 from Town Lakes

	Levy
2013	\$43,400
2014	\$46,500
2015	\$45,700
2016	\$55,700
2017	\$48,200