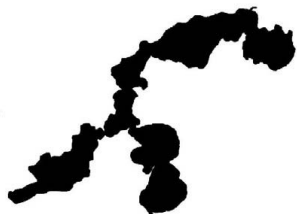


**LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE
PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 129
St. Germain, WI 54558**



Newsletter #16 Fall, 2019

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 2021	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

Water Draw Down Update

As you may recall from the previous annual meeting, the board brought before you the possibility of drawing down about four inches of water toward the end of September and the remaining water draw down for the lake from January to March instead of the practice of doing it in November through January. The change of timing was based on the last study by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) which said that we could achieve 5-8% less phosphorus in our water system if we could do this. (The high level of phosphorus in Little St. Germain Lake creates our algae blooms.)

You gave us permission to pursue this with USGS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC). We have met with them a couple times and communicated with each of them separately at other times.

This is where we are at the moment. WVIC along with the WDNR needed the lake district to accept continued studies of the lake during the first 4 to 5 years of the new draw down implementation. This is in order to see what the environmental impact would be to the proposed change. Also, the WVIC would need the annual meeting approval of going forward with this proposal along with the study (and its costs).

In addition, the WVIC needed the support of the WDNR for the project. We have received general support from the WDNR. We are presently waiting for the WVIC to give their general approval since this is the group which manages the dam on our lake. We hope to have this general acceptance by the annual meeting.

The USGS had given us the general details of the five-year study as well as its costs. The study not only includes phosphorus levels in the lake but also a phosphorus groundwater study (since a significant percentage of our phosphorus comes from the groundwater).

As you might guess, it is not cheap to do the five-year study. The bad news is that it is around \$200,000 over the five years. In order to do the study and to satisfy the WVIC and WDNR oversight, we are looking for grants to cover about 75% of the cost. USGS will give us a grant for about \$30,000. We would need to employ Onterra and have Tim Hoyman write a grant proposal to the WDNR which would be due by February, 2020. The grant proposal, if accepted by the WDNR, would cover somewhere between \$100,00 to \$140,000. It may take a few years to get the grant. We may have to resubmit the grant proposal in order to get the state funding since we are not the only lake in the state asking for such things.

But the good news would be that we would be paying somewhere between \$7,000 to \$11,000 per year over five years in order to get this project accomplished. I suspect most of us would agree that this is an acceptable level of burden for the district to shoulder. In my opinion, we would need the WDNR grant in order to do it.

At any rate, we will entertain a motion at the meeting to go forward with the study and the new water draw down time-table by the WVIC contingent upon the WDNR grant.

I know that this is another \$35,000 to \$55,000 spent over a five year period, but once that ends, we should be free and clear and can get the projected 5-8% less phosphorus level for no further cost to us into the very distant future.

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
Sunday, Sept. 2, 2018 – 8:30 a.m.
St. Germain Community Center

A social gathering was held prior to the meeting at 8:30 a.m. where there was coffee and sweet rolls served. There was a Voter Registration Sheet where 38 people signed in.

Chairman Tom Groth started the meeting with a Welcome and Introduction of the District Commissioners at 9:00 a.m. Commissioners present were Treasurer, Tom Schwartz, Secretary, Cheryl Kelsey, Tom Christensen, Town of St. Germain and Carolyn Ritter, Vilas County.

Budget Hearing & Treasurer's Report - Tom Schwartz presented the 2017 Financials (Statements were mailed out to all landowners in the August Newsletter). He also presented a Summary of the 2018 expenses. He explained that we received a final bill from the USGS for \$16,600 which was not budgeted. Due to the fact that we did not do any Native Weed Control this summer, we actually ended the year under budget about \$1,255.

Tom then presented the 2019 Proposed Budget and the 2018 Proposed Tax Levy. After reviewing the budget, the proposal was to keep the levy the same as 2017 at \$48,200.

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order by Tom Groth at 9:20 a.m.

Approval of Agenda – Steve LaRiviere motioned and Barb Steinhilber seconded, motion approved.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – Sept. 3, 2017 – Mike Watry motioned and Dan Lyons seconded, motion approved.

Reports

Muskellunge Creek Beaver Control – Tom Groth reported that the USDA removed 2 Beavers, 1 Beaver Dam at the Zeegers property on the Creek and 1 blockage in the culvert. We will continue with the monitoring on the Creek.

USGS Report – Tom Groth read from a report completed by the USGS regarding the potential pros and cons of releasing water at different times to benefit the release of phosphorous from the lake. The general proposal to Wisconsin Valley Improvement Company (WVIC), to lower 4 inches from the high water mark in mid-September to early October as well as 15 inches from February to mid-April met with general consensus with the understanding that the board would return to the assembly with WVIC's formal proposal. Please go to: www.littlesaint.org to read the full report.

AIS-DASH Boat Update – Cheryl Kelsey reported that we again used Aquatic Plant Management to perform the Dash Boat and Hand Harvesting activities in the areas that were identified by Onterra from the Spring Lake Survey. The Report can be read on our website. Thanks again to the Richards Family for the use of the disposal site off of Halberstadt Road.

Lake Management Planning Update – Tom Groth reported that Onterra is completing our publication for the Lake Management Plan. It was noted that the trigger for treating AIS in an area, is 10 acres or more. At this time, Little St. Germain Lake does not have any large areas of AIS other than in West Bay where we concentrated our efforts with the DASH Boat and Hand Harvesting. However, further conversations between Onterra and the WDNR are needed concerning the WDNR's wish for further data collections and discussions beyond that trigger.

Mechanical Harvest – Native Weed Control – Tom Groth reported that by mid-June, it was determined that we did not feel the need to Harvest any Native weeds in the areas of South Bay or No Fish Bay that we had been granted a permit for. He explained that we are not allowed to cut in the areas where AIS is present, due to the fact that we would be spreading those invasive weeds around the lake. He further stated that mechanical harvest was only meant for traffic lanes. We will continue to monitor for these Native Weeds in the future.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters – Boat Landing – Tom Schwartz reported that some of the lakes in our area have been complaining that Interns were not present at the Boat Landings during the times that they were scheduled. Tom mentioned that this is due to them being “short staffed” and using the interns on other projects in the area. Carolyn Ritter, our Vilas County Commissioner reported that they will be meeting with UW Oshkosh, possibly in Sept. to review the continuation of the program for the future.

Little St. Germain Boat Landing Update – In Spring of 2018, it was reported that there was a pile of rocks that had emerged near the end of one of the docks at the landing. We contacted the DNR and they had a contractor go over and remove the hazard. The WDNR owns and controls the public landing.

Continued on pg. 4

Fishery Update – Hadley Boehm, from the DNR Fishery informed us that we would be receiving a minimum of 243 Musky fingerlings as well as 14,700 large Walleye fingerling for the Fall of 2018. Ken Jackson commented that we haven't been seeing the muskies reproducing like we use to. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Electorate that we begin to stock larger size muskies. The District has a reserve with the Fish & Wildlife for fish stocking.

Wake Board Boat Ballast Issues – West Bay – The Commissioners received some complaints from residents about the large boats that are equipped with “ballasts” that are filled with water to create a larger wake for skiing. Their complaint was that they felt the large wakes were causing erosion and larger than normal wave action on the shoreline. Resident, Craig Smith owns one of these boats, and reported that the boats normally do not go around in circles, but straight up and down the lake, to allow the skier to stay afloat. This has been a discussion that is occurring around the State on other lakes, and we'll probably hear more about it. As a District, we cannot “outlaw” the use of these boats. There was discussion about possibly trying to educate users and make people aware about safety issues. Chuck Strauss has volunteered to spread information concerning responsible practices for such purposes.

Action Items

Discussion & Possible Action Re: Compensation for Commissioners– Tom Christiansen, Town of St. Germain explained how the Commissioners volunteer their time to get the work of the District done. Over the years, the work of the Treasurer and Secretary for the District has increased and more meetings have been required to accomplish the items needed. Therefore, it was recommended that the Commissioners be compensated for their time. Randy Farchmin motioned and Jeff Sauer seconded that they be paid \$1,200 each annually for this work. Discussion followed and Erv Stiemke suggested we find out how the compensation or reimbursement be fashioned, possibly a “stipend” for services. Tom Groth said he did not want to be compensated, so the amount would be \$1,200 for the Treasurer and \$1,200 for the Secretary. Tom Christensen said he would look into it with the town attorney. Motion approved.

Approval of 2017 Financials – Erv Stiemke motioned and Dan Lyons seconded, motion approved.

Approval of 2019 Budget - Erv Stiemke motioned that the expense of the Compensation for Commissioners be covered through the unallocated funds. Charlene Watry seconded, motion approved.

Approval of 2018 Tax Levy – Motion to approve the 2018 Tax Levy of \$48,200 was made by Randy Farchmin, seconded by Steve LaRiviere, motion approved.

Election of Expiring Term of Cheryl Kelsey – Barb Steinhilber nominated Cheryl Kelsey to stay on as a Commissioner. Nominations were called for by Tom Groth. No other nominations were received. Dave O'Malley made a motion to close the nominations and re-elect Cheryl Kelsey. Mike Watry, seconded, motion approved.

New Business

Barb Steinhilber, one of our Town Lakes Committee members brought to our attention a new Boat Landing monitoring system, known as I-LID. It is a Camera that is installed at the boat landing to record the activity. The 1 time cost of the Camera is \$8,000, of which there is some type of 50/50 Grant that may be available through the State. There is a website available for more information, including a video of how it operates. The Camera would need to be removed in the Fall and re-installed in Spring. The consensus of the group was that we would table any action on the proposal to see what the other Lakes were doing on the subject. This would allow our District to see how it was working for them.

Open Discussion

Discussion was had regarding sending another Newsletter within a month of the Annual Meeting to update landowners about the results of the meeting. Cheryl Kelsey will send an email to the Commissioners with a set of “Draft Minutes” to review and possibly publish via a Constant Contact or other email service. The “Draft Minutes” could also be included in the Newsletter.

Set Time for 2019 Meeting – It was discussed and agreed that the best date is still the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend. The 2019 Annual Meeting was set for September 1, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. for the Budget Hearing and 9:00 a.m. for the Call to Order

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made by Randy Farchmin, seconded by Jim Kelsey. Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

LITTLE SAINT GERMAIN LAKE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION DISTRICT

FINANCIAL REPORT - 2018

CASH BASIS STATEMENT OF GENERAL FUNDS

YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

<u>BALANCE TRANSFERRED FROM 2017</u>	\$133,186.55
TOWN LAKES COMMITTEE	\$8,880.09
2017 TAX LEVY RECEIVED IN 2018	\$48,203.04
INTEREST INCOME	<u>\$1,183.38</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$191,453.06

EXPENDITURES

LABELS, NOTICES, POSTAGE, OFFICE, ETC.	\$790.30
DUES	\$50.00
LAKE EXPENSES	<u>\$1,065.80</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$1,906.10
INSURANCE EXPENSE	\$2,035.00
NATIVE WEED CONTROL	\$300.00
EXOTIC WEED CONTROL	\$23,557.55
BOUYS	\$1,921.49
CLEAN BOATS - CLEAN WATERS	\$2,253.56
FISHERY EXP/WATER QUALITY	\$1,000.00
USGS	\$16,600.00
LONG TERM AQUATIC PLANT MGT & WATER QUALITY	\$4,251.60
AERATION OPERATING EXPENSE	<u>\$16,530.52</u>
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	\$70,355.82

BALANCE CARRIED OVER TO 2019	\$121,097.24
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STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES

ASSETS

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$3,812.52
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	\$42,284.72
CD UNALLOCATED	<u>\$75,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$121,097.24

LIABILITIES & BALANCE CARRYOVER

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$0.00
BALANCE CARRYOVER TO:	\$0.00
2019 BUDGET EXPENSES	\$59,700.00
AIS SEGRATED FUND	<u>\$61,397.24</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & BALANCE CARRYOVER	\$121,097.24

SAYNER ST. GERMAIN FISH & WILDLIFE CLUB INC

12/31/17 BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR LAKE IMPROVEMENT EXP	\$10,255.00
DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION 2018	\$1,000.00
FISH & WILDLIFE CONTRIBUTION 2018	<u>\$1,000.00</u>
12/31/18 BALANCE	\$12,255.00

BUDGET AND ESTIMATED SUMMARY OF 2019 EXPENSES

	2019 Actual Exp Through 8/1/19	Est. Addl Exp To End of Yr	Total Est. Exp	2019 Budget	Under/Over Budget
Operating Exp	\$3,238	\$2,500	\$5,738	\$7,000	\$1,262
Insurance Exp	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$4,000	\$0
Clean Boats - Clean Waters	\$4,721	-\$3,200 a	\$1,521	\$1,200	(\$321)
Native Weed Control	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$20,000	\$20,000
Exotic Weed Control	\$7,738	\$20,000	\$27,738	\$28,000	\$262
Fish & Wildlife Fund	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Buoys	\$35	\$0	\$35	\$3,000	\$2,965
Salary for Commis	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$0
Aeration Operation Exp	\$8,359	\$1,000	\$9,359	\$12,000	\$2,641
Draw Down	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Water Quality/Creek	-\$674	\$0 b	-\$674	\$2,000	\$2,674
Totals	\$26,817	\$24,300	\$51,117	\$80,600	\$29,483

a Existing Grant will refund \$3200 at end of season.

b Includes final payment by WIDNR on lake monitoring grant

2020 PROPOSED BUDGET & 2019 TAX LEVY

	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Funds Other Than Levy</u>	<u>Proposed Levy</u>
Operating Exp	\$7,000		\$7,000
Insurance Exp	\$4,000		\$4,000
Clean Boats - Clean Waters	\$1,500		\$1,500
Native Weed Control	\$20,000	\$20,000 a	\$0
Exotic Weed Control	\$40,000	\$30,000 a	\$10,000
Fish & Wildlife Fund	\$1,000		\$1,000
Buoys	\$2,000		\$2,000
Salary for Commis	\$2,400	\$2,400 a	\$0
Aeration Operation Exp	\$10,000		\$10,000
Draw Down	\$10,000		\$10,000
Water Quality/Creek	\$2,000		\$2,000
Totals	\$99,900	\$52,400	\$47,500

a From Unallocated Fund

	<u>Levy</u>
2013	\$43,400
2014	\$46,500
2015	\$45,700
2016	\$55,700
2017	\$48,200
2018	\$48,200

LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

2019 BUDGET HEARING & ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 – 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 2018 Year End Financials, 2019 Year to Date Budget & Expenses, 2020 Proposed Budget & 2019 Proposed Tax Levy

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes – Sept. 2,2018

REPORTS

Muskellunge Creek Beaver Control

USGS Report – Go to: www.littlesaint.org

AIS-DASH Boat Update & Report

Lake Management Planning Update

Mechanical Harvest – Native Weed Control

Clean Boats Clean Waters – Boat Landing

Fishery Update

OLD BUSINESS

Water Draw Down Project

I-LIDS

NEW BUSINESS

Eurasian Milfoil Treatment - 2020

Action Items

Approval of 2018 Financials

Approval of 2020 Budget

Approval of 2019 Tax Levy

Election of Expiring Term of Tom Groth

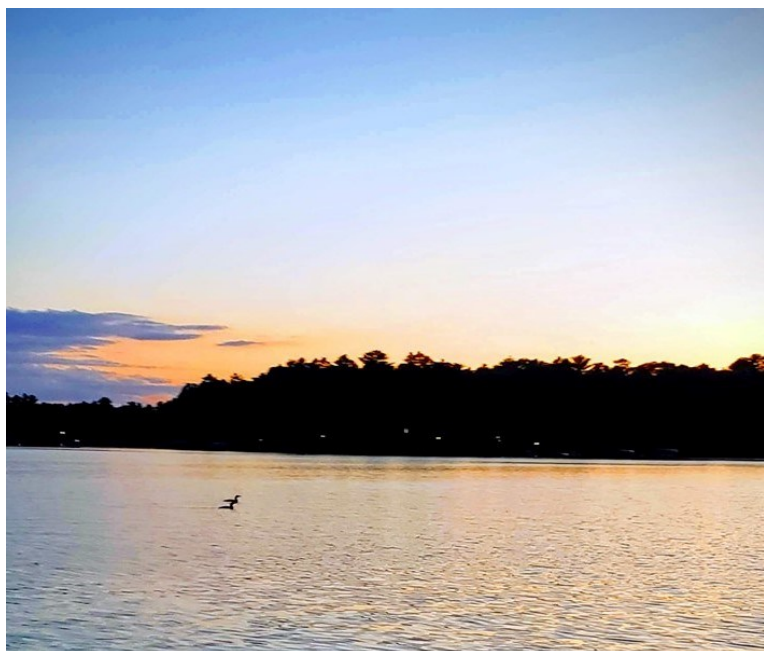
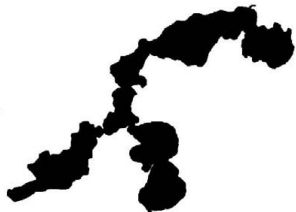
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Open Discussion

Set Time for 2020 Meeting

Adjournment

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



**Little St. Germain Lake
Protection & Rehabilitation District
2019 Budget Hearing & Annual Meeting
Sunday — September 1, 2019 — 9:00 AM
St. Germain Community Center**