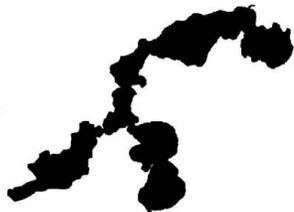


**LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE
PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 129
St. Germain, WI 54558**



Newsletter #12 Summer, 2015

WARNING

THIS NEWLETTER IS NOT LIKE THE ONES IN THE PAST. YOU MAY FIND IT INTERESTING.

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.

What is going on with the weeds in South Bay this summer? A number of lake residents have noted the weeds in the bay are worse than they have seen in many years. No one knows for sure but our consultant and DNR lake management staff speculate that the water is clearer this year and with the increased rainfall and runoff this year we had increased weed growth. The weed growth does seem to go in cycles and the early season surveys were not very unusual and did not forecast this happening. Small areas of milfoil that were identified in South Bay were chemically treated this spring. The growth occurring now appears to be some milfoil and large areas of the native plant Southern Naiad have matted on the surface. We did attempt to get a mechanical harvesting project for South Bay but there were no contractors available until later August which was too late to make sense. Note mechanical harvest is done where weeds are matting on the surface and only on native plants. We can most likely receive a permit for harvest next year which will need to be targeted to open up navigation lanes and conduct a limited harvest on those areas of the bay where native plant growth is thickest. We cannot receive a permit to mechanically harvest and transport the milfoil. We are planning for a harvesting project next year as needed so we can have a permit in hand and a contractor scheduled to do the work. In summary we have a significant weed growth problem in South Bay and we need you to come to the annual meeting and help to solve the problem.

Why do weeds grow so well in Little Saint Germain? Little St. Germain is naturally a very fertile lake with high levels of phosphorous which means shallow areas will grow weeds pretty thick especially when the water is relatively clear providing more sunlight for plant growth. U.S.G.S studies have documented high phosphorus concentration levels and inputs into the lake. As mentioned earlier most of the phosphorous flows in naturally from Muskellunge Creek which drains from Muskellunge Lake and a very large swampy area with fertile soils.

LITTLE ST. GERMAIN PROJECTS AND LATEST NEWS

- We received a DNR Lake Management Grant of \$46,870 in March for AIS (invasive weeds) control and related activities. This was good news but note we had requested a state grant of \$148,512 for a five year project. This has not really affected our projects this year but means we most likely will be funding future AIS treatments mostly out of our own funds depending on available grants each year. These grants are typically intended to cover about 50% of project costs. This grant was a significant help this year towards monitoring and treatment of the invasive aquatic weeds milfoil and curly leaf pondweed. Some of these funds are also used for water quality monitoring and partially for update of the aquatic management plan for the lake. Additionally the Town Lakes Committee has agreed to contribute \$3,000 towards our project.
- We initiated a new U.S.G.S. three year project to follow-up on the study completed last year which evaluated phosphorous loading into the lake and effects of beaver control on Muskellunge Creek and influence of aeration systems in South Bay, Lower and Upper East Bays. Results of that study are presently being published. It is the Phosphorous that feeds the growth of weeds and algae in the lake. Conclusions of the study document that the bulk of the phosphorous loading is entering the lake from Muskellunge Creek and smaller amounts are coming from other sources such as shoreline runoff. Beaver control is reducing phosphorous loading to the lake and the aeration is having a positive effect on the fisheries. The current study will continue monitoring the inflow and outflow from the lake to further define seasonal phosphorus fluctuations and evaluate if there are options to managing water flows out of the lake to remove more phosphorous and ultimately improve water quality.
- This year's spring chemical treatment for the invasive aquatic plant species of Eurasian milfoil and curly leaf pondweed occurred in May. Spot treatments were done throughout the lake based on a pretreatment monitoring survey of plants by our consultant Onterra. Note these treatments only occur for invasive weeds and not native plants. Areas of invasive plants identified in the pre treatment survey resulted in treatment of about 36 acres in total in various locations throughout the lake. We had a contract of \$22,069 with Clean Lakes Associates for the work. So far total costs for the treatment including; monitoring, permit and mailings is \$35,485. In the future we will be including updated maps of these areas and other aquatic plant survey maps on the website.
- 14,700 extended growth Walleye fingerlings (6-8 inches) will be stocked by DNR in late September. Note this follows approximately 15,000 6-8 inch walleye fingerlings stocked in 2013. Muskie fingerlings were also planned to be stocked also but a problem at the Wild Rose Hatchery resulted in a loss of fish so we will have to wait until next year for more muskies.
- DNR completed a comprehensive fisheries survey this spring. Results showed good numbers of panfish though average size is small, walleye population of adults (greater than 15 inches) was about 2.5 fish per acre. According to the survey fish populations have improved significantly since the last surveys were done. At least one fall electrofishing survey will be done in September to look at walleye survival. It was also noted winter operation of the aeration systems has certainly helped the fisheries.
- Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program continued for summer 2015-Students are monitoring the Little Saint boat landing to inspect boats for invasive weeds entering or leaving the lake.
- Beaver control contract renewed for 2015- USDA has been contracted again and performing beaver control upstream on Muskellunge Creek. This has helped to keep the creek flowing and improve water quality flowing into the lake.
- This year we contracted with John Vojta of JJ Services to manage the winter aeration systems and place the navigation buoys. John has done a great job and we are happy to have him manage these activities. He needed to work out a few bugs in the aeration systems last winter and things are never the same from year to year as it is a continual learning process for all of us. Note we are replacing a number of the old navigation buoys since some have become rotten and that may be the reason for some of the wayward buoys this summer.
- A new DNR small grant program for landowners to restore shorelines is now available. This grant will be a simpler and more streamlined grant for individual landowners through a sponsor such as Little St. Germain Management District. We are exploring participation in this program.

Board of Commissioners

Elected Commissioners:

Chairman	Dave O'Malley	September 2016	ddomalley@tds.net
Secretary	Cheryl Kelsey	September 2015	sellthenorthwoods@gmail.com
Treasurer	Tom Schwartz	September 2014	tom01schwartz@gmail.com

Non-Elected Commissioners:

Tom Christensen, Town of St. Germain	stgsport@frontier.com
Mary Kim Black, Vilas County	marykim.black@imaginehomelending.com

LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT 2015 BUDGET HEARING AND ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY – SEPTEMBER 6, 2015 8:30 AM 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 2016 Budget

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Meeting Minutes July 23, 2015

Treasurer's Report – Tom Schwartz will present the 2014 Financial Report

Reports

AIS Report

Clean Boats, Clean Waters

Muskellunge Creek Beaver Control

USGS Phosphorous Study

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

Action Items

- Aquatic Management Plan Grant – Apply for a grant with the assistance of Onterra and update plan
- AIS Grant for 2016 – Discussion and vote
- South Bay Weed Harvesting – Discussion and possible action on the weed situation in South Bay
- 2015 Tax Levy – Discussion and approval to support expenses for 2016
- Election of Commissioner for expiring term of Cheryl Kelsey

Open Discussion

Set Time for 2016 Meeting

MINUTES
Thursday, July 23, 2015 9:00 a.m.
St. Germain Community Center

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Dave O'Malley, Chairman. Commissioners present Tom Schwartz & Cheryl Kelsey.

Agenda was approved.

Minutes of June 12, 2015 meeting were approved.

Action Items:

Treasurer's Report – Tom Schwartz presented the 2014 Financial Report to be included in the Newsletter for the Annual Meeting. Tom discussed the proposed 2016 budget to also be included in the Newsletter for the Budget Hearing before the Annual Meeting. Kelsey motioned, O'Malley seconded, motion approved.

Annual Meeting Agenda Discussion

Commissioners discussed and laid out the Agenda for the Annual Meeting. Cheryl Kelsey will prepare for the Newsletter.

Finalize Newsletter & Schedule for Annual Meeting

Commissioners discussed the layout of the Newsletter and schedule for the Annual Meeting at the St. Germain Community Center on Sunday, September 6th to start at 8:30 a.m. for a social gathering.

Discussion/Action on South Bay Weeds

Commissioners discussed the possibility of Mechanical Harvesting of the current weed problem in South Bay. Dave O'Malley has contacted several contractors to see about the possibility of getting them out for this year. In the past LSG has had a site to take the weeds to, so that the contractor did not have to bring them back and forth to the landing. Cheryl Kelsey said she would contact the family of the property that was used last time. It has been identified that the weed is Southern Naiad, which has not been seen here before. It was discussed to ask Tom Best for help in mapping the location and area of the weed bed with a GPS unit. Dave O'Malley would contact him about that. There will be a discussion at the Annual Meeting about possible harvesting for 2016.

AIS Treatment for 2016

Discussion to plan for the 2016 AIS Treatment and to add to the Annual Meeting Agenda. The application is usually done in Dec-Jan. for the coming spring treatment. Eddie Heath from Onterra, assists with the application.

Replacement of Navigational Buoys

John Vojta has informed us that a few of the navigational buoys are in need of replacement. Tom Schwartz ordered the new ones to be replaced.

Next Meeting – The next meeting will be Sept. 6th, 8:30 a.m. at the St. Germain Community Center for the Annual Meeting

Adjournment – Schwartz motioned, O'Malley seconded, meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

What can we do to reduce the weed growth? Ideally we could treat the phosphorous at its source to limit fertilization of the lake. This would be very difficult to do for Little St. Germain since it does not appear to be practical to treat this inflow from the creek. Through the U.S.G.S. study we are exploring if there are ways to manage water flows out of the lake at the dam by timing the release of water when phosphorous concentrations in the water column are highest. This could remove more phosphorous from the lake and may gradually improve water quality over time. Also what happens on the lakeshore affects near shore water quality and growth of weeds. There are things we all can do to limit runoff by providing lakeshore buffer strips and limiting/eliminating fertilizer use. We need to think about what happens on our own shoreline and limit runoff of nutrients into the lake. Every small step helps to improve the lake and it starts on our shores.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2014
Cash Basis Statement of General Funds
Year Ended December 31, 2014

BALANCE TRANSFERRED FROM 2013	\$226,440.58
ADJUSTMENT FOR ERROR IN 2011 SHORELAND GRANT	-\$759.40
2013 TAX LEVY RECEIVED IN 2014	\$43,404.00
DNR SHORELAND REST. GRANT 2012	\$46,963.70
DNR SHORELAND REST. GRANT 2013	\$3,221.92
DNR AIS GRANT 2013	\$16,484.26
DNR GRANT CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATER	\$2,925.00
INTEREST INCOME	<u>\$191.85</u>
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$338,871.91

EXPENDITURES

LABELS, NOTICES, POSTAGE, OFFICE, ETC.	\$819.66
SEMINAR	\$508.00
DUES	\$330.00
LAKE EXPENSES	<u>\$1,467.05</u>
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$3,124.71
INSURANCE EXPENSE	\$4,226.00
EXOTIC WEED CONTROL	\$65,971.19
CLEAN BOATS - CLEAN WATER	\$3,900.00
FISHERY EXP/WATER QUALITY	\$1,000.00
LONG TERM AQUATIC PLANT MGT & WATER QUALITY	\$10,376.79
AERATION OPERATING EXPENSE	<u>\$5,362.81</u>
GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	\$93,961.50

BALANCE CARRIED OVER TO 2015 **\$244,910.41**

STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES - December 31, 2014

ASSETS

CHECKING ACCOUNT	\$3,881.65
MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT	\$174,358.88
RECEIVABLE FROM DNR SHORELAND REST. GRANT 2012	\$46,963.70
RECEIVABLE FROM DNR SHORELAND REST. GRANT 2013	\$3,221.92
RECEIVABLE FROM DNR AIS GRANT 2013	\$16,484.26
TOTAL ASSETS	\$244,910.41

LIABILITIES & BALANCE CARRYOVER

ACCOUNTS PAYABLE	\$0.00
BALANCE CARRYOVER TO:	
2015 AERATION EXPENSE	\$3,000.00
2015 EXOTIC WEED CONTROL	\$60,000.00
USGS 2014 TO 2017 SURVEY	\$15,000.00
2015 WATER QUALITY / CREEK	\$3,000.00
LONG TERM AQUATIC PLANT MGT & WATER QUALITY	<u>\$163,910.41</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & BALANCE CARRYOVER	\$244,910.41

SAYNER ST. GERMAIN FISH & WILDLIFE CLUB INC

12/31/13 BALANCE AVAILABLE FOR LAKE IMPROVEMENT EXP	\$3,102.00
DISTRICT CONTRIBUTION 2014	\$1,000.00
FISH & WILDLIFE CONTRIBUTION 2014	<u>\$0.00</u>
12/31/14 BALANCE	\$4,102.00

BUDGET ESTIMATED SUMMARY OF 2015 EXPENSES

	2015 Actual Exp Through 8/3/15	Est. Addl Exp To End of Yr	Total Est. Exp	2015 Budget	Under/Over Budget
Operating Exp	\$2,403	\$4,500	\$6,903	\$7,000	\$97
Insurance Exp	-\$132	\$4,300	\$4,168	\$4,500	\$332
Clean Boats - Clean Waters	\$3,681	-\$2,548	\$1,133	\$2,000	\$868
Native Weed Control	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Exotic Weed Control	\$34,425	-\$6,440 a	\$27,985	\$80,000	\$52,015
Fish & Wildlife Fund	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
Fish Stocking	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Aeration Operation Exp	\$8,230	\$4,000	\$12,230	\$15,000	\$2,770
USGS Study	\$3,402 b	\$16,000	\$19,402	\$15,000	(\$4,402)
USDA Creek	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
Totals	\$53,009	\$22,812	\$75,821	\$127,500	\$51,679

a DNR Grant for \$46,850 for 2 years at 50% of expenses

b USGS Billing for services from 11/1/2010 to 12/31/2014

2016 PROPOSED BUDGET & 2015 TAX LEVY

	<u>Proposed Budget</u>	<u>Funds Other Than Levy</u>	<u>Proposed Levy</u>
Operating Exp	\$7,000		\$7,000
Insurance Exp	\$4,500		\$4,500
Clean Boats - Clean Waters	\$1,200		\$1,200
Exotic Weed Control/Mgt Plan	\$60,000	\$50,000 a/b	\$10,000
Native Weed Control	\$0	\$0	\$0
Fish & Wildlife Fund	\$1,000		\$1,000
Fish Stocking	\$0	\$0	\$0
Aeration Operation Exp	\$13,000	\$3,000 a	\$10,000
USGS 2014-17 Survey	\$16,000	\$16,000 a	\$0
Replacement Buoys	\$2,000		\$2,000
USDA Creek	\$3,000	\$3,000 a	\$0
Totals	\$107,700	\$72,000	\$35,700

a From LT Plant Mgt & Water Quality

b DNR Grant for \$46,850 for 2 years at 50% of expenses

The Levy for 2015 was \$46,500. This reflects a decrease of \$10,800 or 23%