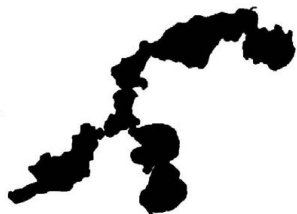


LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE
PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 129
St. Germain, WI 54558



Newsletter #17 Winter 2020

ATTENTION LITTLE ST. GERMAIN LAKE OWNERS!

This newsletter is 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 2022	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
Vilas County	Carolyn Ritter	critter23@frontier.com

A Change in Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Plant Management Philosophy

At the annual meeting, I noticed that one of the consequences of our formal lake plan is that we are going from a proactive to a reactive strategy when dealing with Eurasian Water Milfoil and Curly Leaf Pondweed, and not many people are aware of this.

In the past on Little St. Germain Lake, there was a more aggressive form of chemical treatment plan applied to the lake including a rather large fish kill many years ago. The idea was that whenever there was any AIS around, one would chemically pounce on it as fast as possible. The sooner the better! One does not want the plants to get out of hand and if we are going to eradicate the lake of AIS, we had better be vigilant! Generally speaking, most of us have grown up with the idea that it is much better to be proactive than reactive.

And though many times, that is true, it is not always true.

One underlying assumption to being proactive is that the underlying problem can be solved, dealt with, and put behind one's self, unfortunately, AIS does not fall under that assumption. Once AIS is introduced into the lake it cannot be "undone", at least, not with present scientific development. Unfortunately, there is no "chemical solution" to the AIS problem, including aggressive treatments.

The best we can do is to attempt to hold it somewhat in check. And no one likes the "somewhat", because that means areas of weeds where we do not want them.

The Lake Plan defines "somewhat in check" this way: At the minimum, 3 to 5 acres (3 to 5 football fields with end zones) of AIS with at least dominant or very dominant populations of plants must exist before, basically, the state will authorize chemical treatment. I will remind you that the Wisconsin DNR has regulation of chemical treatments and our Lake Plan reflects their dialog with us.

There are concerns with chemical treatments. First, we do not fully know what all the environmental ramifications are when we dump certain herbicides into the lake. The safest ones are used (those that breakdown the quickest), but how safe is safe?

Secondly, there are signs that repeated use of chemical herbicides may have diminishing returns in that there appear to be genetic modifications in Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) over time. Apparently, there is such a thing as EWM that is resistant to chemical treatment much like overuse of antibiotics create resistant and untreatable bacteria.

So, the idea that better management equates to throwing lots of money into chemically treating half acre breakouts of AIS is mistaken on several levels.

Don't get me wrong! I would rather have a lake without AIS, but what I would want versus the reality of what we have are not the same issues. Unfortunately, we must deal with the latter while consoling the former.

Tom Groth, Chairman



"Holiday Greetings and Happy New Year 2020"

From the Little St. Germain Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District Board of Commissioners

**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>

Annual Meeting Minutes

Sunday, Sept. 1, 2019

St. Germain Community Center

Unapproved Draft

The minutes will not be approved until the next Annual Meeting in September 2020

Social Gathering – 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. Coffee & Sweet Rolls were served. Sign in was held.

Welcome & Introduction - Chairman Tom Groth welcomed everyone to the meeting & started with an Introduction of the Commissioners present, Tom Schwartz, Treasurer, Cheryl Kelsey, Secretary & Carolyn Ritter, Vilas County. Tom Christensen, Town of St. Germain arrived late.

Budget Hearing – Treasurer, Tom Schwartz read the 2018 Financials & 2019 Expenses. He also presented the proposed Budget & 2019 Tax Levy.

Call to Order – Tom Groth called the meeting to order at 9:22 a.m.

Approval of Agenda – Randy Farchmin motioned, Steve LaRiviere seconded, motion carried.

Approval of 2018 Annual Meeting Minutes – Sept. 2, 2018 – Barb Steinhilber motioned, Greg Loesche seconded, motion carried.

REPORTS

Muskellunge Creek Beaver Control – Tom Groth read a report regarding the results of the aerial survey of the creek. There were no Beaver dams removed this year. We will continue monitoring the creek.

USGS Report – Tom Groth reviewed the results of the USGS report & discussed the possibility of the timing for the Water Draw Down. If approved, the Lake District will apply for a WDNR grant to help with the costs. In addition, the USGS will give us a grant for approx. \$30,000. Please see full report at www.littlesaint.org.

AIS-DASH Boat Update – Cheryl Kelsey reported that Aquatic Plant Management LLC was out on the lake for 9 days using the Diver Assisted Suctioning Harvesting Boat in West Bay. The report indicates that DASH efforts at high priority dense locations are effective at reducing the EWM population. Continued monitoring and management efforts are important to prevent proliferation of EWM throughout the lake. The full report will be available on the Lake District's website at www.littlesaint.org.

Lake Management Planning Update – Tom Groth reported that the plan is now finished and a copy of the full report will be on our website. He explained that if we want to apply for any future Grants, we will need this report approved by the DNR. Tim Hoyman and Eddie Heath from Onterra are responsible for the report and its contents.

Mechanical Harvest – Native Weed Control – Tom Groth reported that the Mechanical harvesting is available to us to control weeds in the traffic lanes of the lake. We were prepared with a Permit with the DNR in case we needed it. This year, the Southern Naiad in the South basin of South Bay did not become a problem. The other areas that we were prepared to cut were, near Serenity Bay, No Fish Bay and the narrow part of East Bay.

Clean Boats Clean Waters – Schwartz reported that we have continued with the UW Oshkosh program this year at a cost of \$1,700 to the District.

Fishery Update – Steve Gilbert, DNR Fishery Biologist, reported that in Oct. of 2018, they released 217 Musky into the lake. According to their studies, there is no natural reproduction of Walleyes, so the plan is to release 14,700 “extended growth” walleyes this year in the Fall. Hadley Boehm will be overseeing the Fall survey when the water temperature is 65 or below. He indicated that the program should continue alternating Musky and Walleye until at least 2025.

Old Business

Tom Groth described the steps that the District Board has taken in the process of coordinating with the WVIC, WDNR and USGS to make the Water Draw Down a reality. We will be required to do a 4-5 year study to see what the environmental impact would be to the proposed change. The cost would be approximately \$200,000 over the next 5 years. He explained that the USGS will give us a Grant for about \$30,000. We would need to employ Onterra's Tim Hoyman to write a Grant proposal to the WDNR which would potentially cover \$100,000 to \$140,000 of the cost. The bottom line cost to the Lake District would be somewhere between \$7,000 to \$11,000 per year over 5 years in order to get this project accomplished. The first draw down could be as early as 2020, depending on the WDNR Grant. Motion was made by Dan Lyons to continue to pursue the Water Draw Down proposal contingent upon a possible WDNR Grant of at least \$115,000. Jim Kelsey seconded, motion carried.

I-Lids Camera – Continued discussion regarding the idea of purchasing an I-Lid Camera (Internet Landing Installed Device Sensor) for the Boat Landing. The camera is motion activated and takes high resolution video that is uploaded to the vendor's computers in real-time. The signs and recorded message would be a constant reminder to boaters entering or leaving the lake. It would enable the DNR to issue citations based on the video. The camera would need to be removed and stored for the winter. Insurance would cover us for any legal action that could occur. This would be a second system when the Clean Boats Clean Waters interns are not present at the landing. Carolyn Ritter motioned to table any further action on the I-Lids Camera, Tony Cempel seconded. Motion carried.

New Business

Eurasian Milfoil Treatment 2020 – Discussion regarding the possibility of returning to an AIS Chemical Treatment for next year depending on Onterra's Fall and Spring Surveys. If any of the areas meet the trigger for treatment, we would move forward with a chemical treatment. Motion to proceed with a 2020 Chemical treatment was made by Rick Burdorf, seconded by Ted Nelson, motion carried.

A discussion regarding the problem we have been having with the Wakesurf boats was had and Chuck Strauss, who lives in West Bay, told us that he has been monitoring the activity and going out and approaching some of the bigger offenders. We need to come up with some ideas about how to communicate with boaters and possibly resort owners to ask the boat owners to be more courteous to their fellow boaters. The lake is there for everyone's enjoyment and it becomes dangerous up in the narrow part of West Bay, where the repeated circling of the boats causes large waves and disturbs fisherman and other boats.

Action Items

Approval of 2018 Financials – Motion to approve made by Erv Stiemke, seconded by Steve LaRiviere, motion carried.

Approval of 2020 Budget – Motion to approve made by Randy Farchmin, seconded by Barb Steinhilber, motion carried.

Approval of 2019 Tax Levy – Motion to approve made by Dan Lyons, seconded by Jim Kelsey, motion carried.

Election of Expiring Term of Tom Groth – Motion to nominate Tom Groth for another 3 year term, made by Barb Steinhilber, seconded by Greg Loesche, motion carried.

Open Discussion

Due to the fact that the Aeration line has been hit a couple of times and has cost the District hundreds of dollars in labor and materials to replace, it was suggested that we ask the DNR for permission to place another Buoy in Lower East Bay near the aeration line. Tom Groth was going to inquire about this.

Ted Nelson brought to our attention that the AIS and Curly Leaf Pondweed over near his point has really exploded over the last couple of years. He was wondering if Onterra could come over there and take a look at the location of this outbreak. He is located where No Fish Bay meets East Bay, his property has frontage on both bays.

It was mentioned that some of the lakes that are part of the Town Lakes Committee, are wanting to establish a "no wake after a certain time". Tom Christensen, our Town of St. Germain representative said it would be very difficult to enforce this. At this time, there is only 1 Vilas County Recreational officer.

Set Time for 2020 Meeting – September 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. for the next Annual meeting.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn was made by Steve LaRiviere at 11:32 a.m.