

Lower Spring Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District

Quarterly (1st) Meeting January 28th, 2012 Minutes

Called Meeting To Order: Al Fehrmann called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM on Saturday January 28th, 2012. Present: Al Fehrmann-President, Jan Rooou-County Supervisor, Sue Agen-Village President, Guests-Susan Graham- Lake Management Co-Coordinator, Patricia Cicero-Water Resources Management Specialist and Linda Plennes-Secretary, Vicki Bradford-Treasurer not present.

Read/Approve Minutes: Linda Plennes read the minutes of the last meeting dated August 27th, 2011. No corrections noted, a motion to accept the minutes was made by Jim Dixon and Steve Schneiger 2nd the motion. The minutes were accepted as read.

Treasurers Report: Vicki Bradford was not present, she did provide us with a two page Budget-Calendar with detailed entries of last year 2011 and a one page Budget report-Current for this year. These two documents were e-mailed to you on February 6, 2012.

Harvester Report: Jim Dixon noted that when we are ready to cut the bay in question we will notify the proper authorities and plan to enter that bay when the water level is at its highest. The goal is to get in and get out with as little disturbance as possible. Jim noted that the harvester has markers on it to alert the 3 foot levels for cutting. Jim also noted that he would like to have the harvester in the water earlier this year; target date would be May 1st to start the concentration on the Curly- leaf pondweed. Al noted that in 2010 the Curly- leaf pondweed seemed under control and that the lake looked very good, but in 2011 it's evident that the Curly- leaf pondweed is returning. Once the Eurasian water milfoil was reduced the Curly- leaf pondweed took over. Patricia Cicero handed out a map of Aquatic Plant Densities that was created in June of 2009, Patricia stated that they found 37 areas where they found Curly- leaf pondweed, and in 2011 when they inspected our lake they found 48 areas. If we should receive the grant that we apply for on February 1st, Patricia will do another lake inspection this year as well. Susan Graham stated that early spring cutting of the Curly -leaf pondweed is best, as the harvester is cutting the tops of the plants off and removing them; if they are allowed drop to the bottom of the lake they can reproduce for the next 3 to 5 years. Al and Jim informed us that the harvester is in need of some minor repairs; Josh sent an e-mail detailing the repairs needed. This cost should be under \$200, we instructed Josh to proceed with the repairs. Susan Graham stated if we should get the grant then neither the Eurasian water milfoil or the Curly-leaf pondweed would be a problem and that harvesting would be at a minimum. Only the untouched treated areas would need harvesting. Patricia stated that there would be a lot of variables again with regards to chemical treatment: Water temperatures, rain levels, and wind levels, weather conditions etc. Susan also stated that we would know if we received the grant by April 1st, 2012. If we do not receive the grant we can reapply again August 1st. If we are approved for the grant the lake treatment would be late April or early May. Treatment would focus on Curly-leaf pondweed and Eurasian water milfoil. Patricia Cicero made the suggestion that when we cut the finger bay that we also take note of

the water level at the dam site, since there are no records kept on the changing water levels by the village. This information could/would be very valuable going forward for cutting purpose. Makes sense to check the dam levels first before launching the harvester into the bays. Sue Agen stated that there are some grants and grant money coming for repairs on the two dams.

Geese Depredation Plan 2012: Bill Alveshire is planning on providing his services again this year, Al stated he can't say enough regarding Bill and Beth's efforts to address this problem, most appreciated.

Aquatic Plant Management Treatment Plan: Al stated that in the past we had applied for a 25%/75% Grant, this means our lake district would pay 25% of the cost and the state would pay for 75% of the cost. Our options are 75/25, 65/35, 50/50 Al stated that if we went with a 65%/35% we would earn one point towards our grant request, if we went with the 50/50 option we would receive two points towards our request for the grant. The board met on Monday to discuss/ review and then make a recommendation to the district. Steve summed it up by saying that if we spend more money we have a better advantage of getting the grant, but with no guarantees cautioned Susan Graham. Patricia Cicero stated that last year the DNR changed its methods on the point systems, we actually came in very low, but this year it went up because of the restructuring of the system. The more points you get the better, the last lake to get funding last year earned 23 points and last year we earned 20 points. We were very close, the closest we had ever been. Each year we never know how many lakes will be applying for the grants or how much they are requesting in the grant. Patricia explained what the grant entails. One grant part - would cover Eurasian water milfoil and Curly-leaf pondweed. Another part -covers the Clean Boats, Clean Water efforts, through education and volunteers we would share this information at the boat landing, people fishing off shore and even include Blue Spring Lake. Bill Alveshire has volunteered to participate in this venture. Another part would be to be able to recognize evasive species, through education, Ed and Deb Shields have volunteered to do this. Ed and Deb have been doing this for some time now. Ex: Informing anyone new to the lake, new home owners, new harvester operators etc. Another part-to continue to be a partner with the DNR, and the Army Corp of Engineers. Patricia handed out a 5 year budget plan for the grant, she explained in detail the item costs attached to this grant request. This information is provided to us to be used as a tool for our district to vote on a specific grant. Patricia noted on this budget that the cost to treat Curly-leaf pondweed is quite expensive compared to the treatment of Eurasian water milfoil and that the treatment of CLP takes 3 to 4 years to be successful. There are many people involved in this huge undertaking, gathering as much information as possible, charting, tracking and documenting as much as possible. We are in fact the guinea pig here; we are the test pilots here. Here are some statistics on what vegetation has been removed since 2005.

Year	Vegetation Removed
2005	810,000 lbs.
2006	396,000 lbs.

2007	756,000 lbs.
2008	499.000 lbs.
2009	461,610 lbs.
2010	62,440 lbs. used liquid treatment
2011	68,000 lbs. used liquid treatment

Al summarized all this to make our recommendation on the grant, if we don't get the grant we will fund the chemical treatment costs ourselves like we have done in prior years. A discussion on both the 65%/35% and the 50%/50% grant took place. A motion was made by Steve Schneiger to apply for the 50/50 grant, Jim Dixon 2nd the motion. A vote was taken: all in favor /no nays.

A comment was made regarding the notification for the chemical treatment, that not all homeowners were notified of the treatment, some did know, some did not know, going forward the following action will take place. Your lake secretary will contact you via e-mail with a time line as to when they plan to treat the lake. Last year we received a discounted price because we did not notify all homeowners. It's a hit and miss trying to set a date for treatment, Mother Nature plays a huge part in the planning of this task. I will try my best to keep you informed as to the planning and distribution of the treatment going forward. But you also have to do your part.....that is reading your e-mail especially when you know something's pending. If you change your e-mail address please let me know.

Open Forum:

Sue Agen asked about the boat landings bulletin board, as it was damaged last year, I informed her that it had been repaired and no other issues have been reported. I also informed the police department of the vandalism and they were also going to patrol that area more often.

A question regarding maintaining our shore lines was asked, we were cautioned to be careful not to remove native species, these are good for our lakes. You can remove the evasive species. Patricia Cicero also said she would be happy to come out and identify any plants that are in question. The Chara plant smells like skunk when you crush it, it is good for the lake, and it lies like a carpet to protect it from the Curly-leaf pondweed from settling in.

Jim asked about acknowledgments for all those who have provided their assistance to our Lake District, Al Fuhrmann said he would address this issue.

Jan Roou stated that our meeting was not on the County agenda, I will follow up on that.

Set Next Meeting Date: **May 12th, 2012 Saturday, Village Hall 10:00 AM**

Motion to adjourn meeting was made by Jim Dixon and 2nd by Steve Schneiger

Submitted by:Linda Plennes, **LSLP&RD**,Secretary 2/22/2012

