

Spooner Lake District Newsletter

May 2018

A few words from Chairman Michael A. Plisky ...

Spring finally sprung just in time for many of us to happily rush to get ready for the Opening Fishing Day on Saturday, May 5!

I'm writing to bring you up-to-date on the Board's work through the winter season in response to the actions taken at our September 2017 Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing.

Algae and Aquatic Plant Management Program

The Board approved a lake survey services contract with Ecological Integrity Service; and an algae and invasive plant treatment services contract with Lake Restoration, Inc., for up to 20 acres of algae and up to 30 acres of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) in accordance with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) approval of an amendment to the District's current Aquatic Plant Management Plan.

At the Board meeting of April 28, Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Service made a presentation regarding CLP and other aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian Water Milfoil and Zebra Mussels. The meeting minutes are available at <http://www.spoonerlakewi.com/minutes.html>.

Also, the Board discussed a meeting schedule to visit and obtain information from representatives of the Chetek Lakes Protection Association regarding their new Eco Harvester.

On another endeavor, I'm pleased to let you know, we are again participating in the Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network to collect water clarity information about Spooner Lake throughout the open water season and to enter the information into the DNR database for analysis. Also, we will be collecting temperature and dissolved oxygen data as well as doing a visual examination of existing and new aquatic invasive species beds. I want to thank Mark Schultz, Algae and Aquatic Plant Management Chair, for coordinating these efforts.

Clean Boats Clean Waters Program

Thanks to Commissioner Mort Dahl, I'm pleased to let you know John Richter is the new Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Coordinator. Our CBCW Program started the Opening Fishing Day weekend and will run through the Labor Day weekend on Fridays from 4 -8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 6 a.m. through 8 p.m. Boat inspectors help perform boat and trailer checks, disseminate informational brochures, and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species.

At our annual meeting and budget hearing, there was discussion and support for the concept of collecting a launch fee at the County Highway H Boat Landing. A watercraft launch fee would need to be approved by the Town of Spooner Board Supervisors because the Town owns the boat landing. Subsequently, the Town could contract with the Spooner Lake District to collect the watercraft launch fee based on a financial arrangement. The Town of Spooner Board Supervisors are supportive of the idea of collecting a watercraft launch fee. We are in the process of researching and gathering information.

Grants Program

In addition to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Clean Boats Clean Waters Grant award of \$4000 obtained by Commissioner Hanson, Commissioner Hanson and I prepared and submitted an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Education, Prevention, and Planning Grant Application plus an AIS Control Grant Application.

I'm very happy to tell you the DNR awarded the District an AIS Education, Prevention, and Planning Grant of \$9909 which with the Town of Spooner \$1000 contribution will help offset the \$12,500 cost of updating our (a) Aquatic Macrophyte Survey and Analysis and Distribution Maps and (b) Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Furthermore, the DNR awarded the District an AIS Control Grant of \$24,340 to help defray the expenses associated with the monitoring and treatment of Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP).

Knowing the DNR grant monies are limited and the competition is great, it's very gratifying the District was awarded a total of \$38,249 in grant monies this fiscal year. In our efforts, the DNR Spooner office staff was helpful in providing information and guidance; and the District did not incur the costs of hiring a consultant to prepare the grant applications.

Spooner Lake Survey and Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update

As Co-Chairs, Commissioner Ed Fischer and I reviewed the proposals received in response to a Request for Quotes. The Board approved a contract with Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Service for the lake survey work, and a contract with Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental for the lake aquatic plant management plan update. The survey work will be conducted between June and October 2018 and the management plan update will be done between November 2018 and April 2019.

Additionally, the Board approved the appointment of a committee consisting of the District Board and two lake property owners, John Meacham and Frank Gray, to work with the consultants.

Aquatic Invasive Species Identification Program

In February, the Washburn County Board Supervisors approved Resolution No. 27-18, regarding the aquatic invasive species ordinance requiring decontamination (if available) on all Washburn County lake accesses and/or landings. Watercraft entering a lake would need to be decontaminated if a decontamination station was available at a lake access or landing.

Commissioner Fischer is working with Lisa Burns, Conservation Coordinator of the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department, regarding our interest in a grant to install a bleach cleaning decontamination station and signage at the County Highway H Boat Landing. Commissioner Fischer and I will also be working with the Town of Spooner on the location of the decontamination station and signage at the boat landing.

And, here is a link to a recent update from the McKenzie Lakes Area Zebra Mussel Management Team <http://wclra.org/wp-content/uploads/2018-ZM-Progress-and-Planning-Report.pdf>.

Boat Parade

You're invited to participate and / or watch the Spooner Lake Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade starting at 1 p.m. at the Highway H Boat Landing. Also, please keep remnants of fireworks and balloons out of the lake.

Meeting Schedule

The current 2018 Spooner Lake District meetings at the Town Hall, N6124 Blooming Vale, Spooner, are as follows:

May 26, 2018 @ 10 a.m.

July 28, 2018 @ 9 a.m.

September 1, 2018 @ 10 a.m., District Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing

District Information

The District website address is www.spoonerlakewi.com where you will find the meeting schedule, agendas, and minutes.

The District mailing address is P. O. Box 73, Spooner WI 54801.