



Spooner Lake District Newsletter

May 2019

DISTRICT SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE AND 2019 AQUATIC PLANT MANAGEMENT PLAN NOTICE

The Spooner Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (SLD) will hold a special meeting on Saturday, May 25, 2019, at 10 a.m., Spooner Town Hall, N6124 Blooming Vale Road, Spooner. Enclosed with this newsletter is the meeting agenda. You are encouraged to attend and participate because there will be at least a couple of important votes.

Also, the 2019 Spooner Lake Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan is available for review at the Spooner Public Library and at <http://spoonerlakewi.com>. Comments are being accepted through June 3, 2019, via mail or email to Harmony Environmental, 516 Keller Avenue S., Amery WI 54001, harmonyenv@amerytel.net. Aquatic plant management includes preservation of native species, managing nuisance aquatic plants and Filamentous Algae, controlling the invasive Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP), and preventing the establishment of additional aquatic invasive species. This plan updates the 2012 Spooner Lake APM Plan to guide the SLD in plant management through 2024.

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

I'm writing to bring you up-to-date on the Board's work since our September 2018 annual meeting and budget hearing.

Spooner Lake Survey and Aquatic Plant Management Plan

Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Services performed the survey and compiled the data. Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental updated the APM Plan information, accumulated Committee input, prepared alternatives analysis, and presented the Plan for review and comment. Cheryl will incorporate the comments into the APM Plan, and she will submit the Plan to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on June 10, 2019, for review and approval within 60 days. Also, I appreciated Mark Sundeen, DNR Water Resources Management Specialist, attending and participating in the APM Plan Update Committee meetings. Additionally, I'm thankful that Frank Gray and John Meacham joined the Board members to serve on the APM Plan Update Committee.

Clean Boats Clean Waters Program

Hunter Denison was hired as the 2019 Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Coordinator. Hunter has CBCW Program experience and works as an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Intern with Lisa Burns, Conservation Coordinator of the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department. As the CBCW Coordinator, Hunter recruits persons to work as inspectors and he schedules the inspectors. The CBCW inspectors perform boat and trailer checks, disseminate informational brochures, educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species, assist boaters at the decontamination station, and inform boaters the \$5 watercraft launch fee is to help offset the costs of protecting Spooner Lake not the CBCW Program. The CBCW Program started on May 4, (Fishing Opener) and will run through the Labor Day weekend on Fridays from 4 -8 p.m. and Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays from 6 a.m. through 8 p.m.

Aquatic Invasive Species Identification Program

Zebra Mussels – *These continue to be a major focus of the Board. The Board with the assistance of the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department arranged for the equipment, construction, and installation of a bleach spray station at the County Highway H landing. Special thanks to Ed Fischer, Hunter Denison, Gary Cuskey, and Mark Schultz who helped me install the decontamination station. By county law, boaters are required to use the bleach spray station to kill veligers, the microscopic baby zebra mussels. I have again enclosed a handout providing information on how to help keep zebra mussels out of Spooner Lake. Property owners with a private boat landing are asked to post the information in a conspicuous location at their boat landing. In the August 2018 newsletter, I reported Spooner Lake had been tested for the zebra mussel veliger and, thankfully, the test results showed no zebra mussel veligers. The Board will continue to monitor and test for zebra mussels. Also, I appreciated the support of the Town of Spooner under the leadership of Chairman John Fenniman in adopting Ordinance No. 08-13-2018, authorizing the SLD to maintain a decontamination station at the County Highway H launching ramp area to help with preventing zebra mussels. The Town of Spooner also approved and installed a Town and SLD enclosed information board at the County Highway H landing.*

Watercraft Launch Fee - In adopting Ordinance No. 08-13-2018, the Town of Spooner Board permitted the SLD to retain a \$5 watercraft launch fee, effective January 1, 2019, collected at the County Highway H landing to help offset the costs to protect the water quality and environment of Spooner Lake. Additionally, the Town of Spooner Board purchased and installed a fee collection box at the landing.

Algae and Aquatic Plant Management Program

Lake Treatment - On March 15, 2019, by majority vote, the Board moved (a) to not proceed with a Spooner Lake drawdown of three feet, (b) to not perform chemical treatment of CLP in 2019, and (c) to not perform chemical treatment of Filamentous Algae in 2019.

Drawdown - At the 2018 annual meeting and budget hearing, the SLD membership unanimously approved to further investigate the advantages and disadvantages of a lake drawdown. Commissioner Schultz and I held meetings with the Washburn County Highway Commissioner and DNR relating to a Spooner Lake drawdown. Thereafter, we compiled a Lake Drawdown Report for the SLD membership, which is enclosed for your information and discussion at the SLD special meeting. Bottom line – The SLD can do the lake drawdown, if it decides to do so, subject to some conditions.

Harvesting / Skimming - At the 2018 annual meeting and budget hearing, the SLD membership unanimously directed the Board to prepare a request for a bid to obtain a proposal from at least two contractors to perform Spooner Lake harvesting and skimming services for the SLD as well as for interested, private property owners. As a result, Commissioner Schultz and I prepared a Contract Harvester / Skimmer Report for services on a trial basis, which is enclosed for your information and discussion at the SLD special meeting.

Dock and Buoys - Special thanks to Mike Borelli for helping Commissioner Schultz to remove the 8 buoys in 2018. This year, Commissioner Schultz ordered four replacement buoys. And, prior to the 2019 fishing opener, Commissioner Schultz installed the dock and Gary Cuskey helped Commissioner Schultz and me to install all the buoys.

Lake Monitoring - This year we are again participating in the Wisconsin Citizen Lake Monitoring Network to (a) collect water clarity, oxygen, and temperature information about Spooner Lake in July and August and (b) enter the information into the DNR database for analysis.

Boat Parade

You're invited to participate in or watch the Spooner Lake Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade starting at 1 p.m. from the County Highway H launch area. Also, please navigate safely and keep remnants of fireworks and balloons out of the lake.

SLD Board Member and Board Clerk Replacements

Commissioner Schultz will be resigning effective May 26, 2019, to spend more quality time with his wife, Karen, who is seriously ill. This Board term ends at the 2020 annual meeting. On behalf of the SLD, I hope the best for Karen, and thank Mark for his service. Also, my wife, Mabi, has been the Board Clerk since August 2013 and is stepping down. If you are interested in obtaining information about volunteering to fill the positions of Board member or Board Clerk, please contact us at mabiplisky@gmail.com.

Lastly, I'm taking this opportunity to recognize the efforts of Commissioners Mort Dahl, Clean Boats Clean Waters Program Chair; Ed Fischer, Aquatic Invasive Species Identification Program Chair; Nancy Hanson, Treasurer; and Mark Schultz, Algae and Aquatic Plant Management Program Chair. Since our September 2018 annual meeting and budget hearing, the Board members have spent many individual and collective hours working on the business of the SLD. And, special thanks to Mabi.

SLD Information

The SLD website address is www.spoonerlakewi.com where you will find the meeting schedule, agendas, minutes, etc. The SLD mailing address is P. O. Box 73, Spooner WI 54801.

Let's continue living the dream on Spooner Lake!