

Spooner Lake District Newsletter

August 2019

DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING AND BUDGET HEARING NOTICE

The Spooner Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District (SLD) will hold its annual meeting and budget hearing on Saturday, August 31, 2019, at 10 a.m., Spooner Town Hall, N6124 Blooming Vale Road, Spooner. Enclosed with this newsletter is the meeting agenda and proposed budget 2020, including the mill tax rate (with a proposed 50% reduction). You are encouraged to attend and participate at this important meeting.

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

I'm writing to bring you up to date on the results of our special District meeting on May 25, 2019, which was very well attended, and on the Board's work.

SPOONER LAKE DRAWDOWN

The SLD is pursuing a drawdown to address maintaining access to individual access corridors to lake residences. Aquatic plants have created a nuisance for residents attempting to swim and boat from their dock and shoreline. The vegetation grows thick and forms mats on the water surface limiting or preventing boating and swimming.

Since the Spooner Lake Dam is owned and managed by the Washburn County Highway Department, I invited Highway Commissioner Frank Scalzo to attend the meeting on May 25, 2019, to assist in providing information. After considerable discussion at the meeting, it was decided to proceed with a 3-foot drawdown in 2019-2020. The minutes of the meeting are available on the SLD website at www.spoonerlakewi.com.

What you should know ...

- a. The 2019 Spooner Lake Aquatic Plant Management (APM) Plan identifies a 3-foot drawdown with monitoring methods to evaluate the results in alleviating nuisance aquatic plants.
- b. A drawdown may help residents maintain individual access corridors for swimming and boating from the dock and shoreline.
- c. The success of a drawdown is dependent on the weather conditions.
- d. The Highway Department and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) staff will hold a drawdown informational public meeting on Saturday, August 17, 2019, at 9 a.m., at the Highway Department, 1600 County Highway H, Spooner.
- e. The Highway Department will present a report to the Washburn County Highway Commission on Monday, August 19, 2019, at 8 a.m., at the Highway Department, where a decision will be made on the drawdown. You will receive a notice on the drawdown decision and information soon after the meeting.
- f. The DNR would conduct a pre-drawdown fish population survey in late August 2019, and a post-drawdown fish population survey in 2021.
- g. The proposed drawdown would begin no later than September 3, 2019.
- h. There would be drawdown information signage for lake users at both Spooner Lake landings.
- i. The water level is expected to drop no more than 6 inches per day until reaching the desired 3-foot drawdown.
- j. The lake refill process would start when the ice begins to melt away from the shoreline as well as when limbs and stumps protrude through the ice. This would be expected to occur between late March and early April 2020.
- k. It is estimated refilling the lake to the normal level would take approximately 2-4 weeks. The refill time might be impacted by an abundant snowmelt, heavy rains, or low snow cover.
- l. The lake refill process would not occur until the snow was melted around stumps / trees to prevent them from being pulled up while raising the water level.
- m. The water level would be returned to normal pool elevations by May 1, 2020, at the latest, prior to the fishing opener.
- n. The Town of Spooner sent a letter to the Washburn County Highway Department in support of the drawdown.

(See Reverse Side)

What you should consider ...

- o. Removing your boat, lift, and dock from the lake by September 3, 2019, and reminding your neighbors.**
- p. Aquatic plants help maintain a healthy lake environment.
- q. Aquatic plants can create nuisances in attempting to swim and boat from the dock and shoreline.
- r. Deciding whether to remove plants from your shoreline before and after the lake refill to provide individual access corridors for swimming and boating.
- s. Plants may be manually removed from your shoreline in an area that is 30 feet or less in width along the shore and is not within a designated sensitive area. In a sensitive area, the opening is limited to 25 feet. The Curly Leaf Pondweed may be manually removed beyond 30 feet.
- t. Obtaining more information at the SLD website at www.spoonerlakewi.com and e-mail at photo7589@gmail.com.

Contract Harvesting / Skimming

After substantial discussion at the meeting on May 25, 2019, it was decided not to proceed with contract harvesting / skimming on a trial basis in 2019. However, it was decided to perform chemical treatment of the Spooner Lake navigation channel in 2019, which was done in mid-July with the approval of the DNR. The minutes of the meeting are available on the SLD website at www.spoonerlakewi.com.

Opportunity to Serve

The Spooner Lake District needs you! On August 31, 2019, we need to elect two Board members. There is a Board member vacancy, representing the Washburn County Board Supervisors, with a term ending at the annual meeting 2020. There is a Board member position, representing the Town of Spooner, with a term ending at the annual meeting 2022.

I have decided not to seek another term on the Spooner Lake District, representing the Town of Spooner; and I thank Town of Spooner Chairman John Fenniman and the Town Board for their support. I am also taking this occasion to recognize former and current commissioners Joe Banick, Joe Cuskey, Mike Saunders, Mark Schultz, Ed Fischer, Nancy Hanson, and Mort Dahl for their advice, commitment, friendship, and work in protecting Spooner Lake. I also appreciate many of you who stepped forward to help. And, I'm especially thankful to my wife, Mabi. I have served August 2013 through September 2016 as Secretary and September 2016 through August 2019 as Chairman. We have had many successes, such as:

- Clean Boats Clean Waters Grant Award Annually - \$4000
- Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update Grant Award - \$9909; and Town of Spooner Contribution - \$1000
- Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Award - \$24,340
- Clean Boats Clean Waters Program, Coordinator, and Inspectors
- Installation of a Decontamination Station to Focus on the Education and Prevention of Zebra Mussels
- Town of Spooner and SLD Implementation of a \$5 Watercraft Launch Fee; and Town of Spooner Contribution of a Collection Box at the County Highway H Landing
- Town of Spooner Installation of an Information Board at the County Highway H Landing
- 2019 Spooner Lake Aquatic Plan Management Plan
- Researching, Reporting, and Pursuing a Lake Drawdown
- Researching and Reporting on Contract Harvesting/ Skimming
- Lake Monitoring Testing - Water Clarity, Temperature, Zebra Mussels, Chlorophyll, and Phosphorus
- Enhancing Communications via the SLD Website, Minutes, and Newsletters
- Strengthening Relationships with the DNR, Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department, Washburn County Highway Department, and Town of Spooner

Please consider serving as a Board member to contribute to our continued success as an energetic lake protection district. If you're interested or have questions about serving on the Board, please contact me at mabiplisky@gmail.com.

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!