

# *Spooner Lake District Newsletter*

## *December 2017*

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

*Happy New Year Spooner Lake District Members!*

*As we sing, "Auld Lang Syne," I want to tell you about the actions taken at our September 2017 Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing; and the groundwork undertaken by the Board in preparation for the work to be done in what will be a very busy 2018.*

### *Algae and Aquatic Plant Management Program*

*The Board was authorized to: (1) investigate (a) the alternative manual and mechanical harvesting methods for algae and weed abatement; and (b) a lake drawdown; (2) present a proposed plan, cost analysis, and report to the District; and (3) hire a consultant in an amount not to exceed \$3000 to assist the Board in these efforts.*

*At the Board meeting on October 28, there was discussion about the Chetek Lakes Protection Association purchase of a new Eco Harvester, and scheduling a Board meeting next spring to visit and obtain information about the Chetek Lakes Protection Association experience. This will be part of the research done in preparation for presenting a report to the District. Also, Commissioner Mark Schultz is the Chair of the Algae and Aquatic Plant Management Program.*

### *Clean Boats Clean Waters Program*

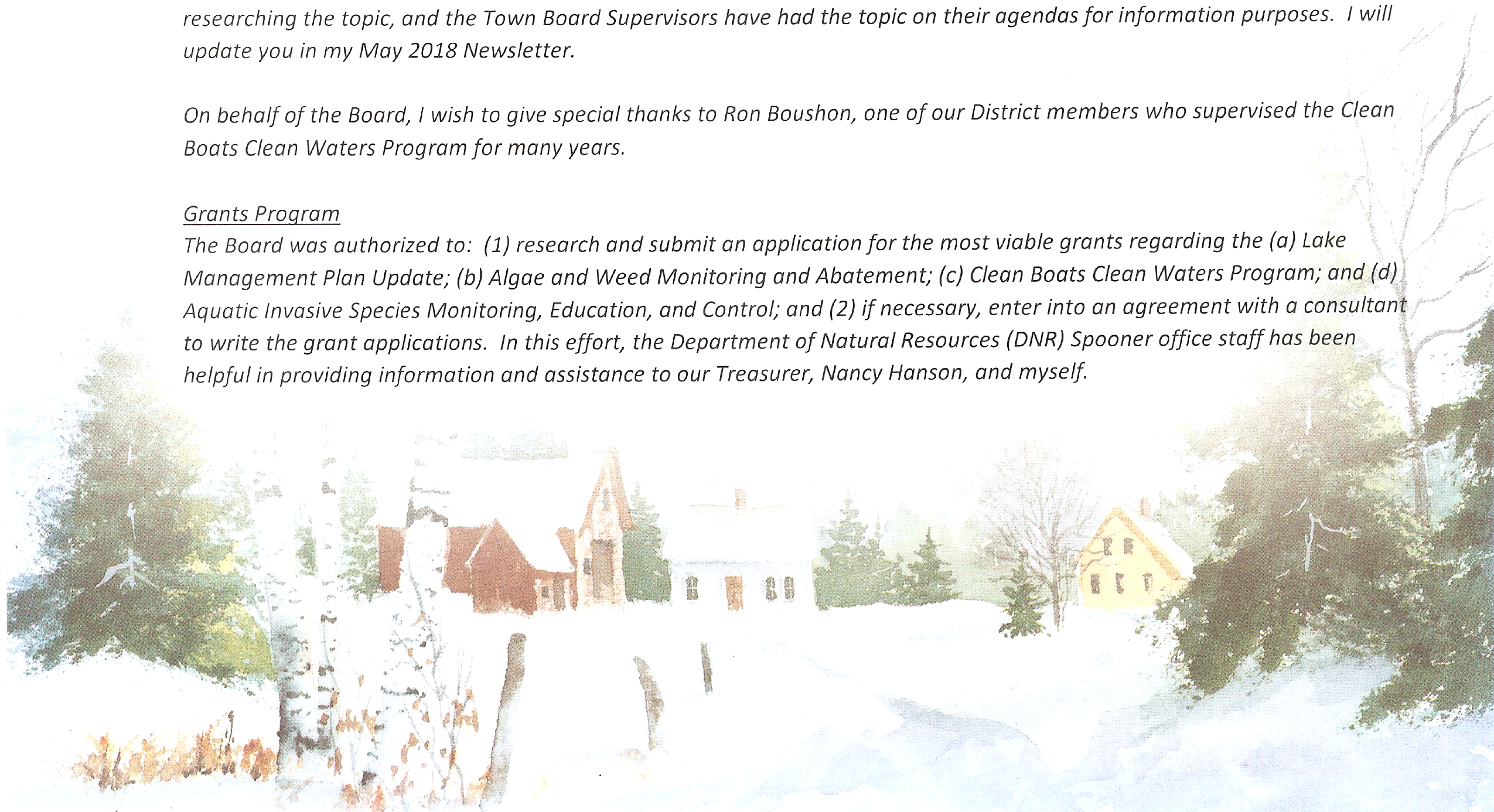
*The District Clean Boats Clean Waters Program has operated Fridays through Sundays from 6 a.m. through 8 p.m. starting the Memorial Day weekend through the Labor Day weekend. Boat inspectors help perform boat and trailer checks, disseminate informational brochures, and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Commissioner Mort Dahl is Chair of the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program.*

*At the 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 launch fee would need to be approved by the Town of Spooner Board Supervisors because the Town owns the County Highway H Boat Landing. Subsequently, the Town could contract with the District to collect the fee based on a financial arrangement. Town of Spooner Chairman Supervisor John Fenniman and I have been researching the topic, and the Town Board Supervisors have had the topic on their agendas for information purposes. I will update you in my May 2018 Newsletter.*

*On behalf of the Board, I wish to give special thanks to Ron Boushon, one of our District members who supervised the Clean Boats Clean Waters Program for many years.*

### *Grants Program*

*The Board was authorized to: (1) research and submit an application for the most viable grants regarding the (a) Lake Management Plan Update; (b) Algae and Weed Monitoring and Abatement; (c) Clean Boats Clean Waters Program; and (d) Aquatic Invasive Species Monitoring, Education, and Control; and (2) if necessary, enter into an agreement with a consultant to write the grant applications. In this effort, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Spooner office staff has been helpful in providing information and assistance to our Treasurer, Nancy Hanson, and myself.*



Commissioner Hanson submitted a Clean Boats Clean Waters Program grant application; and the Wisconsin DNR awarded the District \$4000, which is the maximum amount.

Also, Commissioner Hanson and I prepared and submitted an Aquatic Invasive Species Education, Prevention, and Planning grant application to update the Spooner Lake (a) Aquatic Macrophyte Survey and Analysis and Distribution Maps and (b) Aquatic Plant Management Plan. I will let you know the status in my May 2018 Newsletter.

#### Aquatic Plant Survey and Management Plan Update

At the annual meeting and budget hearing, I reported that in 2018 the Wisconsin DNR requires the update of the Spooner Lake (a) Aquatic Macrophyte Survey and Analysis and Distribution Maps and (b) Aquatic Plant Management Plan. Consultants will do specific environmental and technical work as well as hold meetings with a District committee. District members may submit their names and contact information by Monday, January 15, to me at [mabiplisky@gmail.com](mailto:mabiplisky@gmail.com) for consideration to serve on the committee.

Also, on behalf of the District, I presented a request to the Town of Spooner for a \$1000 contribution to help defray the approximate \$11,000 cost of updating the Spooner Lake (a) Aquatic Macrophyte Survey and Analysis and Distribution Maps and (b) Aquatic Plant Management Plan. On December 12, the Town of Spooner Chairman Supervisor John Fenniman and Supervisors Gary Frankiewicz and Miles Macone approved the request to help the District.

And, as Co-Chairs of the Aquatic Plant Survey and Management Plan Update, Commissioner Ed Fischer and I recently prepared and sent out a Request for Quotes to consultants who have worked with the DNR Spooner office, including our current consultants, Cheryl Clemens of Harmony Environmental, and Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Service.

#### Treasurer's Report, Budget, and 2018 Taxation of Spooner Lake Property Owners

The District approved: (1) the 2018 proposed budget, which included (a) authorizing the Board with the assistance of a consultant to explore alternative algae and weed abatement methods with a proposed plan, cost analysis, and a report to the District, (b) authorizing the Board to enter into the necessary contracts regarding the 2018 Spooner Lake algae and weed monitoring and abatement, (c) authorizing the Board to enter into the necessary contracts with consultants regarding the Spooner Lake Management Plan update, and (d) authorizing the Board, if necessary, to enter into a contract with a consultant to write grant applications; and (2) setting the 2018 tax rate to generate \$36,000 in tax levy income subject to and in accordance with state law and Spooner Lake District By-Laws. The \$36,000 in tax levy income in 2018 is the same as in 2017.

#### Board Composition, Commissioners, and Terms of Office

At the annual meeting and budget hearing, several District members expressed concern about the Board composition relating to property owners versus non-property owners. The District By-Laws state the Board should nominate candidates to fill all the positions, which includes the one approved by the Town of Spooner Board Supervisors and the one approved by the Washburn County Board Supervisors. Therefore, the Board may nominate District property owners to fill the five positions.

Also, the Board nominated Mark Schultz to serve as the Spooner Lake District Commissioner representing the Washburn County Board Supervisors for a term ending at the 2020 annual meeting. Washburn County Board Supervisor Chris Thompson, representing the Town of Spooner, placed an item on their agenda of September 19, for approval, which was approved by the Board Supervisors. Welcome Commissioner Schultz!

The District Board is composed of: Chairman Michael A. Plisky, September 2019; Secretary Mort Dahl, September 2018; Treasurer Nancy Hanson, September 2020; Commissioner Ed Fischer, September 2018; and Commissioner Mark Schultz, September 2020. And, thanks to Joe Cuskey for his many years of service on the Board!

#### District Information

The District website address is [www.spoonerlakewi.com](http://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.