



Spooner Lake District Newsletter

August 2018

Annual Meeting and Budget Hearing Notice

The Spooner Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District annual meeting and budget hearing will be held on Saturday, September 1, 2018, at 10 a.m., Spooner Town Hall, N6124 Blooming Vale Road, Spooner. Enclosed with this newsletter is the meeting agenda; a tentative budget, including the proposed 2019 mil tax rate; and a handout regarding zebra mussels. You are encouraged to attend and participate.

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

I'm writing to bring you up-to-date on the Board's work since the May Newsletter in response to the actions taken at our September 2017 annual meeting and budget hearing.

I'm also taking this opportunity to express my appreciation and 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 Chair. Since our September 2017 annual meeting and budget hearing, in addition to attending 7 Board meetings, the Board members have spent many individual and collective hours working on the business of the Spooner Lake District. Additionally, I wish to thank the Board members for their commitment to continue helping in the next 12 busy months.

Spooner Lake Survey and Aquatic Plant Management Plan Update

As you know, 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, a committee consisting of the District Board and two additional lake property owners, John Meacham and Frank Gray, will work with the consultants between November and April. The committee meeting dates, agendas, and minutes will be posted on our website at www.spoonerlakewi.com. You are welcomed to attend the meetings.

Clean Boats Clean Waters Program

John Richter, Clean Boats Clean Waters (CBCW) Coordinator, recruited persons to work as boat inspectors; and scheduled the boat inspectors to help perform boat and trailer checks, disseminate informational brochures, and educate boaters on how to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The CBCW Program 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 (our top priority) were again a major subject at the Board meeting on July 28. As mentioned below, the County Highway H boat landing will soon have a bleach spray station designed to kill veligers, the microscopic baby zebra mussels. By county law, boaters are required to use the bleach spray station. Any boat which has been in a zebra mussel contaminated lake within the last 5 days is a serious threat to our lake. The Board noted there are private boat launches on Spooner Lake where boaters may not be aware of the requirement to use the bleach spray station or the danger to the lake an infected boat could represent. Therefore, enclosed is 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. If you need more handouts, please contact the District at Photo7589@gmail.com.

Lisa Burns, Conservation Coordinator of the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department, recently tested Spooner Lake for the zebra mussel veliger; and at the same time, the District was given the necessary equipment and training on how to annually conduct tests for analysis. The samples will be analyzed for the District and the results will be made available to you.

In working with the Town of Spooner Board, they approved the installation of a decontamination station and signage at the County Highway H boat landing. Also, Lisa Burns, Conservation Coordinator of the Washburn County Land and Water Conservation Department, helped obtain a grant for the District to install a bleach cleaning decontamination station and signage at the County Highway H Boat Landing. And, the decontamination station will be installed as soon as possible after visiting Mathews Lake to see their decontamination station and talk to a representative about their experience.

In another effort with the Town of Spooner Board, they are drafting an ordinance for consideration at their meeting on August 13, 2018, permitting the Spooner Lake District to collect a watercraft launch fee at the County Highway H boat landing. Additionally, the Town of Spooner Board is considering the purchase of a fee collection box for installation at the boat landing.

Algae and Aquatic Plant Management Program

First, Steve Schieffer of Ecological Integrity Services conducted the Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) pre-treatment and post-treatment surveys. Next, Jim Bartlett of Lake Restoration, Inc., treated 24 acres of CLP in early June and treated 21 acres of algae in late June through late July. This work was done in accordance with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) permits.

In our ongoing efforts to research mechanical harvesting and skimming methods for algae and weed abatement, the Board traveled to Chetek to meet with members of the Chetek Lakes Protection Association. In summary, there was discussion regarding: (a) thoroughly understanding the operation, maintenance, and servicing of the Silver Mist SM301 Aquatic Plant Management Machine; (b) needing a truck and trailer to transport the machine; (c) storing the machine indoors; (d) no Department of Natural Resources (DNR) grants available for the purchase and maintenance of the machine; (e) the cost of the machine and trailer was approximately \$75,000, plus a truck and dump trailer; (f) approval by the DNR to use the machine on the lake; (g) the lake cleaning effort requiring many volunteers knowledgeable on running heavy equipment or hiring a professional operator; (h) the machine being operated by 2 persons, running at about one mile per hour, and using approximately 1 gallon of fuel per hour of operation; (i) the cost of the maintenance and repairs had been about \$5,000 over 2 ½ years; (j) the number of times it would be necessary to run the machine would be dependent on the size and locations of the areas to be cleaned; (k) the machine was used to pick up material floating on the water, and the material collected was used for compost; (l) waiting at least 5 years to determine the impact on the lake environment; and (m) having general liability insurance plus a rider for owning and operating the machine. The Board meeting minutes of June 4, 2018, containing additional information are available at <http://www.spoonerlakewi.com/minutes.html>. Lastly, the Board will continue its research efforts on mechanical harvesting and skimming sources.

As you may recall, 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. A water clarity test was conducted at the end of July, and a second test will be done in September.

Lastly, special appreciation to Bob and Bonnie Sanders for permitting the District to store the buoys on their property during the winter season. Special thanks to Gary Cuskey and Jerry Williams for helping the Algae and Aquatic Management Committee install the buoys. Special recognition to Ron Boushon for again helping install the dock.

Boat Parade

The weather cleared up in time for the Spooner Lake Annual Fourth of July Boat Parade. The boats looked festive, everyone onboard had a good time, and onlookers were happy to watch the parade.

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.