

Silver Lake Management District  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
August 28, 2021 @ 9:00AM  
Reediger's Triangle

The meeting was held at Reediger's Triangle. Chairman Ed Kissinger called the meeting to order at about 9:10AM and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members present were Mark Magnusson, Mike Ruhland and Bill Herbert. Town Board representative Bill Behnke was also in attendance. County Board representative Mike Kapp was not in attendance. There were about 120 people in attendance.

Mike Ruland made a motion which was seconded by Magnusson to forego the reading of the minutes of the Board of Directors meeting of the May 29, 2021 meeting and approve as submitted. Motion passed. Treasurer's report showed \$2,478.26 in checking, \$90,454.83 in savings and \$355,089.45 in the LGIP account. Motion to approve the treasurer's report subject to audit was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Ed reported that the annual financial audit was conducted on August 3, 2021 for the fiscal period of August 1, 2020 thru July 31, 2021. The Audit Committee consisted of Judy Puls, Wayne Hoffmann and Jim Schroeder. Barb Bartel, Ed Kissinger and Bill Herbert were in attendance to provide answers and documents necessary for the audit. The Audit Committee found the financial records to be in order. Audit report was accepted. Ed thanked the Audit Committee for their work.

### **SLMD Reports**

#### **A. DASH –**

1. Mark provided an update on the DASH program. The program finished around mid-August with the teams completing 82 dive points over 35 days. Most troublesome site is "G", by Hwy 21/73 landing. A lot of native plants intermixed with Eurasian Milfoil (EWM). Tedious and leads to diminishing returns.
2. Approximate cost of \$95,000 entirely funded by SLMD since the DNR grant fund have been exhausted in previous years. Onterra applying for a 1-year DNR Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) surface water grant. Surface water program has changed. Our DASH efforts are considered a small project. Maximum from WI DNR is \$50K. We applied for the maximum.
3. Divers pulled 2200 ft<sup>3</sup> (equivalent to 8 - 10 yard dumpsters) of milfoil, with a good portion of the weeds hauled to a hobby farm outside of Madison for fertilizer
  - i. DNR permit only allows diver/mechanized harvesting of Eurasian Milfoil.
  - ii. There was one instance of a fisherman pulling directly up to the DASH boat
  - iii. DNR rules state 100' away when diver down flag is displayed. There are always 2 divers in the water with one person on the surface
4. Foxtail Bay looked good this year with diver hand harvesting occurring on scattered plants and small colonies – no DASH
5. Onterra early mapping survey occurred the week of June 14<sup>th</sup>. Additional sites discovered and added to fall mapping survey of EWM. Fall point intercept survey will hopefully continue to show that the milfoil is well controlled with a goal of < 5%.
6. There are 22 different species of aquatic plants in the lake – heavily populated with Chara (shallow rooted) and Whitewater Crowfoot (Yellow is invasive)
7. Riparian owners were encouraged to pull milfoil that is around their docks themselves – very difficult to have the divers get in and around the docks. Ed shared that if a rake is rotated around the top of the milfoil and then continue to rotate the rake down to the bottom of the lake and then several more rotations, the milfoil will likely come up from the roots without any shedding.

8. There are 1-2 weeks left before plants start to die and fragmentation occurs. APM has already stopped harvesting in Minoqua and northern WI. Plant fragments, 1 shard can sprout 6 new plants in spring.
9. The plan for 2022 will be to contract for another 7 weeks of DASH.

#### B. AIS Program

1. Program will be held on Friday 9/17 with a rain date of Monday 9/20. Schedule is from 8am to 3pm with lake tours scheduled for 9am, 10:30am and 1pm.
2. Biologists
  - i. Chris Hameral, Kendra Kundinger, Golden Sands
  - ii. Chris Kolasinski, WI DNR
3. School staff, Andrea Braatz and chaperones
4. Pontoon boat volunteers Jim Schroeder, Bob Bandt and Bill Herbert. Ed Terbell offered to be a backup if needed.

#### C. Clean Boat – Clean Water (CBCW)

1. A total of 213.5 hours of watercraft inspection coverage was provided by Golden Sands, Inc. June 1 – August 2021 at the Silver Lake public landing off Highway 73.
2. Anna Peterson was the CBCW inspector for this past summer. Ross Peterson has volunteered to vet another responsible JR/SR high school student for the 2022 summer. (Anna thanked the SLMD for the job and the opportunity to keep Silver Lake a great place to enjoy.)
3. General Observations
  - i. The landing was most active in the afternoon shift from 11a.m.- 4 p.m. Lake traffic was extremely heavy throughout the entire season.
  - ii. More weeds around the boat landing compared to previous season, causing more boats to leave the lake with weeds that needed to be cleared from their trailers. Don Maes raked the weeds from the landing and disposed of them!
  - iii. Majority of the fishermen were very understanding when asked to empty their live wells.
  - iv. The only invasive species spotted were a couple zebra mussels on a few kayaks and Eurasian Milfoil.
  - v. The pen for the launch tickets was broken resulting in some boaters not paying the launching fee.
4. Summary of Activity
  - i. Total Watercraft Inspected : 501
  - ii. Entering: 359 Leaving: 142
  - iii. Previous Contact? - Y: 456 N:45
  - iv. Answer Questions? - Y: 499 N:2
  - v. Other Waterbody 5 days? - Y: 94 N:407
  - vi. Total People Contacted: 576
5. 2022 program
  - i. A Resolution was made to provide a \$500 bonus to the inspector if they stay the entire season (200 hours) and enter all data in WI DNR surface water database. (\$500 bonus is in Lieu of mileage and travel which were formerly grant eligible expenses.
  - ii. Resolution to apply for 2022 grant
    1. 75/25% cost share (SLMD share is \$1762 (25%))
    2. District share, \$2200. Includes \$500 Bonus and \$500 Golden Sands admin fee for staffing, training, insurance, liability. The \$1K is not grant eligible
  - iii. Resolutions were passed.
6. Participation in the CBCW program is viewed highly by the DNR when applying for lake grants.

D. Town of Marion Report – Bill Behnke

1. Bill reported that the Town of Marion has negotiated with the Waushara Sheriff's department to provide coverage for the summer of 2022.
2. Citations and warnings this summer:
  - i. June – 5 citations, 9 warnings
  - ii. July – 8 citations, 12 warnings
3. Owners raised concerns over boat activity after patrol hours with a recommendation to vary hours during the summer so that the hours were not as predictable. Bill will take that recommendation back to the Sheriff's Dept. (Hours are set by the Town Board)

E. Waushara County Board – no report

**High Water – Drainage Update**

Mark and Ed provided an update on the high water and plans for managing the lake level referencing the 2020-2021 High Water presentation – also found on the Town of Marion SLMD website

By historical standards, 2020 was dryer than a normal year. The weir was closed early in the summer since there was no flow into the weir. In mid-July (7/19) the lake was at 867.99 ft and on 8/3 was at 867.90. The weir was opened on August 8<sup>th</sup>. At that time, the weir was flowing at approximately 7 ft<sup>3</sup> / sec and as of late August is at 4 ft<sup>3</sup> / sec with approximately 4.5" of head water at the weir. (estimated to take 64 days to drain an acre foot of water)

Over the years, a number of studies and proposals have been developed to manage the Silver Lake water level.

- A 1997 storm water run-off proposal to move water into Booth's Marsh, would require approximately 5000 ft of pipe, cost then would have been \$400k, now estimated to be almost \$800k. This proposal would reduce the water load on Silver Lake but not necessarily lower the lake level
- A 2019 Stantec study had 7 different options – 4 of which were rejected since they involved moving water down the White River which would not be allowed due to invasive species in Silver Lake. One of the proposals was to install a pump in Silver Lake to move water into the same watershed as the weir.
- Regardless of the option, any solution is likely to involve a minimum of 5 state agencies (DNR, DOT, Town, County etc)

Mark shared that 2 RFP's (Request for Proposals) were being developed to obtain additional information on options, orders of magnitude and feasibility. This work will likely cost SLMD \$12-20K.

Discussion continued on the weir and the current agreement. The agreement is between Silver Lake Sanitary District and the Irogami Lake Management District. Silver Lake Management District is NOT party to the weir agreement and has NO say in whether the weir is open or closed. Don Maes (Silver Lake property owner and Chairman of the SLSD) addressed the current agreement and the recent history to close and open the weir. SLSD has been meeting with Gary Walejko, Town of Marion Chairman, to discuss the weir agreement and management. Gary will be attending the Irogami Lake Management District on 8/28 to discuss weir management.

As the SLMD considers options, Ed Terbell questioned the current SLMD bylaws and spending authority of the BOD. Ed felt that if the SLMD was going to pursue a project in \$1-3mil range that all property owners on the lake should have the opportunity to vote on the proposal. (Current limit is \$25K for

BOD approval). Ed Kissinger agreed that the current bylaws are need of updating and would welcome volunteers to assist with the revisions

Karl Schneider questioned whether there would be any funding available for potential projects. There are a number of surface and storm water grants available that would likely offer a cost share 50/50 or 75/25.

Ed Terbell motioned to approve moving forward with the RFP's up to a cost of \$20k (second by Don Maes). Results of the RFP's to be presented at the May 2022 meeting. Motion passed.

Mike Conoscenti presented a motion to have the Town of Marion take control of the weir thru Eminent Domain (seconded by Chris Runnalls). Jim Schroeder cautioned the group that this would not be well received by Irogami residents. Don Maes suggested that we hold on taking this approach until Gary Walejko has an opportunity to discuss options with the Irogami Lake Management District.

Mike then modified his motion to have Silver Lake Sanitary District work to modify the current agreement so that the SLSD has more control and specific criteria that determines when the weir is opened or closed (Chris Runnalls seconded the modified motion). Motion was passed with a show of hands (60 votes in favor).

Question was raised on whether the current water level was affecting the Sanitary District. At the present time, SLSD is not affected since work over the past several years has eliminated many of the potential trouble spots (raising pumping stations etc). The SLSD Board is comprised of Don Maes and Jim Schroeder (Silver Lake residents) and one resident of Lake Irogrami.

### **Lake Management Plan**

Mike shared that Onterra has been hired to develop an expanded lake management plan. The last plan was developed 5 years ago. The DNR requires a plan as part of any grant request. Plan will be developed over the winter with a survey likely being sent out to all lake owners for input.

### **Budget 2021-2022**

Ed presented the budget for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. Anticipated income of \$97,561.50, budgeted expenses of \$156,875.00 for an operating loss of \$ (59,313.50). The budget was approved.

### **Silver Lake Rummage Sale**

Silver Lake rummage sale was set for June 10-11, 2022

### **Annual Meeting 2022**

The 2022 SLMD annual meeting will be held on Saturday, August 27 starting at 0900. Weather conditions permitting, the meeting will be held at Reediger's Triangle. If the meeting needs to be moved indoors, the annual meeting will be held at the Town of Marion Hall. Bill Behnke will place the meeting on the Town Hall's calendar

### **Election of Commissioners**

The Nominating Committee chaired by Linda Herbert presented a slate of 4 candidates for 3 open positions (Ed Kissinger and Mike Ruhland's terms were up for re-election and Ross Peterson's vacancy). The candidates included Ed Kissinger, Greg Barczak, Jim Morgenroth and Jeff Westphal). Only lake owners (those on the tax role) could vote – both husband and wife.

Linda Herbert thanked those that assisted with the committee and the voting process – Nanci Maes, Barb Bartel and Wayne Hoffmann.

Ed Kissinger (96 votes), Greg Barczak (90 votes) and Jim Morgenroth (75 votes) were elected to the SLMD Board. (Jeff Westphal received 63 votes)

Ed thanked Linda and the other members for their assistance with the election.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30am

Respectfully submitted

Bill Herbert  
Secretary/Treasurer SLMD