

TOWN OF SAINT GERMAIN LAKES COMMITTEE

Chair - Ted Ritter

Vice Chair - Jim Wendt

<u>Alma- Moon</u>	<u>Big St. Germain</u>	<u>Found</u>	<u>Little St. Germain</u>	<u>Lost</u>	<u>Chamber</u>
K. Beier	M. Deets	R. Gawrys	T. Best	J. D'Amico	J. Pfister
D. Zielinski	J. Penkalski	C. Thier/ D. Kloepfer	K. Stofflet	B. Wissing	

The meeting of the Town of St. Germain Lakes Committee was called to order on Jan. 10, 2005 at 7:00 PM in the Red Brick School House, St. Germain, Wisconsin by Chairman Ted Ritter.

Roll Call:

Committee members present: Chair Ted Ritter, Mike Deets, Jim Penkalski, Ron Gawrys, Dick Kloepfer, Tom Best, Ken Stofflet and John Pfister

Committee members absent: Vice Chair Jim Wendt, Ken Beier, Dave Zielinski, Chuck Thier, Jim D' Amico and Bob Wissing

Others Present: Larry Acker and Patrick Goggin

Approval of the agenda:

A motion by Ron Gawrys to approve the agenda as posted and presented, seconded by Jim Penkalski. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's report:

Ted Ritter reported in Dave Zielinski's absence that the committee's funds status has not changed since the last report except that the Town Treasurer has borrowed from our account in order to satisfy year end town obligations pending receipt of 2005 tax income. Borrowed funds will be replaced within the next week or two.

Discussion / Action Items:

1. Participation in Vilas County AIS Strategic Planning Partnership:

Ted reported that other towns across the county are being encouraged to create town lakes committees as functions of their town boards. Initial response from towns has ranged from enthusiastic to skeptical. Ted believes that in time most towns will follow Saint Germain's lead and will establish similar committees. In the meantime, an AIS planning partnership is being formed at the county level. The function of this group will be to address a variety of AIS issues and provide assistance to town lakes committees and county lake organizations with their AIS prevention and management efforts. The planning partnership will include numerous resource agencies, civic organizations and representatives of town lakes committees. Ted encouraged someone from our committee to attend the planning partnership meetings as he feels it is inappropriate for him to represent Saint Germain while also coordinating the planning partnership group. Ted did not ask anyone to commit at this time, but to think about it and consider attending the

first planning partnership meeting on January 19 at 6:30 p.m. in the Courthouse.

2. Allocation of budget for existing AIS projects:

Ken Stofflet reported that AIS management expenses on Little Saint Germain Lake have been \$57,000 in 2003, \$59,839 in 2004 and are projected at \$70,000 for 2005. The corresponding burden to lake district property owners has been \$37,000 in 2003 and \$18,000 in 2004. Without financial assistance from the Town Lakes Committee, district property owners will need to fund \$35,000 in 2005.

Motion by Ken Stofflet, second by Mike Deets to allocate \$12,000 in 2005 to Little Saint Germain Lake District for their ongoing management of aquatic invasives. Motion passed by voice vote of 5 to 1 following lengthy discussion.

3. Consider drafts of proposed community letters:

Letter to all residents / property owners: It was suggested that the letter somehow be stronger with the message that if people do nothing about AIS issues, nothing will be done and everyone will suffer. Another suggestion was to use the back of the letter to indicate with a map of town lakes where infestations currently exist.

Mike Deets explained the postal options for the mass mailing. It was agreed that we would use the option of placing the letters in envelopes, obtaining a set of mailing labels and mail the letters with a postage rate of \$.27 - \$.29 each using an existing postal permit.

Letter to civic organizations: This letter should be mailed as soon as possible requesting the assistance of local organizations in obtaining watercraft inspectors and lake monitors. Ted will prepare an outline of a presentation for committee members to follow when addressing organizations.

4. Continue development of plan of action to achieve needed community

participation: Ted explained that any amount of or all of the \$2,500 from our grant for watercraft inspections can be used to pay someone to coordinate the inspection teams. Larry Acker suggested that if all of the grant money is used for paying a coordinator, proceeds from the Lakes Fair could be used to purchase whatever garments we decide to use for volunteer incentives. It was agreed that we should offer the full \$2,500 to a civic organization as a fundraising opportunity in exchange for coordinating 300 or more hours of watercraft inspection activities.

5. Status of obtaining materials for training/incentives/awards for watercraft

inspection program: Jim Penkalski reported that lined jackets/and or vests will cost \$25.00 each. Embroidered caps could be purchased for \$5.00 or less. Jim feels that anyone showing up to work as either a watercraft inspector or lake monitor should receive a cap. Maybe we should consider giving wind breaker jackets after a minimal number of hours has been worked followed by jacket patches to be by donating additional hours. These ideas will be considered further and discussed again at our next meeting.

Concerns:

Larry Acker requested that the Lakes Fair Committee be authorized to open a checking account with proceeds from past lakes fairs so that money would be readily available for incidental expenses. Ted explained that since we are a committee of the town board, all of our funds are considered town money and expenses must be processed through the town board in the same manner as all other town expenses. Larry expressed frustration with the cumbersome and time consuming process of getting money in that manner. Ted explained that another option would be for a lake association, such as the Found Lake Association, to provide cash for these incidental expenses and then submit an invoice to the town for reimbursement.

Motion by Ken Stofflet, seconded by John Phister to authorize the Lakes Fair Committee to apply for a DNR small scale lake planning grant with a total project cost of up to \$4,000 of which the DNR would provide 50% funding. Proceeds would be used to promote AIS public awareness via the Town Lakes Fair. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote. Ted will pursue the town board resolution needed to support the grant application. Ken will meet with Carolyn Scholl soon to review the grant application and get it submitted prior to the February 1st deadline.

Time and date for next meeting:

The next Lakes Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 15, 2005 @ 7:00 PM in the Red Brick School House, St. Germain, WI..

Adjourn:

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted Ritter for Ken Beier, Secretary