



Town of St. Germain Lakes Committee

WAL

Town Lakes Committee Voting Members			
Lake Organization	Member #1	Member #2	Alternate member
Big St. Germain Area Lakes District	Dave Kunelius dkunelius@yahoo.com	Don Baumann donmariestgermain@yahoo.com	Steve Soltwedel spsoltwedel@yahoo.com
Little St. Germain Lake District	Tom Schwartz tom01schwartz@gmail.com	Barbara Steinhilber barbjs2@frontier.com	Judy Napierala muskyqueen55@gmail.com
Alma/Moon Lake District	Dave Zielinski davezee1@frontier.com	Milt Klingsporn mklings@frontier.com	Tony Waisbrot twaisbrot@frontier.com
Lost Lake District	Gary Heeler gccabins@tds.net	Jim Guckenber guckenbergj@gmail.com	Marv Anderson marvmodela@gmail.com
Found Lake Property Owners Association	Bob Schell rsshell@msn.com	Kay Schultz gks.found@gmail.com	Donna Rollman donnar1928@gmail.com
Committee chairman: Ted Ritter tritter3@frontier.com			

Meeting minutes, July 28, 2020

1. **Call to order:** Meeting was called to order at 9:07am.
2. **Open meeting verification:** Meeting was properly posted on July 24, 2020
3. **Roll call, confirm quorum:** Members present in person: Soltwedel, Schwartz, Steinhilber, Zielinski, Klingsporn, Waisbrot, Heeler, Rollmann, Ritter.
Members present virtually: Kunelius, Schell
4. **Approval of February 10, 2019 meeting minutes:** Motion Schwartz, second Steinhilber to approve minutes as prepared. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
5. **Discussion/action topics:**
 - a. **Update on lake developments since last meeting:**

Little St. Germain: An EWM herbicide treatment was performed this spring with seemingly good results at a cost of \$48,000.

Lost: A CLP herbicide treatment was performed this spring with seemingly good results at a cost of \$21,000. In the meantime, the EWM population appears to be expanding. Onterra will survey the lake this fall and determine what management options might need to be considered. A spring 2021

Onterra lake survey will determine whether CLP management should continue.

Found: Onterra surveyed the lake this summer and found no instances of EWM for the second year running following a population confirmation that was responded to swiftly.

Alma/Moon: High water levels have persisted for several years resulting in shoreline erosion, loss of shoreline vegetation and disruption of near shoreline habitat for numerous species. Need to look into State laws pertaining to emergency boating restrictions during periods of high water.

- b. Review Town Lakes Committee Financial Status:** Ritter reported a current balance in the Town Lakes Account of \$10,357.87. All lakes participating in the grant funded 2019-2020 lake management plans update projects have paid to the Town their local cost share for those projects. It is unknown what the balance of yet to be billed expenses for the projects will be, but a final reimbursement of the State share of the costs will be recoverable after the projects have been finalized, probably in 2021. The Committee had previously promised a \$4,000 to assist the Found Lake Association with installing an I-LIDS camera if the hurdles for installation at a State landing can be overcome. Additionally, Lost and Little St. Germain Lakes will be seeking reimbursement of 20% of their 2020 CLP and EWM management costs (with a maximum of \$10,000 per lake). Ritter also reported the town board has approved a \$15,000 contribution to the Lakes Committee from 2020 room tax revenues. We'll need to watch our expenses closely over the coming months as projected expenses and projected income could result in very close to a \$0 account balance.
- c. Consider authorizing a DNR grant for a Found Lake I-LIDS camera:** Schell provided a review of the long running uncertainty of grant funding availability or permitting for I-LIDS cameras on State landings in St. Germain. While uncertainty remains, there will be an opportunity to apply for a grant this fall, however with recent changes to the funding program rules, the grant award may be substantially less than under the previous grant program. The Found Lake Association may be able to absorb the additional cost but is hoping the Lakes Committee will honor its past commitment of \$4,000 regardless of whether applying for a grant is successful. Motion Rollman, second Heeler to provide Found Lake with \$4,000 for an I-LIDS camera installation regardless of grant funding success. Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.
- d. Review status of updated town lakes ordinance and enhanced enforcement of boating laws:** Ritter confirmed that "St. Germain Code of Ordinances, Chapter 19 – Boating on Town Lakes" has been adopted and is enforceable provided boat landing signage has been updated with reference to the new ordinance. However, Ritter's discussions with Sheriff Fath over the past year concerning expanded County boat patrol services beginning in 2021 on St. Germain lakes with financial support coming from lake district tax levies has come to a sudden halt with receipt of a July 23, 2020 email from Sheriff Fath stating,

"We (the County) will not be requesting an additional Recreation Deputy in 2021. We would not be able to meet your boat patrol needs for 2021.

I believe St. Germain's needs would be best suited by hiring an LTE similar to Manitowish Waters. Perhaps St. Germain could partner with Manitowish Waters.

I hope this will work for the town."

Committee members responded to this development with concerns for boat traffic in 2020 being heavier than ever, with bigger and faster boats and seemingly less regard for boating courtesy or

safety by too many boaters. There has never been a greater need for law enforcement presence on area lakes than this summer and the trend is likely to continue in years ahead. Discussion ended with frustration and no ideas where to turn for a solution. Ritter will attempt to learn more about the Manitowish Waters LTE program and report back to the Committee.

- e. **Consider timing and content of the next community outreach email message:** Following discussion of possible topics the consensus of the Committee was that there is no need for an outreach message at this time. Ritter suggested that perhaps after the 2020 lake organizations annual meetings there will be more news to share with the public.

6. **Committee concerns for discussion at future meeting:**

- a. **Pier rules:** A suggestion was made that someone from the County or State attend a future meeting to explain the status of pier rules and their enforcement.
- b. **DNR Warden Supervisor follow-up:** A suggestion was made that Warden Supervisor Bartelt be invited to a future meeting to recap 2020 AIS enforcement efforts, particularly relating to St. Germain area boat rental businesses.

7. **Set date and time for next meeting:** Monday, October 19, 9:00am

8. **Adjourn:** All agenda items having been discussed; Ritter declared the meeting adjourned at 10:40am.

Minutes prepared by Chairman Ritter

PENDING APPROVAL