

Big St Germain Area Lakes District

Including Big St. Germain Lake, Lake Content and Fawn Lake

Commissioners Jim Harold, Patrice Pergolski, Roy Seidl, Joe Koschnik, Don Baumann, Brian Cooper, Carolyn Ritter

Budget Hearing and Annual Meeting Minutes – Sept. 5, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. in the St. Germain Community Center. Chairman Jim Harold greeted everyone, introduced the other commissioners, and reviewed the voting procedures. He also noted the importance of the district's lake management plan which allowed us to apply for grants.

Budget Hearing:

The 2022 Budget Hearing was called to order at 10:40 a.m. The agenda, 2021 financial statement to date and 2022 proposed budget had been mailed to all residents prior to the meeting. Patrice Pergolski, Board Treasurer, reviewed the documents. Topics included the change in receiving room tax revenue (now from the town rather than the Fish & Wildlife Club); funding for the lake study/plan (a 5- year plan completed last year); and questions on funding for water safety; clean boats, clean waters program; and postage.

The budget hearing was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Call to Order:

Following the budget hearing, the Annual Meeting was called to order at 10:52 a.m.

Roll Call:

In addition to the 7 commissioners (listed above), there were approximately 30 attendees who signed in at the door. Residents of the lake district were given colored paper squares to hold up during voting to authenticate their ability to vote.

Approval of Minutes:

The group dispensed with approval of the minutes of the 2020 Annual Meeting as there was not a copy to review. Minutes of that meeting were taken by former secretary, Dave Kunelius, but he moved during the year and no copy was on file. The board will seek to get a copy of the minutes for approval next year.

Water Quality Report:

Don Baumann reported that the water quality has remained good and not changed much in the last 10 years. Overall, the TSI Index has remained between 51 and 53; clarify and phosphate levels are consistent with some increase in chlorophyll in the August check. Onterra's lake study looks at weeds, water quality and changes to the lake and shoreline.

Municipal Water Safety Patrol:

In response to fewer DNR wardens on the lakes, the DNR proposed a Municipal Water Safety Patrol program in which the municipality (Town of St. Germain) would hire a trained person to serve in a warden's role with 75% of the funding provided through a grant from the DNR and the remainder of the cost spread among the St. Germain area lakes. The cost for BSGLD for 130 hours of time on the lake would be \$1,453 per year for 5 years. Discussion included problems on the lake, requirements for warnings and citations, office carrying a handgun/not creating a police state, why doesn't the DNR hire more wardens, some haven't seen many problems, provide the education for safe boating in another manner especially to tourists, this program could scare people, size and power of boats, boats speeding, wake boats causing damage to shorelines, effect of these large powerful boats on canoes and kayaks, and more time to look at other options that would be less intrusive such as PSAs at the boat launch, resorts and rentals.

Motion by Dave Levihn to not approve the Municipal Water Safety Patrol program, second by Skip Grenled. Discussion continued on the same topics.

Motion by Patrice Pergolski to call the vote (question), second by Scott Kopp. All aye except Diane Nasca. Motion passed.

Returning to the original motion, 17 were in favor of not having a Municipal Water Safety Patrol program, and 12 were in favor of having the program. Motion to not approve the program passed.

Channel Maintenance and Dredging:

Patrice Pergolski gave a presentation on the channel between Big St. Germain Lake and Lake Content including the history, ownership questions following the sale of Awassa Lodge, and maintenance problems. A proposal from CR Meyer company included providing a steel structure for the sides, redoing the fence, dredging the accumulated sand (on the bottom) and assessing the condition of the wooden base. Ownership will likely go to the Lake District as neither the DNR or the town has any interest in ownership.

The cost to rebuild the channel is estimated at \$400,000 with the possibility of a \$200,000 DNR grant to assist with the work. If the preliminary work, grant and permits can be obtained by late summer 2022, it may be possible to have a contractor do the work next fall.

Motion by Scott Kopp to proceed with the project contingent upon an approved grant from the DNR of \$200,000 and cost not to exceed \$400,000, second by Diane Nasca.

The motion passed with 25 yes votes and no opposing votes.

Approval of Proposed 2022 Budget/ Tax Levy:

Motion by Craig Gunz to approve the 2022 tax levy as presented, second by Andy Shiel.

Motion passed with 22 yes votes and no opposing votes.

Lake District Commissioners- Increase in number.

With 5 elected commissioners and 2 appointed commissioners the board is at 7 members. No action taken.

Nomination of Lake District Commissioners:

There are two positions up for election, those held by Joe Koschnik and Jim Harold, who took to complete Steve Soltwedel's term. Jim Harold is not running for a positions; Joe is running for another term. David Levihn has accepted a nomination.

There were no nominations from the floor and no write in candidates. The written ballot showed Joe and David elected with 20 votes.

Officers will be Patrice Pergolski as chair; Carolyn Ritter as secretary; David Levihn as treasurer; and Joe Koschnik, Don Baumann, Roy Seidl, and Brian Cooper as commissioners.

Set Date for 2022 Annual Meeting:

The 2022 Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. Place to be announced.

Membership Discussion:

Discussion topics brought up under the membership discussion included some voted no on the Municipal Water Safety Patrol because they did not have enough information; a request from some that we have someone from Manitowish Waters and Minocqua give a presentation on the success of their Municipal Water Safety Patrol; and the ability to write citations has an impact on people's behavior, as noted by the change in the Animal Control town ordinance.

Adjournment:

Motion by Doug Brotherton to adjourn, second by David Horne. Motion passed with no dissenting votes.