

**LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT
1ST QUARTERLY MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 8, 2025 10:00 A.M.**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Dixon, Chairperson; Deb Bartolerio, Treasurer; Kathy Weiss, Village President; John Kannard, County Board Representative

ATTENDEES: 17 attendees in addition to the board members.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by C. Dixon at 10:00 A.M.

MINUTES: J. Ingle read the minutes from the August 17th annual meeting. With no revisions, the minutes were approved as written.

TREASURER'S REPORT: D. Bartolerio distributed handouts covering the budget years 2024 and 2025. The \$9,856.01 budget surplus from 2024 was added to the savings account for a new balance of \$37,718.27. The truck repairs were overbudget. \$3,000 was given by the Village to assist with weed harvesting costs. D. Bartolerio will contact the new Town treasurer about the Town assisting with costs as well. The Treasurer's report was approved as written.

2025 CHEMICAL TREATMENT PROPOSAL: K. Ksobiech reported that the application will be filed soon. The map will be the same as last year. The DNR will come out to approve the areas and we will receive notice for treatment dates.

DRAWDOWN COMMITTEE REPORT: D. Wilbur presented his report. The Village tabled the first request and asked for more economic and environmental information. A subsequent meeting for a plan for the potential drawdown was held. A chart entitled "Plant Community Response to Chemical Treatment and Drawdown" was displayed at our meeting. "Notes: Even though the winter of 2019-2020 was mild, the drawdown was successful according to the pre and post drawdown surveys. Eurasian water milfoil made up 46% of the plant community in 2019, but only 26% of the community in 2020. No chemical treatment was done that spring. Even in the following years, the percentage of EWM remained lower than it had been before the drawdown. This change is related to both a decrease in the presence of Eurasian water milfoil and an increase in the presence of native plant species. In 2024, the jump in the amount of native plant species may be attributed to the mild winter and warmer Spring which allowed the native plant seeds to sprout earlier than usual, crowding out the Eurasian water milfoil. Aquatic plant survey results in the early summer of 2025 will indicate whether a drawdown would be beneficial during the winter of '25-'26." A document will be formalized and presented. The biggest point of contention is how to keep the Scuppernong Channel from running dry. Measurements of dam elevations will need to be studied. DNR Aquatic Plant Specialists Arthur Watkinson and Erin Cox will share point of contact.

WEED HARVESTING UPDATE: Due to harvesting concerns raised this past summer, but without contacting the Lake District, on October 21, 2024 the Village Committee of the Whole Meeting passed the following motion: "Troiola/Petruska motion to proceed with the Personnel Committee's that Lower Spring Lake Management District and the Village of Palmyra enter into an agreement where the Village take over all operations, hiring, discipline, training and oversight of the weed harvester employee(s), equipment. This will be overseen by the Village of Palmyra Public Works Superintendent and all communications will go through DPW as well. Lower Spring Lake Management District will still get the aquatic plant management permit (weed cutting permit) from the DNR. Lower Spring Lake Management District will still reimburse the Village for expenses associated with the weed harvester employee and equipment. President Weiss will draw up a draft agreement to present to the Lower Spring Lake."

C. Dixon presented slides showing the many DPW Superintendent's essential position functions as well as the weed harvester coordinator's main job responsibilities which would be added to those functions. She also gave suggestions for improving the harvesting partnership with the Village. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that K. Weiss, P. Walker, L. Plennes, C. Dixon J. Dixon and S. Schneider (and possibly P. Zimmermann) would meet to draw up an agreement sometime during the week of February 17, 2025.

OPEN FORUM: E. Ksobiech announced that the geese deprivation permit is in.

NEXT MEETING: Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by D. Bartolerio and seconded by J. Kannard. The meeting was adjourned at 11:29 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,
J. Ingle