

LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Annual Meeting

8/29/2026

Board Members Present: Pat Zimmermann, Chairperson; Deb Bartolerio, Treasurer; John Kannard, County Board Representative

Attendees: 23 attendees in addition to board members.

CALL TO ORDER – The annual meeting was called to order at 9:02am by P. Zimmermann.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – The June 13th meeting minutes were emailed to all members. D. Bartolerio made a motion that they be approved as written and was seconded by J. Kannard.

TREASURER’S REPORT – D. Bartolerio provided a comparison of the 2025 to 2026 budgets. She noted that the herbicide and harvester supplies accounts for 2026 were over budget and that July and August bills for harvester labor were not yet received. \$40,000 has been put into a CD which is currently earning 3.987%. The Town contributed \$2000 after the 2026 budget had been adopted. The treasurer’s report was filed.

DRAWDOWN PLAN UPDATE – P. Zimmerman stated that there would be no drawdown this year because there wasn’t enough Eurasian watermilfoil to warrant one. Colton Hutchinson, Jefferson County Water Resources Specialist, talked about the results of the annual aquatic plant survey done by him and Arthur Watkinson, DNR Water Resources Specialist. The relative frequency of occurrence of EWM was only 17% in the 55-point survey subset. He explained that Lower Spring Lake is classified as a eutrophic lake with quite good water clarity, a high level of phosphorous, and an average level of chlorophyll. Lily pads have been spreading into more areas of the lake and provide habitat for young fish. Weeds can be pulled in a 30-foot-wide path from the owner’s shoreline out to the lake. Grass should not be mowed to the lake’s edge. Jefferson County staff members will come out to advise owners about plantings, diversions, and other best practices to enhance water quality. The “Healthy Lakes and Rivers” booklet and 2 other brochures were made available as well. Colton was thanked for all the expert assistance provided by him and Jefferson County.

WEED HARVESTING UPDATE – P. Zimmerman shared information from S. Schneiger. Either the DPW or Inland Lake Harvesters will address the stretched-out harvester belt and the rust on the cutter head. Thus far, Jim has cut 380 hours and collected 98 harvester loads. He’ll be removing lake weeds for a couple more weeks. Steve has agreed to continue as coordinator and Jim as the operator. Discussion followed regarding ways to acknowledge Jim’s good work such as a Christmas bonus, home-made treats, etc.

CARP SHOOT – P. Walker proposed a 1-night carp fishing event for the spring or early summer. The tournament must be registered by the DNR, and the permit is free if less than 20 boats participate. A license is needed to fish carp. Winners could be judged based on the size of the fish or the quantity caught. Peter offered to donate \$500 for the first prize and has joined the Wisconsin Bowfishing Association. Disposal of the dead fish must also be considered.

VOTE FOR TREASURER – C. Dixon nominated D. Bartolerio for Treasurer, and J. Dixon seconded it. There were no other nominations from the floor. Ballots were distributed, tallied, and verified. D. Bartolerio was unanimously voted as Treasurer for the Lower Spring Lake Protection and Rehabilitation District. The term is for 3 years. Congratulations, Debby!

UPDATE ON PURCHASE OF NEW HARVESTER & TRAILER – C. Dixon reported that 22 virtual presenters sought state grant funding at the August 4th Waterways Commission Meeting. Our request was for \$115,565 toward the purchase of a new harvester and trailer which currently cost \$239,130. Because only \$400,000 in discretionary funds was available, just 4 projects were awarded grants. Hopefully, in their 2027 budget, the next legislative session and new governor will provide \$3 million for the Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Fund as they have in other recent years. If so, all the projects presented at the meeting would have a good chance of receiving the grants requested. Unfortunately, in the meantime, harvester costs continue to rise. Hopefully, our aging machine can keep running long enough.

2025-2026 BUDGET REVIEW & VOTE FOR 2026-2027 BUDGET – The proposed 2027 budget was previously emailed/mailed to members for review. D. Bartolerio noted that herbicide costs and harvester repairs/supplies were increased to align with the actual costs in 2025. Harvester labor costs were decreased and truck repairs partially reduced to align with the actual costs in 2025. The Miscellaneous account increased by \$800 in anticipation of purchasing new buoys. The 2027 budget is about \$4,000 less than the 2026 budget. A motion to approve the proposed budget was made by J. Dixon and seconded by J. Bartolerio. The vote was unanimous to approve the 2027 budget.

OPEN FORUM – L. Halbur expressed a concern about fast boats in “No Wake” areas despite the buoys and signs posted at the DNR launch. Lake District members need to be reminded as well.

NEXT MEETING DATE – January 30, 2027, at 9am.

ADJOURNMENT – A motion to adjourn was made by K. Ksobiech and seconded by J. Bartolerio. Meeting adjourned at 10:17am.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Dixon