

Spring Brook Watershed Lake Management District Annual Meeting Draft Minutes

Thursday, August 26, 2021 6:30pm at the Mukwonago Town Hall, W320 S8315 Beulah Road,
Mukwonago, WI

Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting called to order at 6:36PM by interim chair Peter Topczewski. All commissioners were present. Residents in attendance included Karen McNelly, Cheryl Pritzlaff, Kathryn McNelly-Bell AnnSchmitz-Guy, Tim Guy, Bobbi Psychulis, Brent Zylka, and Jill Zylka. Guest in attendance included Phil Jones representing the Spring Lake Association, Dr. Richard and Judy Wagner, Anna Jaeger and Bruce Conner. The meeting started with the pledge of allegiance.

Open forum: Karen McNelly reported that the water clarity and quality this year are exceptional, however it was not always this way. In the late 60s and early 70s gasoline powered boats, snowmobiles, ATVs and even automobiles were operated in and on the ice cover of Willow Springs Lake. Faulty septic systems were also present. SBWLMD took action and worked with individuals and the town to address these issues and the result is the lake we all enjoy today. Karen recommended that all the residents and people who enjoy the lake continue to work to protect the lake and to examine the goals established in the Spring and Willow Springs Lakes Protection Plan as a means to learn more about options to continue to enhance Willow Springs Lake.

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Thomas Slawski – Chief Biologist for Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.
Topic A Lake Protection Plan for Spring Lake and Willow Spring Lake.**

Dr. Slawski started his presentation by with an overview of the watershed. Spring Lake is the headwaters to Willow Springs Lake. Spring Lake has 30 acres of watershed for every acre of lake surface area (30:1) meaning that whatever happens on the surrounding land and lake shore can have a substantial impact on the lake. Willow Spring Lake has a 70:1 ratio, which means the land use activities in the watershed can have an even greater impact on water quality.

Neither Spring or Willow Springs Lake are heavily developed and both have a substantial amount of green space within their watersheds. This larger amount of green space protects the lake by reducing the amount of nutrients that could flow to the lakes compared to lakes with higher amounts of residential development and the related impacts of lawn fertilizers and septic systems. Neither Spring nor Willow Springs Lakes are as highly developed as many lakes in the region due to a higher proportion of wetlands and undeveloped woodlands.

Dr. Slawski indicated that the recent water quality data he has seen for Spring Lake showed reduced nutrient content. This reduction of nutrients would support the observations reported by Karen McNelly for Willow Springs Lake. Spring Lake is a medium productivity lake with a trophic state index of 45-57, meaning that the lake has improved since the time of the 2003 study. Water quality data was not available for Willow Springs, however the water clarity and the fact that Spring Lake is the headwater lake, which flows into Willow Springs would support the idea that water quality may be improving.

Dr. Slawski reported that a plant survey was performed on both lakes in 2001. He recommended that a re-survey to provide updated aquatic plant information to help identify changes in the biology of the lakes. Continued collection of water quality data promotes more accurate monitoring of trends on the lakes. He recommended that more outreach to the residents to recruit the next generation of lake stewards and encouraged ongoing networking between Spring Lake Association and Spring Brook Watershed Lake Management District officials. The Southeastern Wisconsin Planning Commission can assist with plant surveys, educational outreach and networking plans to achieve these goals.

Chairman's Report: Peter Topczewski

SBWLMD met five times during the past year. The primary focus of these meetings has been the continued protection of the dam and required DNR dam safety surveys. Willow Springs Lake has been very clear for the past year. Public uses of the lake have been monitored using car counts at the Town access and a voluntary winter ice fishing creel survey. Reports on these were attached to the agenda for this meeting, however the trends show that recreational use has increased as more people seek quiet outdoor recreation, possible due to covid virus concerns.

Secretary's Report: Jim McNelly – see attached

- **Review and approve minutes 2020 annual meeting minutes (see attached)** A motion was made by Casilynn Hansen to approve the minutes as written. This motion was second by Peter Topczewski and it was unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report: Casilynn Hansen – see attached documents

- **Audit committee report (Bobbi Psichulis and Karen McNelly)**
Bobbi reported the August 2020 – July 2021 audit report was completed on 10 August 2021. The audit committee reported satisfactory audit results. All financial records, corresponding voucher forms, invoices, and bank statements were in order and supporting SBWLMD minutes were available. No questions were raised regarding the audit.
- **Discussion of community event and funding mechanism**
Casilynn Hansen indicated that she has been trying to figure out what type of promotion of community participation around the Willow Springs Lake should be held in 2022. She will forward ideas to the SBWLMD commission and encouraged other residents to do the same.
- **Review and approve proposed 2022 Budget (see attached)**
Treasurer Hansen presented the proposed draft budget. The total budget was \$41874 .75 which was similar to the budget approved for 2021 with the majority of the budget (\$35000) dedicated to dam maintenance. Motion by Bruce Pritzlaff to approve the budget as drafted. This motion was second by Dan Bell. The motion was unanimously approved.
- **Approval of proposed tax levy**
A resolution approving a tax levy of \$4500 was drafted as the basis of supporting the 2022 budget. Peter Topczewski made a motion endorsing the resolution. This motion was second by Dan Bell. The motion was unanimously approved.

Lake/Dam Maintenance Reports:

- **Dam inspection update**
No discussion
- **Fisheries update**
No discussion

Nomination and election of one member to serve on the Board of Commissioners:

Chairman Topczewski thanked Casilynn Hansen for her past three years service to the SBWLMD commission. Topczewski called for nominations from the floor. Two nominations were received and the nominees were given the opportunity to state why they were interested in serving and their qualifications. The nominees Brent Zylka and Tim Guy provided their statements. A secret ballot election was held. Tim received 8 votes and Brent received 4 votes. Tim will serve until the annual meeting in 2024.

Authorize Board to establish the annual meeting date for 2022:

A motion was made by Peter Topczewski to authorize the commission to set the date for the annual meeting in 2022. This motion was second by Dan Bell and the motion was unanimously approved.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Peter Topczewski to adjourn at 8:15PM. The motion second by Karen McNelly and unanimously approved.

