



**2025 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SILVER LAKE  
MANAGEMENT DISTRICT  
MAY 24, 2025**

**1. Call to Order, Opening Statement, and Introductions**

- a. Chair Jim Purinton called the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Silver Lake Management District (the “District”) to order at 10:03 a.m. Saturday, May 24, 2025, at the Copper Bottom Pavilion, 28836 Silver Lake Road, Salem, WI.
- b. Purinton welcomed over 85 people to the meeting and read a statement that the meeting was properly noticed as required by Wisconsin statutes.
- c. Purinton introduced the other Commissioners who served on the Board of Directors for the past year: Dee Andershock (Secretary), John Coffey (County Representative), and Harry Laws (Treasurer). Absent was Ron Gandt who was recently appointed to the Board as representative of the Village of Salem Lakes.

**2. Resolution to Expand the Board By Two Elected Commissioners**

- a. Purinton read the resolution which the Board approved for a vote at the Annual Meeting: “Resolved that the electors of the Silver Lake Management District do hereby approve the expansion of the Board of Commissioners from five to seven members by adding two additional elected Commissioners pursuant to section 33.28.2m.a of the Wisconsin Statutes.”
- b. Purinton asked for a motion to approve the resolution. The motion was made by Harry Laws and seconded by Dee Andershock.
- c. In the following open discussion, Byron Kozak, Chuck Higgins, Matt Rich, and Connie Zyer spoke against the resolution noting that a larger board could make it more difficult to make decisions, could become more political, and sometimes leads to expanding the activities of the

board unnecessarily. It was also noted that volunteers could assist with the District's programs. Patrick Lenihan, Francois Bertaud, and Tom McFarland were among those who spoke in favor of the resolution.

- d. After discussion ended, the Chair called the question and a vote was taken. The resolution failed with a vote of 25 in favor and 52 against.

### **3. Final Call for Nominations for Commissioner**

- a. Harry Laws and John Coffey served as Election Judges for the meeting.
- b. Laws said four candidates were on the ballot: Dee Andershock, Dave Engels, Larry Kohn, and Patrick Lenihan.
- c. Laws asked if there were any further nominations for Commissioner.
- d. No additional nominations were made.

### **4. Candidate Statements**

- a. Laws asked all candidates to make a brief statement on why he or she was seeking to be elected Commissioner.
- b. Patrick Lenihan withdrew from the election, noting that he was interested only if the Board was to be expanded.

### **5. In-Person, Secret Ballot Voting for Commissioner**

- a. Laws said that, since the resolution to expand the Board failed, one commissioner would be elected.
- b. He instructed electors to vote for only one candidate.
- c. Coffey and Laws collected the ballots and then tallied them for reporting later in the meeting.

### **6. Invasive Species Report**

- a. Purinton asked for a volunteer to work with the Board on invasive species for the next year. Dave Zyer volunteered.
- b. Purinton then made a report on invasive species, noting that the lake district was originally formed to deal with the hybrid water milfoil (HWM) invasion of a decade ago.
- c. Purinton said that the Aquatic Plant Management Plan, required by the WDNR, was completed and approved last year to guide the management of invasive species going forward.
- d. HWM is the only invasive species the currently needs management, and the process is straightforward.
  - i. The District's consultant undertakes a physical survey of the lake vegetation each fall and plots the location and density of HWM and other invasive species.

- ii. The consultant then recommends areas of dense HWM growth for treatment in the following spring.
- iii. The treatment plan is reviewed, approved, and funded by the Board, then permitted by the WDNR, and carried out in the spring.
- iv. The fall survey/spring treatment process, undertaken since the whole-lake HWM treatment in 2015, has so far been successful in preventing HWM from overtaking the lake once again.
- e. Purinton said the fall 2024 survey showed very little dense HWM growth, so this year's spring treatment, carried out in the first week of May, only covered about 1/3-acre in the southeast corner of the lake.
- f. Purinton made two further comments:
  - i. The Starry Stonewort, first discovered in the lake in 2023, was not found in the fall 2024 survey. It is probably still in the lake. If it becomes a problem in Silver Lake, as it has become in some other lakes, there is no recommended mitigation program to control this invasive plant species.
  - ii. The quagga mussel, which made its way into the Great Lakes and then Lake Michigan some time ago, was found in Lake Geneva last year. It is larger than the zebra mussel and can be a bigger problem. The quagga mussel is likely to be found in Silver Lake sometime in the next few years. There is no recommended mitigation program for managing nuisance quagga mussel populations.

## **7. Water Safety Patrols**

- a. Purinton said boating safety and enforcement was the second highest concern raised in the lakefront property owner and lake user survey conducted in 2023.
- b. Purinton said the District re-instituted police patrols on Silver Lake in 2024 after their absence since 2018. He said that all lake districts in Kenosha County need to fill the gap to sponsor police patrols for their lakes as neither the Village nor the County provide regular police patrols.
- c. Dee Andershock said she would volunteer to continue to work on the water patrol program if not re-elected to the Board. Jesse Seidman, Matt Beck, and Byron Kozak also volunteered.
- d. Andershock summarized the 2024 water safety patrol program.
  - i. The Board contracted with the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department for a pilot program of one shift per weekend up to a

- maximum cost of \$10,000.
- ii. The Sheriff's Department docked their boat at Andershock's pier which saved time getting onto the water and offered the opportunity for Andershock to interact with the deputies.
- iii. Total cost was \$5,000. \$2,951 was reimbursed by the WDNR.
- iv. Residents provided overwhelmingly positive reviews. The Sheriff's department made a few citations, gave many more warnings, and felt their role was to primarily provide a police presence and only go after flagrant violations.
- e. Regarding the 2025 water safety patrol program, Andershock reported:
  - i. The Board reviewed the 2024 program and decided to double the patrols for 2025, requesting patrols on both Saturday and Sunday on most weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day (weather, lake conditions, and Sheriff staffing permitting).
  - ii. The total cost is not to exceed \$14,000 before partial reimbursement from WDNR.
  - iii. The contract was signed with the Kenosha County Sheriff's Department pursuant to the Board authorization.
- f. Andershock then answered questions regarding the program.

## **8. Lake Levels / Outlet Dam**

- a. Purinton said that lake levels /outlet dam was the third-ranked concern in the 2023 lakefront property owner and lake user survey.
- b. Jeff Bell and Kurt Ullmann volunteered to help the Board with the lake levels / outlet dam program.
- c. Purinton said the Board started investigating lake levels in 2022 and discovered that there were no accurate records of lake levels. The Board began recording monthly lake levels on the Village gauge in September 2022 and publishes lake level information on its website.
- d. Purinton emphasized four points:
  - i. Lake levels are most dependent on the amount of precipitation that falls within the small 4.2-acre lake watershed that largely lies north of the lake.
  - ii. Lake levels have multi-year cycles. The later 2010's had high water marked by the 2017 flood (up to the underside of the bridge in the outlet creek) and several Village no-wake rulings on lake activities. The 2020's have been much drier, with a low lake level in 2021 (dry creek) that was almost three feet lower than the 2017 high point.
  - iii. The data to date also shows the familiar yearly cycle of higher

lake levels in the spring followed by declining lake levels during the summer, with levels 10” to 12” lower in the fall. Evaporation is the primary cause and is highest in the summer heat when about 1” of rainfall per week is needed to maintain constant lake levels.

- iv. The outlet dam has only a marginal effect on lake levels. The dam kept the lake approximately 6” higher than the outflow creek when the lake level was below the top of the dam during the summer of 2023. However, the dam does NOT prevent the decline of lake levels during dry summers when evaporation exceeds precipitation.
- e. Purinton reported that, in response to a question at last year’s Annual Meeting, the Board investigated the height of the dam in relation to the state-authorized lake levels.
  - i. The investigation concluded that the top of the dam is within about 4” of the authorized summer level of the lake. A report on this investigation can be found on the District website.
  - ii. The ensuing discussion raised other questions:
    - 1. How will repair or replacement be funded?
    - 2. Should the dam remain in private ownership if public funds are used for the repair or replacement?
    - 3. The dam authorization requires that the boards be put into place no earlier than April 1, taken out during high water periods, and then removed in the fall. Dams on other lakes have been made permanent. Should a permanent dam be constructed when a replacement is needed?
    - 4. The WDNR regulates the dam and WDNR views and procedures need to be further explored before recommending any changes to the dam.
  - iii. The Board concluded that these issues should be further investigated and discussed prior to the required significant repair or replacement of the dam.

## **9. Water Quality**

- a. Purinton said that water quality was another top concern in the 2023 lakefront property owner and lake user survey. He said many other lake districts have also instituted efforts to understand what affects the lake’s water quality and how to maintain or improve it.
- b. Dave Engels, as a volunteer, has led the Board’s efforts in 2024 and will commit to writing the grant for the water quality plan, along with

Patrick Lenihan. Paul and Joanne Maggio also volunteered to assist.

- c. Engels gave the report on the water quality sampling and testing that was completed in the spring and fall of 2024. The results were not surprising -- Silver Lake, like other southeastern Wisconsin lakes, has relatively high salt content, including elevated levels of sodium, chloride, potassium, sulfate, and calcium. These levels have increased over the past decades. The results, along with a summary of causes, effects and solutions, can be found on a new webpage on the District's website.
- d. Engels went on to say the next step is to further investigate possible water quality issues specific to Silver Lake. He said the Board just received a proposal from the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) to further investigate specific water quality issues in Silver Lake.
  - i. The scope includes examining septic and stormwater outfalls, pollutant loading sources and loads, water quality and beach closures, shoreline condition grading, boating carrying capacity, and aquatic habitat.
  - ii. The study has a cost, including lab testing, not to exceed \$20,000, and will be conducted primarily in 2026, with the final report issued in early 2027. A WDNR grant could help defray the cost.
  - iii. Purinton said the Board needed to review and approve the specific SEWRPC proposal, but he asked for a vote on whether or not the Board should pursue further investigation of Silver Lake water quality issues at a cost not to exceed \$20,000 with the District seeking WDNR grant to help offset the cost. A motion was made by Dave Engels and seconded by Harry Laws. The motion passed.

## **10. District Financials**

- a. Treasurer Laws reported that the final 2024 budget was independently reviewed.
- b. Laws said that, regarding the 2025 budget, milfoil lake treatment will be far below budget, resulting in an expected cash surplus at year-end of almost \$25,000. Total Reserves for Future Projects at year-end will then be over \$90,000. The Board has authorized \$60,000 of the Reserve to be invested in Chase 1-yr certificates of deposit that mature during the year.
- c. Laws said the proposed 2026 budget includes revenues from a \$47,000 tax levy (down 10% from prior years) and an expected \$10,500 WDNR

grant reimbursement for water safety patrols. Projected expenses include \$14,000 for HWM Lake Treatment, \$14,000 for Water Safety Patrols, \$15,000 for Water Quality Studies, along with typical annual administrative costs.

**11. Approval of 2025 Budget**

- a. Purinton asked for a motion to approve the proposed 2026 budget that includes a \$47,000 tax levy, programs in excess of \$10,000 for HWM lake treatment, water safety patrols, and water quality studies, and a projected approximate \$90,000 year-end reserve for future projects. The motion was made by Laws and seconded by Jeff Bell. The motion carried.

**12. Results of the Election of Commissioner:**

- a. Laws reported that Larry Kohn was the winner with 45 votes. Dave Engels received 23 votes, and Dee Andershock received 16 votes.
- b. Larry Kohn was sworn in to a three-year term by taking the oath of office.

**13. Other Business - Q&A**

- a. Panfish Study: Dave Engels reported that the WDNR will undertake a panfish study this summer as a result of the Board supporting the study earlier this year. He also mentioned that the WDNR is no longer stocking musky or northern pike in Silver Lake. Walleye will be stocked in even-numbered years, though the number stocked in 2024 was halved due to budget constraints. A question was asked about the cost of stocking additional walleye fingerlings if the WDNR continues to stock only half. Engels said it would cost about \$18,000 for 5,000 fingerlings.
- b. Purinton announced that the District Board of Commissioners, including new member Larry Kohn, would be meeting immediately after the Annual Meeting to elect officers for the next year and conduct other routine business. The meeting is open to the public.

**14. Adjournment of meeting:** Motion to adjourn the annual meeting was made by Laws and seconded by Andershock. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jim Purinton, Chairman