



## **2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SILVER LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT**

**MAY 25, 2024**

### **1. Call to Order**

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Silver Lake Management District (the “District”) was called to order at 10:07 a.m. Saturday, May 25, 2024. The meeting was held at the Copper Bottom Grill, 28836 Silver Lake Road, Salem, WI.

### **2. Opening Statement and Introductions**

- a. Chair Jim Purinton made an opening statement welcoming approximately 70 people to the meeting.
- b. Purinton read a statement that noted the meeting was properly noticed as required by Wisconsin statutes.
- c. Purinton introduced the Commissioners who served on the Board of Directors for the past year—Dee Andershock, John Coffey, Bill Hopkins, Harry Laws, and Jim Purinton.

### **3. Final Call for Nominations for Commissioner: No new nominations were made for Commissioner to be elected at the meeting.**

### **4. In-person, secret Ballot Voting for One Commissioner**

- a. John Coffey and Dee Andershock, board members serving as election judges, collected the ballots and then tallied them for reporting later in the meeting.

### **5. 2024 Water Safety Patrols**

- a. Deputies from the Kenosha County Sheriff’s Department were present at the announcement of the summer’s District-sponsored Water Safety Patrols.

- b. These are the first regularly scheduled patrols in many years.

## **6. 2024 Aquatic Plant Management Plan**

### **a. Aquatic Plant Survey/Management Recommendations**

- i. Purinton presented the 2024 Aquatic Plant Management Plan (APMP) highlights: the lake has a very healthy and unusually diverse aquatic plant communities.
- ii. The time-series survey of the most abundant aquatic plants shows that a decade of milfoil treatment, including the whole-lake treatment in 2015, had little to no long-term effect on the lake's plant communities.
- iii. The APMP will guide the District's management of invasive species going forward. The primary recommendation is to continue to annually treat dense areas of milfoil in order to prevent its spread and takeover of the lake.
- iv. 2024: only treated two small areas of the lake, about 6 acres.
- v. There is no known effective treatment right now for Starry Stonewort, which is the newest invasive species found in a very small area. Recommendation is to keep a close watch on it for now.
- vi. Lakefront owners can clear by hand nuisance plants near beaches and docks in a 30' wide x 100' area without a WDNR permit. If owners need to clear a larger area, or if they need to use chemical or mechanical means, a WDNR permit is required.

### **b. Lake User Survey Results**

- i. Response was high and the top concerns, in order, were: control of invasive species, boating safety and enforcement, lake levels, and water quality.
- ii. The District Board adopted these four concerns as the focus of Board efforts going forward.
- iii. Question on Lake Levels: The outlet dam is privately owned. The WDNR has inspected it and it passed inspection. The District has been measuring lake levels monthly for about two years.
- iv. Question regarding non-chemical means to control invasive species: The APMP concluded that other means may be used in certain circumstances, but given the size and distribution of milfoil in the lake, chemical treatment is the recommended alternative.

## **7. Water Quality Testing**

- a. Dave Engels, with approval from the board, conducted baseline water sampling this spring and will do so again this fall. The samples are sent to the University of Wisconsin–Stevens Point for analysis. The testing compares Silver Lake to other Wisconsin lakes and may lead to issue investigation and potential mitigation activities.
- b. Spring results show higher sodium chloride levels in the lake like many southeastern Wisconsin lakes. It is expected that sodium is higher in the spring than fall due to road salt run-off.
- c. The lake is at a good alkaline level—allows for healthy variety of plants and fish.
- d. Recommendation for residents is to avoid fertilizers that have high phosphorus and have a buffer zone between lawn and lake.

## **8. District Financials**

- a. Treasurer Laws reported that the 2023 budget was independently reviewed.
- b. 2024 year-to-date: milfoil lake treatment will be below budget. Also, because the Village kept responsibility for No-Wake Buoys, there will be no expense for No-Wake Buoys. The \$10,000 was budgeted for No-Wake Buoys was re-allocated those dollars to Water Safety Patrols. While not guaranteed, the WDNR has a program to reimburse up to 75% of the cost of Water Safety Patrols. Approximately \$20,000 surplus is expected by the end of the year. Also, the Board approved investing reserves into Certificate of Deposit accounts at JP Morgan Chase Bank.
- c. 2025 budget: includes a continuation of the \$52,000 tax levy as the past two years, \$25,000 for hybrid milfoil treatment, and \$10,000 for Water Safety Patrols (2024 program will be reviewed this fall and the 2025 program may reflect an increase in this activity). Will continue to look for any grants to help with invasive species, water quality, and water safety patrols.

## **9. Approval of 2025 Budget**

- a. Motion to approve the 2025 budget including \$52,000 tax levy, \$25,000 for hybrid milfoil treatment, and \$10,000.00 for water safety patrols as presented made by Mary Jo Schuler, 2733 Silver Lake Road, Salem, WI and seconded by Dave Engels, 28044 Silver Lake Road, Salem, WI. Motion passed

**10. Results of the Election of Commissioner:** Harry Laws was elected for a 3-year term with 54 of 59 votes cast.

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

- a. Participation in the Clean Boats, Clean Waters program is untenable at this time. The District will continue to explore ways to participate in the program to encourage lake users to remove vegetation, empty their live wells, and/or wash their boats before/after they use the lake.
- b. Question on what the chemical treatment was for this year: It was for the hybrid milfoil only in two areas totaling about 6 acres.
- c. Question of the location of the No-Wake Buoys: Hopkins discussed how the Village of Salem Lakes is responsible for the No-Wake Buoys and that for the first time in decades, the buoys were installed with a WDNR permit. The previous 30-buoy “ring around the lake” approach was rejected by the WDNR. The village installed what was approved by the WDNR and will install Hazardous Buoys by the end of June around areas that are extremely shallow/rocky.

**12. Adjournment of meeting:** Motion to adjourn the annual meeting was made by Mary Jane Jones, 8505 273rd Avenue, Salem, WI, and seconded by Greg Bulp, 402 S. Cogswell Drive, Silver Lake, WI. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dee Andershock, Secretary