



MEETING MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 2, 2023

1. Call to Order

The meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Silver Lake Management District (the “District”) was called to order at 6:30 p.m. August 2, 2023. The meeting was held at the Silver Lake Community Center, 133 S. 1st St., Silver Lake, WI.

2. Roll Call

Present: Dee Andershock
 John Coffey
 Bill Hopkins
 Harry Laws
 Jim Purinton

Eight guests attended.

3. Open Meeting Law Compliance Check

The Open Meeting Law requirement for a 24-hour notice of the meeting was satisfied. The August 2, 2023 Board Meeting Notice with agenda was posted on the District’s website (www.silverlakemgmt.org), the Salem Lakes Community Library, the Silver Lake Post Office, and Salem Lakes Village Hall on August 1, 2023.

4. Approval of minutes of May 27, 2023 District Board Meeting

A motion was made by Harry Laws, seconded by Dee Andershock to approve the Minutes from the May 27, 2023 District Board Meeting. The motion passed.

5. Discussion of Possible Action Concerning the Aquatic Plant Management Plan

- A. Field Survey of Aquatic Plants–WLPR is scheduled for the 2nd week of August.
- B. Lake User Survey will launch August 14 and be open through the end of September for responses.
 - a. “Make Your Opinion Known” will be the catch phrase on the survey notice.
 - b. Distribution plan
 - i. QR code on a one-page notice of the Lake User Survey will take survey respondents to the online survey and eliminate the need for leaving paper copies of the survey in various locations.
 - ii. Harry Laws explained that making a plastic-covered survey notice will cost some money. Laws moved to spend up to \$300 to make them. John Coffey seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - iii. Laws said the district email list will be used to announce the survey and the survey will be posted on the website. Other places to place notice include launch ramps, village hall, PO, Copper Bottom. A guest suggested Harm’s BP station and the Citco. Another guest suggested the bars in town, and the Boat Doc. Other suggestions included Lakeview, Highwood associations, and the Silver Minnow. Jim will ask Bryan Sullivan to send the link to his slip renters and ask for their participation. A posting at the Sportsmans club, and the county will post at Silver Lake Beach. Bill will check with the village for posting at DeWitt.
 - iv. Property owners will get a postcard.

- c. Purinton explained that the DNR approved the survey and the District added a couple questions beyond DNR requirements. Purinton asked for comments on the survey.
 - i. Hopkins suggested that question 11 should read, “Skip question 12 if you answered no to the previous question.”
 - ii. He also suggested that question 13 add “boat wakes.”
 - iii. Coffey asked about no wake time on question 5 and suggested it be removed.
- d. Purinton asked if there was any other discussion on the survey. Guest asks if it is one response per household. Purinton said respondents will have to provide name and address, but the WLPR will determine if multiple responses should be considered.

6. No Wake Buoys

Purinton gave a brief history of how the District came to work on buoy placement this summer. Purinton said he met with the village administrator last fall who said “please” take them over. As discussed at the May 27th meeting, no new buoys were ordered to replace broken ones, so only 17 were put in the lake by the Village before Memorial Day instead of the usual 30. Coffey and Purinton moved some of the 17 buoys to more traditional spots. Purinton purchased 13 more and the village hooked up the anchors and installed them before July 4th with the help of Coffey and Purinton. Some buoys were moved three times to get them in logical positions. But, Purinton stated, we need a rationale and criteria for where buoys should be located.

Purinton said the village ordinance needs revision as it identifies the no-wake zone as all areas of the lake inside the 5-depth contour, which may not be broad enough to match the buoy placement. Buoys were established in the 1980s. There have been 25-30 buoys in the lake for at least the past decade. Along Silver Lake Road, the buoys are approximately 200-250 ft. offshore. However, the far northern corner part of that shoreline is very shallow. The buoys outside the swim area buoys are a little too far out but they need to keep boaters away and to define the adjacent anchorage areas. There are also two major shoals – off the west point and the southwest point -- as well as shallow areas in all

four corners of the lake that in some areas are a danger to boaters and where there is damage to the shallow water environment from boat propellers.

Coffey stated that on Sunday (July 30) he witnessed people swimming outside the buoys with boats going by. He added that the buoys on the SW side to the marina are out too far and it creates bottle necks. Also, he noted that the north side sensitive area is a bit of an unknown.

Hopkins brought up the shoal areas saying we need “danger” buoys instead of no wake. Salem Lakes needs to fix the ordinance before it is turned over to the District for control.

Purinton said the District’s attorney recommended a joint working group consisting of two members of the village and two lake district representatives. The group should review the ordinance and buoy locations and then send out conclusions to all constituents for review.

Hopkins talked to the DNR, and they will be at Monday’s Village Board Committee of the Whole meeting at Salem Lakes Village Hall. Hopkins indicated that the DNR will come back to state statute and that lake levels vary. Purinton and Laws asked for a conversation before any new rules are passed.

Coffey said that he went to every buoy to measure on August 1. On NE corner, he said it is “pretty good”. But the ones in front of Rustic Shores are out too far. He also said they were out too far on the west side of the lake and in the south marina area.

There was much discussion that followed. A guest stated he thought that Salem Lakes village should continue to handle the buoys so the District could use this money for something else. Multiple guests expressed the desire for police patrol and that it is more important to the safety of people.

Hopkins said he doesn't think the village wants to keep the responsibility, but they need to start at ground zero because of liability. Then hand it over to the District.

Laws moved to pass a resolution that the District request that the Village form a committee to determine buoy locations and the transfer of responsibility for the buoys to the District. Andershock seconded the motion.

Much discussion followed regarding the buoys and the proposed resolution. The following resolution was passed:

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING JOINT COOPERATION
REGARDING
NO-WAKE BUOYS ON SILVER LAKE**

WHEREAS the Silver Lake Management District is local to Silver Lake with immediate access to boaters, property owners, and other users of Silver Lake, and

WHEREAS locating No-Wake Buoys on Silver Lake needs to consider boater safety, environmental preservation concerns, and optimal boater and recreational experience and

WHEREAS in addition there are Village ordinance and WDNR permitting aspects regarding the No-Wake Buoys in Silver Lake that need to be addressed, and

WHEREAS these issues need to be further investigated and discussed with input and review by the affected stakeholders,

NOW THEREFORE, the Board of Commissioners of the Silver Lake Management District respectfully requests that the Village of Salem Lakes cooperates with the Silver Lake Management District to review the issues and make recommendations regarding the No-Wake Buoys for approval by the Village Board. A joint committee consisting of two appointees from each organization is recommended to facilitate this coordination.

6. Adjournment

Laws made a motion to adjourn. Hopkins seconded. The motion was approved, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:00pm

Respectfully submitted,
Dee Andershock, Secretary