



## **MEETING MINUTES OF THE SLMD ANNUAL MEETING**

May 28, 2022

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

The first Annual Meeting of the Silver Lake Management District was called to order by Board Chairman Jim Purinton at 10:10 a.m. at the Copper Bottom Bar & Grill, 28836 Silver Lake Road, Salem, WI.

#### **a. Introduction of Current Board**

Jim Purinton introduced the current members of the Board of Commissioners for the Silver Lake Management District:

- John Coffey, appointed by the Kenosha County Board as the County Representative
- Ted Kmiec, Trustee of the Salem Lakes Village Board, appointed by the Village Board as its representative
- Donna Kubik, appointed Interim Commissioner by the Kenosha County Board, and currently serving as the Secretary of the Board
- Harry Laws, appointed Interim Commissioner by the Kenosha County Board, and currently serving as the Treasurer to the Board
- Jim Purinton, appointed Interim Commissioner by the Kenosha County Board, serving as Chairman

#### **b. Statement of Compliance**

Jim Purinton read the Statement of Compliance: Pursuant to Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin Statutes, the Board of Commissioners of the Silver Lake Management District on May 12, 2022, mailed a written notice of this Annual Meeting to all Owners of Property within the District as listed on the Kenosha County tax rolls. Also, pursuant to Chapter 33 of the Wis. Statutes, since the Board does not have a list of residents residing in the District, a Class 2 Notice of the Annual Meeting was published in the Kenosha News on May 17, 2022, and May 24, 2022.

While not required by the State Statutes, Purinton added that the notice of the Annual Meeting was also mailed to the district's list of over 200 owners, residents, and friends. The notice was posted on our new website - **silverlakemgmt.org** – and it was

physically posted at the Silver Lake Post Office, the Copper Bottom Bar & Grill, the Salem Lakes Community Library, and the Salem Lakes Village Hall.

**c. Background of the Silver Lake Management District**

Chairman Purinton provided background on the Silver Lake Management District.

Wisconsin Lake District Law goes back almost 50 years when the Wisconsin Legislature first passed enabling legislation, now codified in Chapter 33 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

The State Law gives Lake Districts the authority to undertake a wide range of activities that improve and protect the quality of public inland lakes. These days, Lake Districts most often deal with the control of invasive weeds, but they also have programs for boater safety, water quality, public access, etc. The state also has a variety of Grant Programs that assist Lake Districts to accomplish their missions.

In Kenosha County, Lake Districts have been in place for decades: Powers Lake, Twin Lakes, Paddock Lake, Hooker Lake, Camp/Center & Lake George.

Lake Districts are the only unit of government in Wisconsin where non-residents can vote. All residents living in the district, and all owners of property in the district, including non-resident property owners, have a voice and can vote.

All Lake Districts are required to hold an Annual Meeting between May 22 and September 9.

Lake Districts are governed by a Board of Commissioners which must include at least five members. Two are appointed: one by the County and one by the local municipal government. Three Commissioners are elected by residents and property owners at the Annual Meeting via secret ballot. The law is very specific: in-person, no proxies, no absentee ballots, and no mail-in ballots.

A Lake District's Annual Budget, which must specifically identify the tax levy and any projects over \$10,000 must be presented and approved at the Annual Meeting. A Lake District Board cannot approve a budget and tax levy without presenting the budget to the district membership for their review and approval.

The Silver Lake Management District includes all privately-owned properties that touch Silver Lake. The district includes all private property inside Cogswell Drive on the West, and Silver Lake Road on the south and east. It does not include the County Park, the DNR launch and conservation area, or the village park and launching ramp. The district

includes 178 different properties with about 225 property owners. The district includes about 99-acres, or 3.6% of the lake's 4.3 sq. mi. watershed area.

The total assessed value of the district is just over \$71 million, and currently, the district property owners pay over \$1.1 million in annual Real Estate Taxes.

**d. History of the District**

Chairman Purinton outlined the history of the District.

The Silver Lake Protection Association (SLPA) has, for the past decade, taken on the responsibility of managing invasive weed infestation in our lake. The SLPA was a dormant organization over a dozen years ago, but it was reconstituted to address the weed problem in the lake. Led by dedicated people like the Mayer Family, Jon Hedrich, Kurt Gehlbach, Spencer Leroy, and others, they raised over \$75,000 of private funds, secured a \$90,000 DNR Grant and treated the whole lake in 2013-2015, which has been followed by annual surveys and spot treatments. The SLPA made our lake useable again, and we owe these lake treatment pioneers our deepest gratitude. Spencer Leroy is one of the few pioneers still on the lake.

Almost two years ago, the current SLPA Board consisting of President, John Coffey and members, Michelle Cullen, Bill Erb, Karen Erb, Kyle Grumbeck and Dave Zyer took another big step by sponsoring the successful effort to form the Silver Lake Management District.

At the Annual Meeting of the SLPA in 2020, a Lake District Committee was formed. Chaired by Harry Laws, this committee included John Coffey, Dave Zyer, Karen Erb, Jeff Bell, Dave Engels, Donna Kubik, Jim Raker, Randy Schelling, Sue Skalla and Jim Purinton.

In the spring of 2021, over 180 property owners (82% of all property owners) signed a petition to form the Lake District.

Chairman Purinton recognized the Kenosha County Board, County Supervisor Erin Decker, former County Supervisor Sharon Pomaville, former County Executive Jim Kreuser, Corporation Counsel Jim Cardamon, Planning Director Andy Buehler, and members of the Planning, Development and Extension Education Committee for their support along with Village of Salem Lakes President Diann Tesar, Trustee Dennis Faber, Trustee Ted Kmiec and Village Administrator Mike Murdock.

The Kenosha County Board approved the Silver Lake Management District in August 2021, and in October 2021 the SLMD Commissioners.

Chairman Purinton introduced two special guests attending the meeting: Buck Sweeney, outside legal counsel and expert on Wisconsin Law regarding Lake Districts, and Craig Helker, the District's DNR contact.

**2. Final Call for Nominations from the Floor**

Commissioners John Coffey and Ted Kmiec, serving as Election Judges, called for nominations from the floor.

**3. Call for Votes to be Place in Ballot Box**

There being no nominations from the floor, Ted Kmiec asked that anyone still holding their ballot to please come forward and place their ballot in the ballot box.

**4. Silver Lake Protection Association Report**

Dave Zyer, Vice President, of the SLPA, reported the spring fundraising effort raised \$49,254 from 100 donors. After the SLPA paid the \$22,940 in outstanding expenses for creation of the Silver Lake Management District, and \$20,300 for the 2022 treatment of Eurasian Hybrid Water Milfoil, the \$5,805 surplus funds transferred from SLPA to the SLMD.

Based upon the survey performed by Wisconsin Lake & Pond Resources, and their recommendations, a lake treatment will occur in June 2022 at a cost of \$17,050. We are also paying \$3,250 for a lake survey in the fall of 2022. The cost totals approximately \$20,300.

Using a map of Silver Lake, Dave pointed out the areas, totaling 14.4 acres, identified for treatment.

The audience raised the following questions, and Dave provided clarification:

- Were there other methods of treatment investigated?  
*No other treatment methods were investigated based upon experience and expert opinions from Wisconsin Lake and Pond Resources and the DNR have shown that chemical treatments are the only effective method to reduce Eurasian Hybrid Water Milfoil.*
- Who selects the treatment areas?  
*Wisconsin Lake and Pond Resources presents us with results of past lake surveys that shows areas of greatest Eurasian Hybrid Water Milfoil concentrations. The SLPA Board of Directors formally approves the areas for treatment and the costs of the treatment and survey.*

- Were other companies asked to provide a proposal for survey services?  
*No. Based upon the expertise of Wisconsin Lake and Pond Resources, and our history with them, we have continued to use them for their services.*

## **5. Presentation of 2022 & 2023 SLMD Budgets**

Treasurer Laws presented the 2022 SLMD Budget (Actual/Year-end), and he invited questions from the audience. There being no questions, Chairman Purinton went on to review the proposed 2023 SLMD Budget and offered the following comments:

- SLMD will take over the lake treatment responsibilities from the Silver Lake Protection Association in 2023
- A tax levy is necessary to sponsor the 2023 lake treatment. The proposed \$52,000 proposed levy is the average of other comparable Kenosha County Lake Districts. Passage of the proposed budget will also approve the tax levy.
- The proposed budget will start a reserve fund and provide administrative dollars to operate the district
- The proposed budget will provide dollars to fund the 2023 lake treatment
- The budget will fund a full-lake plant survey in mid-summer 2023, and the preparation of an updated Aquatic Plant Management Plan
- The SLPA loan will be paid off.

A motion was made by Charles Higgins, 410 South Cogswell Drive to approve the proposed 2023 SLMD Budget, seconded by John Grumbeck, 28002 Silver Lake Road, the motion was approved by voice vote.

## **6. Election Results**

Judges John Coffey and Ted Kmiec announced the voting results for three Commissioners to the SLMD Board:

Donna Kubik – 60 (3-year term), Harry Laws – 59 (2-year term), and Jim Purinton – 59 (1-year term).

## **7. Final Thoughts/Other Business**

The Silver Lake Management District’s website is live, and everyone was invited to visit the site for lake district updates and information.

The website has a “Get in Touch” tab for communications with the Board, and it provides owners, residents, and friends with the ability to add or remove their e-mail address from the district’s mail list through the subscribe or unsubscribe feature on the main page of the website.

Residents were invited to provide the District with historical or other photographs of Silver Lake they might have which could be incorporated into the website.

Craig Helker, WDNR, responded to a question from the floor regarding resident participation in the preparation of the Aquatic Plant Management Plan. He explained there were 7 steps to completing the Plan, and he said one of the steps was to obtain resident input.

During the meeting, property owners raised questions regarding having a water patrol, lake hours and boater safety. The Board will be addressing these issues in the future.

**8. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Jeff Bell, 28703 Silver Lake Road, seconded by Connie Zyer, 27818 Silver Lake Road, the motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donna L. Kubik, Secretary