

LOWER SPRING LAKE PROTECTION & REHABILITATION DISTRICT

Quarterly Meeting

1/24/2026

Board Members Present: Pat Zimmermann, Chairperson; Jody Deichl, Secretary; Deb Bartolerio, Treasurer; John Kannard, County Board Representative; Tim Gorseger, Village Board President

Attendees: 14 attendees in addition to board members.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 by P. Zimmermann. A thank you was extended to all for braving the cold to attend.

MINUTES – The minutes from the August 16th, 2025 meeting were read by J. Deichl and approved as written.

TREASURERS REPORT – D. Bartolerio noted that all dam payments have been received and there are no outstanding bills for this budget period. A harvester bill will be forthcoming once the scheduled and expected repairs are complete. She said we have received contributions of \$2,000 from the town and \$3,000 from the village which are much appreciated. All in all the budget is in good shape.

WEED HARVESTING UPDATE – S. Schneiger presented an overview of the previous harvesting season. He noted we harvested approximately 236,000 pounds of weeds and spent approximately 368 man-hours doing so. The anticipated repairs to the harvester (paddle wheel motor, two cutting motors as well as a hole in the frame under the conveyor belt) have been scheduled. Anticipated cost is \$4,667. He also noted the previous harvester operator has agreed to cut again for the upcoming season. Thank you to Steve for coordinating the harvester operations in 2025 and continuing in 2026.

WINTER DRAWDOWN UPDATE – C Dixon explained that a committee composed of herself, D. Wilber, D. Bartolerio, T. Gorseger, T. Smith, and M. Fischer have been working on a drawdown plan since October of 2024. A huge thank you to C. Hutchinson and A. Watkins for their field research and overall help to gather needed information. The plan was based on the handout distributed before the 2019-2020 winter drawdown. Specifications such as 35-40% or greater relative frequency for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) must be present, temperature and/or clarity testing in the deepest part of the lake and 3 downstream outlets need to be done regularly and mussels would have to be relocated with the help of an expert and volunteers before a drawdown is considered. There is also a \$500 permit fee required. These are just a few of the changes/updates to the new plan.

A motion to accept the drawdown plan by the Lake District was made by D. Bartolerio, seconded by P. Zimmermann and J. Deichl, J. Kannard and T. Gorseger agreed. The plan will then be presented to the Village Board for their approval. The drawdown plan wouldn't actually go into effect unless the percentage of EWM warrants it. A drawdown request would still need to be voted on by the Village Board. Considering survey results for the last two years showed the relative frequency for EWM at about 11% it may be a while before the 35-40% threshold is reached. Prior to the 2019-2020 drawdown the threshold was 46%. EWM surveying will be done in July/August according to C. Hutchinson. A huge thank you to all who worked so diligently on this project.

HARVESTER PURCHASE/DONATION UPDATE - C. Dixon stated on August 18, 2025 the application for the DNR's Recreational Boating Facilities grant, requesting 50% of the \$240,000 cost for a new harvester and trailer for 2027 was submitted. Unfortunately, the state legislature hasn't yet passed a bill to fund the grant in 2026. There are also many requests from other lakes so it's very possible our project may not be selected, but we can continue to resubmit our request. For the other half of the equipment cost, we're hoping to sell our old harvester and trailer for about \$20,000 and to apply at least \$30,000 from savings, leaving \$70,000 in funds to raise. Last fall, letters were sent to businesses and organizations in the community and then followed up either face to face or with a phone call seeking donations. Three donations to date have been made, with additional donations contingent upon receiving the DNR grant. Fundraising efforts will continue, with updates at the next meeting. C. Dixon was thanked for her ongoing efforts.

CHEMICAL UPDATE 2026 PROPOSED BUDGET – K. Ksobiech noted that she will apply for the chemical application permit sometime in February. The DNR will then survey the areas requested and determine which areas will be approved for treatment. Treatment is usually applied sometime late May. Updates will be provided at the next meeting. Thank you for your time and efforts K. Ksobiech.

GEESE DEPREDAATION UPDATE – E. Ksobiech stated that all permits are in and filed. He will again begin the egg hunt when weather permits. He will let the Lake District know if additional help is needed. A very big thank you for all you do!

OPEN FORUM – A question was asked about the condition of the truck and if State auctions were considered when looking for a new truck. Due to the many repairs, age, and condition of the truck, we may be forced to seek other alternatives. It was felt if we were to purchase another vehicle it would most likely have air brakes and would require a CDL license to operate. No further discussions/decisions were made on the truck.

NEXT MEETING – Saturday, April 25, 2026 at 9:00AM at the Town Hall

A Motion to adjourn was made by D. Bartolerio and seconded by J. Kannard
Meeting adjourned at 9:46 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Deichl