

Shawano Area Waterways Management Inc.

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 2021

Four Seasons

6:30 pm

Meeting called by: Gary DeFere

Note taker: Carla Osborne

Minutes

Agenda item: Meeting minutes from August 12, 2021

Conclusions:

Motion to accept the minutes by Karen Monfre, 2nd by Nitta Charnon, motion carried.

Agenda item: Treasurer report

Presenter:

Discussion:

- No report given
- Karen and Zach highly recommend that if there is a possibility of not doing private cutting next year, everyone should get refunded this year and do not hold payments over until next year.
- Once a decision is made on private cutting, a communication should be sent out regarding refunds or possibly donating the payment.

Conclusions:

- Decision on how to handle refunds will be made at next meeting when the status of private weed cutting is known.
-

Agenda item: Harvester replacement

Presenter: Todd Dobberstein
Bill Monfre

Discussion:

- Background (Bill): SAWM has 2 cutters and 2 barges for the lake and river. There are 2 sets because the equipment will not fit under the bridge. In 2018/19 the equipment needed repair. Aquarius Systems had the options of new equipment or refurbish existing equipment. It would cost \$160k to refurbish (\$80k would be covered with a grant) (approx. numbers – will verify). SAWM decided to refurbish thinking that it would make the equipment last another 5 years and not compromise any future or additional grants.
- At the last meeting Jeff Knope reported that the equipment continues to breakdown. Other things that were not in the refurbishing are breaking. Cutters were repaired (possibly only one cutter). The barges & conveyors were not repaired. There have been some discussions about replacing existing equipment with one smaller cutter/barge (420) that would fit under the bridge. Bill got updated estimates.
- Background (Todd): In 2018 the small cutter got upgrades. It now has a blown motor that may be able to be fixed for \$20k. Small cutter takes most of the abuse, it does most of the cutting on the channel and river. Jeff would grade the cutters at 3/10. Jeff says may get 1-2 more years with motor repairs, depending on private cutting. Jeff thinks a new cutter would be awesome but may not be needed at this time.
- If small cutter is replaced, the grant would have to be paid back (pro-rated).
- Currently, only private cutting is done on the lake (not this year due to water levels), lanes are chemically treated, not cut.
- If can't spray for weeds, old cutters are not efficient and will wear down faster. This will become another issue. Need to be prepared for this possibility.

- Jeff K. recommends fixing the small cutter and use 2-3 more years (with or without private cutting), but don't sell it and keep as a backup. Equipment not worth much so don't get rid of it. Keep it so you don't have to pay back grant.
- Bill will check on grant availability or to ability to re-apply for a grant.
- There are concerns if grants will not be available in the future or will be at a reduced amount.
- If we allocate more money for harvesting equipment, it needs to be done by December.
- Pat Strom is connecting with Jeff K on equipment.
- Need to think about who would be running new expensive equipment. New equipment is more advanced and designed to prevent damage.
- Need to create a committee to make recommendation to the board. Note that forming committees may take time and might need to make a decision sooner.

Conclusions:

Current equipment needs repair. May be able to get 2-3 more years of use with existing equipment if motor is repaired on the small cutter. A decision will need to be made to repair and keep existing equipment and/or purchase new equipment. Decisions will depend on grant eligibility, the possibility of not being able to chemically treat the lake, and whether private cutting will continue. A committee should be formed to make a recommendation to the board.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Check on grant availability and eligibility	Bill Monfre	Next meeting

Agenda item: Private cutting options **Presenter:**

Discussion:

- Background: Originally there was not private cutting but decided to do it since we had the equipment.
- Likely losing money on private cutting, but it may look good politically.
- It is hard to estimate actual cost of private cutting. Costs are not divided between public and private cutting.
- Most board members feel that we should not do it if it is not economical. Some concern if we would lose membership if it were discontinued.
- Should find out true cost to operate cutters so we could charge that for private cutting but should also know the cost for future investments.
- Harvesting should be for the betterment of the lake and focus on the public areas. Focus on the message of "good for all". Disassociate from special interests/favors.
- Social media may be offsetting advertising that was done with cutting in the past.

Conclusions:

Get more information on costs and decide on private cutting at next meeting.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Get cost estimates for cutting and the number of current private cuttings and donations.	Karen Monfre	Next meeting

Agenda item: Update on Bouys **Presenter:** Todd Dobberstein

Conclusions:

Did not get an update from Kort but will have an expense coming up. May be able to get a grant to cover costs.

Agenda item: Eagle Creek Cost Sharing - Update on Options **Presenter:** Bill Monfre
Paul Seidenstricker
Jeff Puissant

Discussion:

- Bill and Paul met with David Fox from Eagle Creek. David Fox has contacted 2 consulting firms regarding the scope requirements of the application and the cost associated with developing and implementing the scope items. He expected to have estimates back by mid to end of Sept. and will get back to us with the estimates.
- \$30k that we have allocated may be inadequate, may need up to \$100k
- Eagle Creek may be reluctant to give us full veto power on expenditures, may need to approve each P.O. to make sure we can afford it.
- Another option would be to approve expenditures if they exceed the estimates (assuming solid estimates).

Conclusions:

Wait to see what the estimates are and propose that we need to approve expenditures that exceed the estimates.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Bring estimates from Eagle Creek to next board meeting	Bill Monfre	Next meeting

Agenda item: Formation of comprehensive plan commission **Presenter:** Todd Dobberstein
Jeff Brunson

Discussion:

- SLCMP suggests forming committees to bring recommendations to board.
- Todd passed out a document (created by Todd and Jeff B) with suggestions for standing committees and what they would oversee.
- Need to recruit others from membership (non-board members) to be on committees and have a board member chair the committee.
- A SAWM task list document (created by Todd and Jeff B) was passed out. This will be used to create a working spreadsheet of tasks that need to be done and the timeframe. This should help streamline meetings and have a game plan going into the meetings.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
✓ Review committee document and decide which committees you are interested in.	All board members	Next meeting
✓ Fill out SAWM task list spreadsheet.	All board members	Next meeting

Other Information

Special Notes:

- Lidia Williams from WAMSCO attended the meeting.

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Gary DeFere, 2nd by Chuck Schreiter, motion carried.
- Meeting was adjourned at 8:06 pm.