

Shawano Area Waterways Management Inc.

Annual Meeting Minutes

June 3, 2023

Smalley Park

9:00 am

Meeting called by: Todd Dobberstein

Note taker: Carla Osborne

Attendance: 55 SAWM members including board members: Todd Dobberstein, Carla Osborne, Karen Monfre, Bill Monfre, Bart DeFere, Zach Pedersen, Wanitta Charnon, Dave Zelinger, Ron Schumacher, Jeff Brunson, Paul Seidenstricker, Jeff Puissant

Agenda: DNR & Sheriff Department Update, Minutes, Treasurer Report, Re-election of board members, Walleyes for Tomorrow Update, WAMSCO, Weed Spraying Update, Weed Cutting Update, Water Level Update, Q & A

Minutes

Agenda item: DNR & Sheriff Department Update

Presenter: George Lenzner
Rich Wright
Clark Delzer

Discussion:

- George Lenzner (Sheriff Department) – Make sure people use common sense. Do safety checks on boats – registrations, floatation devices, fire extinguishers.
- Rich Wright – (Sheriff Department) / Clark Delzer - (DNR) – use common sense approach, look for safety factors on waterways, sandbars, shorelines, fishing. Check recreational traffic - Life jackets, slow no wake, noise complaints. Members would like reinforcement/education on slow no wake by new bridge, navigation along buoy lines, noise by airport, passing of boats in channel by jet skis, right of way rules, distance from shoreline. Call Sherriff Dept or DNR tip line if you see issues.
- Rule change: Spotters/observers are not required if the boat/jet ski has a wide lens mirror.
- Would like volunteers to be on a contact list to help assist boaters when they are not available. This would be to help boaters that have run out of gas or broken down, not in a law enforcement capacity.
- SAWM will be putting up new signs on the new bridge and no wake buoys behind the sandbar.

Agenda item: Meeting minutes from June 4, 2022

Presenter: Todd Dobberstein

Conclusions:

- Motion to accept the minutes by Jeff Brunson, 2nd by Dave Zelinger, motion carried.

Agenda item: Treasurer report

Presenter: Karen Monfre
Zach Pedersen

Discussion:

- Annual Report – will be doing each year.
- Donation income was higher than dues income.
- In 2022, \$35,000 in grants received. DNR reimbursed 50% of buoy expense (expense has doubled), \$27,000 for Comprehensive Lake management plan, \$1000 for Clean boats/Clean water program.
- In 2023, received grant for %50 of new harvester.
- Major expenses in 2022 were for water level project, buoys, and equipment maintenance.
- Thanks to municipalities for support. In addition to annual meeting, SAWM will be giving updates to municipalities. Working on increasing visibility.
- Have \$400,000 in cash, \$300,000 is reserved for new harvester. Grant for new harvester was approved for \$600,000. SAWM provides ½ of the grant (\$300,000). SAWM was able to negotiate new harvester price down to \$500,000 so now SAWM's cost will be \$250,000. New harvester will be in place in 2024.
- Need to continue to increase membership. Currently have about 50% of property owners.
- Need property owners to become members to have evidence of support to be eligible for grants.

Conclusions:

- Motion to accept the Treasurer report by Nitta Charnon, 2nd by Doug Engle, motion carried.

Agenda item: Re-election of Board Members

Presenter: Todd Dobberstein

Conclusions:

- Motion to re-elect Jeff Knope, Bill, Monfre, Jeff Puissant, Bart DeFere, and Carla Osborne for another 3-year term by Zach Pedersen, 2nd by Jeff Brunson, motion carried.

Agenda item: Walleyes for Tomorrow

Presenter: Ken Vanden Plas

Discussion:

- Challenging year for the hatchery. Water temps delayed the hatching (it took 29 days this year, typical is 2 weeks). Numbers of fry were down to 4.5 million, normal is 5 million. Had great volunteers this year. Fry put in Shawano Lake and Washington Lake. Tagged Walleyes, Northerns, & Muskies to track activity and locations to find potential spawning beds. Will then be able to improve spawning beds. Limit is 3 Walleyes/day at 18" or larger.
- Kids fishing day will be August 13th.
- Tours of hatchery are available.

Agenda item: WAMSCO (Waterway Association of Menominee and Shawano Counties)

Presenter: Chantelle Marotz

Discussion:

- Non-profit, fully funded by grants and donations.
- Goal is to protect & improve the watershed of Shawano & Menominee counties.
- Provides area education programs.
- Has projects to prevent invasive species.

- Does shoreline restoration and native plantings to help reduce erosion, stabilize shorelines, reduce runoff, & reduce nutrient load. Has cost sharing programs and help for shoreline restorations.
- Currently replacing signage at boat landings for invasive species.
- Has done native plantings at Swan Acres landing and Glas Coffee house – now maintaining.
- Did a shoreline survey that became part of the Comprehensive Lake Management Plan.
- Now doing streambank inventories to identify sights with a high sediment load.

Agenda item: Weed Spraying Update

Presenter: Bart DeFere

Discussion:

- Chemicals are working well for controlling weeds. Bart cannot do private spraying. Can only treat areas that are approved by DNR. Cost of chemicals is \$5200 -\$6000/ treatment. Treatment is applied to 7 areas on lake for a total of 52 acres. Will treat this year about 1½ - 2 weeks before July 4th.

Agenda item: Weed Cutting Update

Presenter: Todd Dobberstein

Discussion:

- Had issues last year with equipment. Have done maintenance on old equipment to get through this year. Next year we will have a new harvester and barge.

Agenda item: Water Level Update

Presenter: Jeff Puissant

Discussion:

- Currently have a temporary permit to keep the water level at 802.9 msl through November 15, 2023. On December 22, 2022 an application was submitted to FERC for a permanent amendment to keep the water level at 802.9 msl. The final comment period for the application ended on May 4th. Now we are waiting for the final response from FERC. SAWM and the consultant (Sullivan and Gomez) feel confident that it will get approved, but there is no recourse if it does not get approved. SAWM will send an email notification as soon as we get a response from FERC.

Other Information

- SAWM worked with the County and State to get the new bridge built higher & wider than the original plan.

Adjournment:

- Motion to adjourn the meeting by Karen Monfre, 2nd by Nitta Charnon, motion carried.
- Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am.