

SPRING LAKE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 237
NESHKORO, WISCONSIN 54956
SLMD Newsletter May 2019

Dear SLMD Members:

The SLMD Annual Meeting is Saturday June 22, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. at the Town of Marion Hall. We will have a social hour with refreshments following the meeting.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Treatment Progress

Spring Lake's two primary aquatic invasive species are Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and curly-leaf pondweed (CLP). Spring Lake also has significant populations of non-native narrow-leaf cattails.

Wisconsin Lake and Pond Resources treated a total of 4 acres of EWM and CLP on May 15, 2018. The treatment of EWM in the south basin immediately south of the narrows was quite successful. No actively growing beds of EWM were located during the May 10, 2019 AIS survey conducted by Cason & Associates. A smaller cluster of EWM growing across from the boat landing in the south basin in 2018 was chemically treated in May 2018. This EWM cluster was substantially reduced in size but scattered EWM plants were identified in two 0.1 acre areas near and across from the boat landing during the May 2019 AIS survey.

The 2019 AIS survey also identified CLP and scattered EWM in the north basin at the inlet of the north springs (0.7 acres) and CLP in the northwest bay of the north basin (0.3 acres). The CLP puts out turions, or wintering buds, so SLMD expected reduced populations of CLP to be present this year and require treatment. Cason & Associates will be treating these two areas in the north basin during the week following Memorial Day. 2.4 acres of CLP were treated in 2018, whereas the area for treatment of CLP in 2019 is only 1.0 acres. The treatment costs and AIS surveys for 2019 will be approximately \$3,000 less than budgeted.

Volunteer divers Bill and Peter Hutchinson hand-pulled EWM in June 2018 with boat and removal assistance from Kathy Hutchinson.

Arnie and Marty Wilke, Mike and Glenda Olszowy, and Bill Hutchinson removed reed canary grass in Spring Creek (Sucker Creek) between the carp weir and Spring Lake Estates Drive on June 2, 2018.

Carp Barrier Repair

SLMD contracted for the removal of the deteriorated iron barrier grid and fabrication and installation of a stainless steel replacement grid on carp weir located on the Robert Walejko/ Spring Lake Farms, Inc. properties on Spring Creek upstream from Spring Lake Estates Drive. Venwal Mobile Welding completed the fabrication and installation in September 2018. Arnie Wilke assisted with the removal and replacement of the barrier grid. The repair was accomplished at a cost of \$1,721, which was \$279 below budget.

Carp Weir Repair and Maintenance Easement Agreement

The carp weir, originally installed in 1964, is located on Spring Creek. Robert Walejko and Spring Lake Farms, Inc. (Walejko family), insert own the land on each side of Spring Creek upstream from Spring Lake Estates Drive. Walejko and Spring Lake Farms, Inc., agreed to enter into a written easement agreement with SLMD for the sole purpose of maintaining and repairing the carp weir. For many years the Walejko family has generously given permission and full access to SLMD members to maintain the carp weir, and, recently, to complete the removal and replacement of the steel grid barrier. The proposed easement agreement, will be a legal document recordable with the Waushara County register of Deeds as an interest in real estate. This will ensure that SLMD will have the ability and right to go on the easement property to continue with carp weir maintenance and repair, when, or if, the Walejko or Spring Lake Farms, Inc., parcels are sold to a third party. The easement right-of-way is 20 feet on each side of Spring Creek and runs from Spring Lake Estates Drive north to 10 feet past the location of the carp weir. The Walejko family and Spring Lake Farms are generously providing the easement to SLMD without compensation. SLMD will pay the cost of recording the signed agreement.

The easement agreement will be considered at the annual meeting, at which the SLMD Board will seek a vote of the membership approving the agreement.

Financial Audit

Glenda Olzowy and Kathy Hutchinson did the financial audit in the Spring of 2019.

Clean Boats Clean Water

Marty and Arnie Wilke provided information for two hours on May 26, 2018, to public users of the boat landing regarding boat AIS cleaning and removal.

Healthy Lakes Grant

In October 2018 we informed SLMD members of the opportunity to participate in a Healthy Lakes Grant application to the Wisconsin DNR. The potential projects for grants were native shoreline plantings, rain gardens, fish sticks, water diversion practices and rock infiltration practices. Eight SLMD property owners participated in the grant application.

SLMD was awarded a grant in the amount of \$17,050, which is 75% of the total project costs of \$22,805. The grant runs from April 15, 2019, thru December 31, 2020. The projects include 6 native plantings, 8 rain gardens, 1 water diversion project, and 1 fish stick. The maximum grant amount for any one project is \$1,000. Property owners will advance funds for the projects, and will be reimbursed their 75% grant funds when projects are completed. SLMD receives and disburses the funds and ensures documentation is completed properly. SLMD contributes its administration, but does not have any significant expenses related to the grant projects. Property owners agree to keep the property improvements and plantings in place for a minimum of 10 years.

The SLMD Board is willing to make another grant application for 2020-21, if there is member interest in the grant projects. Since plantings will likely occur in the summer or fall of 2019, the full benefit of these projects and grants will not be fully visible for at least two years when the plantings and rain gardens are in full mature bloom.

Member Participation in Volunteer Activities 2017-18

The long-term health and well-being of the Spring Lake and its ecosystem is greatly affected by our collective and individual efforts. We urge you to learn about and be able to identify both aquatic and land invasive species. Consider the effect of shoreland activities, such as landscaping and shoreline plant buffer zones, when planning improvements of your properties. Consider how lawn fertilizers and weed control chemicals may affect the plant health and water quality of Spring Lake. Let us know about your concerns and share your knowledge with others on how to maintain and improve Spring Lake.

Summary of SLMD activity:

- ❖ 2000 - Property owners formed an organizational committee resulting in a petition to the County to form a Lake Management District.
- ❖ 2001 - first SLMD Annual Meeting was held in June with first SLMD Board election.
- ❖ 2002 - 1st treatment for Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), 7.1 acres treated in spring.
- ❖ 2003 - SLMD received Grant to have a Lake Management Study done
- ❖ 2003 - 1st treatment for Curly Leaf Pondweed (CLP) treated in a test patch on North end of lake, accomplished with donations from property owners in that area.
- ❖ 2004 - Restoration & Management Feasibility Study completed; EWM treated, 2.92 acres on 6/2
- ❖ 2005 - CLP and EWM treated, 4 acres total on 5/12
- ❖ 2006 - CLP treated, 1 acre on 5/1; EWM treated, 3 acres on 5/8
- ❖ 2007 - CLP treated, 3 acres on 5/2; EWM treated, 3 acres on 5/17
- ❖ 2008 - CLP treated, 3 acres on 6/3
- ❖ 2009 - CLP treated, .8 acres on 5/5; EWM treated, 6 acres on 5/12
- ❖ 2010 - No treatment done, monitored status of AIS and health of native plants in lake
- ❖ 2011 - CLP treated, .27 acres; EWM treated, .58 acres - both on 5/10
- ❖ 2012 - CLP/EWM treated, 1.25 acres on 4/17; CLP treated, 2.65 acres on 4/30
- ❖ 2013 - CLP treated, 2.7 acres; EWM treated, 5.3 acres - both on 5/10
- ❖ 2014 - EWM treated, 1 acre on 6/4/14; hand-pulling removal, 2 acres on 8/8/14, .43 acres on 9/14/14.
- ❖ 2015 - EWM (0.9 scattered acres) hand-pulling removal around lake- targeted areas 7/17/15, 8/30/15, 8/31/15
- ❖ 2016 – EWM treated (2.4 scattered acres), hand-pulling around lake; treated narrow-leaf cattails in narrows
- ❖ 2017 - EWM hand-pulling by 2 divers; hand removal of reed canary grass
- ❖ 2018 – CLP and EWM treated; 4 acres total on 5/15/18; hand removal of reed canary grass
- ❖ 2019 - CLP and scattered EWM treated in north basin; 1.0 acres

Kevin Milliken, Chair –SLMD

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