

# ANNUAL MEETING

AUGUST 26, 2005

The 2005 Annual Meeting of the GLRD was called to order by Chairperson, Ernie Chiodo. All Board members were present except Steve Kuksa (excused). Jeff Thornton (SEWRPC) and 22 residents present.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

**Approval of Minutes of 2004 Annual meeting read by Secretary, Pearl Seavitte.** Bob Chudy corrected the 2004 minutes stating that 17,000 trees were planted in 2004. Minutes approved as corrected. Fred Ekornaas/ Bob Chudy.....Motion carried.

**Budget Hearing:** Rich Gossling stated that the storage fee for the harvester for this coming year will be cut in half. Perhaps the savings can be used for harvester driver training. He suggested that we contact the harvester manufacturer to come to George Lake to do the training.

First item to be voted on was the \$8220 for herbicide treatment for 2006. A motion to accept the proposed budget amount for herbicide treatment was passed....Jeff Coultrip / Gayle Chiodo. Motion carried with 3 opposed

**Adopt Budget:** A motion to accept the entire budget.....Fred Ekornaas / Bob Chudy..... Motion carried with 1 opposed.

**Election of one Commissioner:** Gayle Chiodo nominated Jeff Coultrip. No other nominations. Jeff Coultrip was elected as the new commissioner. 1 opposed.

## **Committee Reports:**

**Audit:** Sam Seavitte read the district 2004 audit report. Bob Chudy / Fred Ekornaas. Motion carried

**Weed Control:** Carrie Miner stated that there were a total of 160 hours spent cutting weeds on the harvester since May 27, 2005

. **Grants:** Pearl Seavitte is waiting for final recommendations from the SEWRPC grant.

. **Lake Monitoring:** Bob Chudy stated that e-coli levels in George Lake are great. Ernie Chiodo said that George Lake's Sechi depth is much better this year than when he began taking this reading in 2001. The best reading was on June 1, 2005 with a reading of 8 feet. It has continued to improve over the past 4 years.

**Dredging:** Carrie Miner stated that the cost of dredging would be over 1 million dollars. There are no grants available and no DNR permits, therefore, dredging does not look promising. Perhaps we could get permission to at least explore the opening of the underground springs.

**Raise Wages of Harvester Drivers:** Ernie Chiodo said that it was very difficult to get drivers this year so maybe we should pay a higher hourly wage. Jeff Coultrip stated that we now pay \$10/hr for beginning drivers and \$12/hr for more experienced drivers. Barbara Boyle stated the need to put a want ad in the paper early in the spring or late winter. Sam Seavitte suggested the problem is not a wage issue but rather advertising and seriously looking for qualified drivers. Jeff Coultrip suggested that the wage issue be the decision of the Chairperson as long as the increase stays within budget. Rich Gossling stated that the wage increase may help attract more employees but now with herbicides there is not much work (cutting) to do after the spring or early summer.

Sam Seavitte suggested setting exact expectations of the harvester driver's job. He said we need to look a little harder for people who would be interested in this short summer job. Fred Ekornaas suggested we ask any retirees who live around the lake if they would be interested. He stated that he thought college age was the wrong end of the age group.

It would be nice if people in the area could be hired and that way we would keep the money in the community. Ernie Chiodo suggested that the hourly wage be a Board decision.

**Picking up Lake Weeds:** Sam Seavittte stated that when residents rake up Chara from their lakefront, they also pick up mud, dirt, clams, and stones. This is too heavy for the weed harvester to pick up and could possibly damage the conveyors. As written in the Newsletter, the chara needs to be rinsed off before putting on the pier. If the weeds on the pier are full of mud, etc., they will not be picked up.

**Update from SEWRPC:** Jeff Thornton stated that since his last report he has looked at the sediment characteristics by conducting a sediment probing. The readings give some confidence that the lake basin has not changed much in 40 years; therefore, this indicates that not full dredging is warranted. The wetlands are picking up deposits so there are higher accumulations of sediment near wetlands. He suggested we manage human activity in such a way as to match George Lake with that human activity. He does not feel he could recommend \$1million to dredge George Lake unless there is grant money available. Permits for dredging are difficult, if not impossible to obtain from the DNR. George Lake will always be a shallow lake but the rate of sediments accumulation is slow. We need to watch large construction projects and watch erosion protection. When you see erosion protection down, make sure you report it. He recommends replacement of rip-rap and vertical walls with a vegetative buffer. Plant a natural shore landscape which will keep unwanted water fowl from your property. Do not fertilize near the lake. Continue water testing. Thank you-- Ernie Chiodo. George Lake's water clarity going the right way. When water clarity improves, you are doing something right. Combining Herbicides and harvesting is doing a good job.....CONTINUE. Chara in the lake is a good sign. Chara only grows in good quality lakes. With new parking area you have adequate water access which should satisfy state statute and help implement some parts of this plan. With adequate public access we can access state money. The plan draft will be finished by the end of the year. Appreciate being at the meeting.

Julie Serritella asked Jeff Thornton about the promised survey to all area residents. Jeff Thornton forgot about that survey and will mail them out at the end of October. The survey will not identify sender but just state comments.

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:** Julie Serritella suggested that the Annual meeting agenda and budget be sent to all residents.

Sam Seavittte suggested the Board set meetings for the coming year.

November 4, 2005  
February 3, 2006  
May 5, 2006  
August 4, 2006  
August 25, 2006  
November 4, 2006

Jeff Coultrip explained that the timing of the herbicide treatment somewhat depends on the DNR. If the DNR will permit earlier treatment, it will reduce the amount of decaying plants that contribute to the sediment. The best time would be mid May after the spawning season.

Ernie Chiodo explained that the water clarity was very clear at the beginning of the season but gradually diminished because of the heat, lack of rain and algae.

Jeff Thornton stated that the idea is not to upset the ecology of the lake. We need to work with nature. Herbicides target Milfoil only. Milfoil blocks sunlight from other plants in order for these plants to grow. Harvesting and Herbicides will give the advantage back to native plants but we will not have a weed free lake.

Rich Bonner stated that the herbicide treatment was killing Lilly pads. The Lilly pads around him turned brown. He asked if the chemicals drift in areas where they do not want treatment.

Jeff Thornton said that water lilies can be affected with herbicides and therefore granules are used to reduce the drift effect. Water Lilies are not protected but considered a good habitat. DNR staff oversees herbicide treatment.

Bill Serritella asked if we could look into something other than herbicides.....maybe gravel.

Jeff Thornton said placement of pea gravel would not be permitted by the DNR.

Julie Serritella asked if a lake front home owner did not choose herbicides but chose hand cutting the weeds, could that home owner have equal money for the hand cutting treatment?

Fred Ekornaas suggested that the manual harvesting be done by pre-release prisoners. They need transportation, food and supervision. Young people are not willing to do this work or are not interested.

Rich Gossling asked if landscapers could get a crew to work on the lake. If anyone knows a landscaper, please let us know.

Laurie Bonner stated that she did not like the idea of "criminals" working around her property. She would feel uncomfortable. Can you request not serious felons?

Fred Ekornaas expected this comment. We would have to address this issue. He has not heard of anyone having problems.

Gayle Chiodo stated that the DNR suggests that backwashing near shore makes the ground more fertile, by stirring up sediments and therefore allows more weeds to grow.

Rich Gossling said that backwashing started when there were so many weeds floating near shore.

Jeff Thornton explained that milfoil fragments spread milfoil. By picking up floaters you will minimize unnatural spreading of milfoil.

Fred Ekornaas asked how much a synthetic barrier would cost.

Jeff Thornton did not have an answer. He explained that the options for weed control are herbicides, manual, harvesting and beetles which are not effective with boat traffic. A lake drawdown can be unpredictable for some plants to grow...ie cattails.

Rich Gossling stated that the questionnaire for herbicide treatment be sent to residents in January 2006. This will get the request for the permit to the DNR much earlier and allow us to treat on a timelier basis.

Bill Serritella asked how we can implement some other options.

Ernie Chiodo suggested a committee. He appointed Bill Serritella and Rich Bonner to serve on the committee to look into other options of weed control and implementation. They can decide the name of the committee.

Jeff Coultrip will give Bill Serritella the names of all the lake residents who did not choose to use herbicides. These would be possible committee members.

Ernie Chiodo asked if this new committee would report about other options at the November 4, 2005 meeting.

Set Date for 2006 Annual Meeting: August 25, 2006 Fred Ekornaas / Jeff Coultrip. ....Motion carried

Adjournment: 9pm Fred Ekornaas / Jeff Coultrip.....Motion carried.

Commissioners to elect their new Officers after Adjournment

The district met and elected the following officers for the next year:

Chair: Ernie Chiodo  
Secretary : Pearl Seavitte  
Treasurer: Jeff Coultrip

Respectfully submitted: Pearl Seavitte, Secretary