



**Mayoral Candidate Questionnaire**

**Questions Submitted By**

**The Springfield Lake Shore Improvement Association**

**Responses provide by Jim Langfelder**

1. Lake Springfield Priority. What is your top priority for Lake Springfield?

Maintaining a quality, reliable and sustainable source of water for public use and protecting the recreational and residential quality of the Lake Springfield.

2. Future of CWLP. Given changes in state and federal energy and environmental laws and the economy, what is your expectation for the future of CWLP? If you anticipate closure of CWLP in the foreseeable future, what do you propose for the city to do regarding:
  - a. the power plant, and its equipment?
  - b. those currently employed by CWLP?
  - c. any effect on the care and maintenance of Lake Springfield?

CWLP will continue to be forward looking, strong and sustainable and serve our community efficiently in the future.

In 2015, I came into office with CWLP electric having less than 5 days of cash. Due to our proactive measures of refinancing bonds, rate stabilization restructuring and operational efficiencies, we have established an environmental fund with over \$20 million and over \$60 million for operations and capital projects.

On December 8, we will have a ground breaking on CWLP's Coal Carbon Capture/Sequestration project with the U of I for Dallman 4. This futuristic transformative project could extend Dallman 4 longevity beyond 2040 and open up and improve global economic and environmental energy markets.

In addition, we have an agreement with EmberClear natural gas plant and continue to work towards a sustainable solar option so we have a proper balance of reliable sources of electricity. We are proactively monitoring legislative proposals through our lobbyist, CWLP and the Illinois Municipal League because future legislation can disrupt current operations and initiatives.

We have responsibly retired Dallman 31, 32, and 33 and have transitioned employees to continue to deliver reliable and affordable electricity and water to our residents.

3. Beach House Development. What is your vision for the future of the Beach House at Lake Springfield? Who would be in charge of the care of this property if it is developed? Is there any thought of reopening this area to the public for swimming, a restaurant, or any other usage? Please explain actions you will take to address the future of the Beach House.

Coming out of COVID, recreational spaces have gained greater importance. The City and Springfield Park District have partnered successfully to improve use and enjoyment of park areas. The Beach House area could lend itself to such a partnership that would include greater recreational and other amenities, like a restaurant. The Beach House and surrounding area can be a public/private development that benefits the public and provides recreational access. Regardless of the development, the City must provide oversight and be a responsible partner to assure that the integrity of the development is upheld and benefits the public. An RFP has been issued which includes potential City/CWLP assistance on development costs, to assure accessibility.

4. Other Commercial Development. What are your thoughts on additional commercial development on Lake Springfield -- do you favor or oppose additional restaurants or other services for general public usage? What are your thoughts about a potential casino at Lake Springfield? How should the type and location of any additional commercial development be managed to preserve the character of the Lake?

As in question #1, the top priority is to maintain a quality, reliable and sustainable source of water for public use and protecting the recreational and residential quality of Lake Springfield. With the exception of the Beach House Area and other areas already established, i.e., Marina and Lake Clubs, would be the only areas for public access commercial development. There is not a need for a casino on the lake. In addition, we signed an agreement with DNR to assure that Lake II is only

for recreational purposes and provide an emergency backup water supply that would feed into Lake Springfield.

5. Lake Dredging. A significant dredging program for Lake Springfield would be beneficial for the health and maintenance of the Lake and for the quality of city water. Would you support a dredging program for Lake Springfield? If so, how do you anticipate a dredging project would be funded?

Yes, I would support a dredging program for Lake Springfield. Cove areas should be phase I and can be paid through Lake II or backup water source bonds and grants.

6. Circulators. A recent proposal to install circulators in Lake Springfield was met with a great deal of opposition. Will you commit to oppose any further consideration of the circulators and similar equipment installations?

Per CWLP Engineers' recommendation to address water quality, the proposed circulators were brought forward for public discussion. From that process, it was collectively decided to move forward with a broader study of options and include a greater accumulation of annual data to identify and address the "Lake Turnover" affect. The City Council approved funding for the study. Once the study is complete, a public discussion will be held on the need of remediation and if necessary, the best alternative option to pursue.

7. Lake II. What is your outlook and timeline for Lake II? What are the next steps for this project? If the Army Corp and other necessary approvals are not forthcoming, will the proposal be terminated? When will this be determined? What will be the consequences if the choice is made to end this project? What will be done with the property purchased by the city for Lake II?

Aside from Springfield, Lake Springfield is the primary water resource for Rochester and other neighboring communities and is the emergency backup water supply for Chatham. Since 2015, we have supplied Chatham with water approximately 10 times; however, Springfield does not have an emergency backup water source. Water is the essential resource for Springfield's viable and sustainable future. Establishing a reliable emergency backup water supply is critical. The Army Corps of Engineers goal is to have a Record of Decision "ROD" on Hunter Lake, aka Lake II, in 2023. At that time, the City will move forward with the construction of Hunter Lake as the recommended emergency back up water source for Springfield. If Hunter Lake is not built, the property will be used for the benefit of the public, which could include recreational and/or green

energy initiatives.

8. Deer Population Control. The current pilot deer hunting program at Lake Springfield has both opponents and proponents, and its effectiveness is not clear. What will you do to address the deer population around the lake?

In partnership with DNR, the City has implemented a pilot deer harvesting/hunting program. We need to analyze the pilot program annual data, i.e., deer population changes, etc. so appropriate actions can be taken to improve the effectiveness of efforts to responsibly control the deer population.

9. Building and Zoning Variances. (a) Do you support an Ordinance that would grandfather any dock longer than 35 feet if it has existed for 5 years or more? The existing variance process that must be completed for a sale of property with a longer dock is time consuming and interferes with pending sales. (b) How can the city more effectively manage variances, allowing reasonable exceptions while avoiding negative effects on neighboring property?

Yes, I will support an ordinance that will appropriately inventory and grandfather in docks that existed for over 5 years. We have worked with the LSIA to establish a review process to approve new docks to minimize the potential negative effects on neighboring properties.

10. Lake Road Multi-use Safety. (a) Will you initiate action on a long-discussed project to improve West Lake Shore Drive to make it safer for joggers, cyclists, and walkers? Sharp curves and minimal shoulders make this road particularly dangerous. (b) Bike paths on both East and West Lake Shore Drive and connections to the UIS and LLCC campuses would improve health and safety for recreational use of lake roads. Will you support adding bike paths around Lake Springfield? When can progress be expected?

Through our infrastructure improvements, the City has expanded and improved bike-able and walkable areas. The safest pathways, especially around curving lake roads, would be off-road walking and biking pathways that reach other connection points, like UIS and LLCC. For example, my administration took a 20-year multi-jurisdictional road project in Hilltop Road and completed it to include off-road walking and biking pathways. We will designate additional funds and continue to search out grants to expedite biking and walking connectivity around the lake.

11. Sewer Upgrades. Will you support continued work to complete Lake Springfield area sewer upgrades in a timely manner? Do you see this work as a priority?

Yes, to both questions. As stated in question 1, water quality is a top priority along with protecting the recreational and residential quality of the Lake. Having sewers around the lake and maintains and protects the Lake's water quality. Under my administration, we have prioritized the use of ARPA funds to do the engineering survey and design work to phase in sewer lines around the lake. This proactive engineering work will help us budget and apply for grants more efficiently and with greater success. The first phase of our sewer extension is underway on Linden Lane.

12. City-wide Priorities. What are your top priorities for the city of Springfield? What is your plan to attract business and industry in order to add jobs and people to the city?

In the Post COVID era, quality of life is a pivotal factor for long-term business attraction and retention. Springfield ranked in the top 5 best places to live post pandemic, due to Springfield's excellent medical and healthcare industries, ability to provide remote work opportunities, affordable living and other factors. Aside from what was mentioned previously and the priority of providing quality, reliable, sustainable, and affordable water and electricity, here are a few of my priorities to improve Springfield's Quality of Life for People and Businesses to Thrive:

1. We have taken actionable steps to improve and will continue to expand Springfield's quality of life through recreational partnerships like the YMCA, Springfield Park District, UIS, and private developers with the Scheels Sports Complex.
2. Continue our efforts to capitalize on Smart City's initiatives for broadband access and a safer community. Building upon CWLP's Lighting infrastructure and broadband, we have implemented and will continue to expand technology like ShotSpotter Connect, License Plate Readers, and Traffic-preemption equipment so police and firefighters can respond faster to emergencies and use data to deter violence through predictive analytics.
3. Retain and create vibrant areas through community partnerships. Through coordinated efforts with the Springfield Sangamon Growth Alliance, SSGA,

we will continue to expand our efforts to build on our targeted industry sectors like medical, insurance and financial, technology, energy, etc. to retain and attract complimentary businesses. In addition, we will expand workforce training efforts to address gaps of service. One such initiative is with Bloomberg Harvard redevelopment housing anchor project. Instead of tearing down dilapidated housing, it would be assessed for potential renovation. Rehabbed housing can be used for work force training and first-time homebuyer opportunities to stabilize and revive neighborhoods.

Other continuing and new initiatives will be discussed in the upcoming months. If you have questions or would like to discuss anything, please call me at 217-691-5708. Thank you for this opportunity to share my comments and ideas.

Sincerely,  
Jim Langfelder  
Mayor