



## SLPID October MINUTES

October 15, 2020, 6:30 pm, Malta Community Center, Malta NY.

SLPID Lake Administrator: Cristina Connolly. SLPID Commissioners: Town of Stillwater, Karl Hardcastle, Town of Saratoga: Tom Carrangi, Commissioner at Large: Victor Mazzotti, City of Saratoga: Kathy Simmonds, Town of Malta: Walter Supley. Weed Harvesting Supervisor: Lonnie VanBuren. Lake Consultant: Dean Long. Excused: Assistant Treasurer, Michael VanPatten.

**Call to Order:** The monthly meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by Chair, Kathy Simmonds. Kathy requested all comments be held until after each report is presented. The Agenda was presented for review. COVID attendance sheet and questions were presented to all present, which all verbally agreed to no symptoms of COVID-19. Kathy stated going forward the meetings will be held via Zoom.

### **Public Comments:**

No public comments. Cristina Connolly received an email from Pat Tuz stating she wants SLPID to write a police blotter page for Saratoga Lake to submit to SLA newsletter.

### **Secretary's Report: (Debbie Curto)**

Public notice published for October monthly meeting. For the record, announcement of the referendum vote to purchase a new truck not to exceed the amount of \$75,000 was announced at the conclusion of the September meeting and was unanimously passed.

A review of the September minutes was presented, Victor Mazzotti MADE A MOTION to accept the minutes as noted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Walter Supley. MOTION CARRIED.

Updates to website were completed. Reached out to Sarah Cole regarding her schedule and views on website. She is willing to continue to offer her assistance and expertise with the website.

Global Foundries has grants that SLPID may qualify for. Secretary will look into them and review with Cristina. Suggestions for funds to be used for floating classrooms for education.

Karl Hardcastle MADE A MOTION to approve Secretary's Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Victor Mazzotti, MOTION CARRIED.

The following documents/exhibits used at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes
3. Public Notice

### **Assistant Treasurer's Report: (Cristina Connolly for Mike VanPatten)**

Register report and statement of revenue and expenditures were distributed to Commissioners via email prior to meeting for review. Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to pay bills in the amount of \$6329.83, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Walter Supley, MOTION CARRIED.

Tom Carrangi MADE A MOTION to ACCEPT the Assistant treasurer's report 2<sup>nd</sup> by Walter Supley, MOTION CARRIED.

The following documents/exhibits used at the meeting

1. Financial Statements: Balance Sheet, Income Statement.
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliations
3. Weekly Payroll Reports
4. Monthly Vendor and Invoices

### **Lake Administrator / Stewardship: (Cristina Connolly)**

Sept 21 - Mini Bid requests have been submitted for a new dump truck. Cristina will review with Lonnie VanBuren bids for the purchase. 6 solicitations were received a low \$49,000 - \$56,000. Tom Carrangi question whether any bids were received from the past vendor. Cristina did not know who that was.

A New York State OGS account has been set up at Staples for office supplies.

New tax exempt letter was received.

Draft bylaws were sent out to all commissioners for review and comment. They have been reviewed by Michelle Anderson, atty. Next few months will be working on insurance documents, employee manuals, procurement management guide, OSHA and safety guidelines.

Property owner phone calls have quieted down as season comes to end. Still some concerns over neighbors doing lake shore projects i.e. environmental complaints – working with DEC and Army Corp to resolve them.

Fish count information was sent to all commissioners in the update. Dean has a contact at SUNY Oneonta, they use different technology than DEC and will find out more for fish count which he can comment on later.

There has been a rumor circulating that a snakehead fish has been found in the lake – this is unfounded.

DEC Fisheries (Chris Powers) will be spending more time next year on Saratoga Lake as it is ranked #15 in NYS. Would like to work closer with SLPIID and SLPIID include outreach education on fisheries and wildlife.

Cristina asked the board for permission on a written policy for public comment period. This will be a 2 minute rule at the beginning of the meeting with no Q and A and public not speaking during the meeting so the meeting can stay on task.

Lake Stewards: Monday October 12<sup>th</sup> was the last day. The weekend was very busy as the weather continues to cooperate. Many day users, fisherman and hunters. There are still fishing tournaments going on.

Boat Wash Station – averaged 50-60 boat washes per day. The program was more efficient this year and we have received many positive reviews from state agencies.

Looking at alternatives to control aquatic weeds. Positive comments received from residents and agencies.

Outreach to property owners (housing). The consensus from all is outreach is needed to property owners on stormwater runoff and nutrient loading. Where the majority of homes are around the lake on the east side is where the Aquatic vegetation is worse. Tracey will cover in water shed update plan. Cristina gave Tracey the final information on the boat count and Tracey is including it all together.

Safety Issues: There are no accidents / safety issues to report.

Victor Mazzotti questioned if there was an update on the floating islands. There are 8 inlets to the lake. Dean Long commented there are variable results. Could test a site at Manning Cove which is an easy place to study and watch. Sailing Club could be another test site. Victor asked what the cost is. Dean stated the PolyDock is more expensive \$10,000 basic island. Other companies to look at are Everblue Lakes, Princeton – they do everything Solitude does. Cristina will speak with Blue if there are volunteers around to help create a floating island more for educational purposes, she has learned that a small 8 x 8 will clean approximately 1 acre of lake.

Blue stated the Buffer Handbook is complete and cost of \$5000 - \$8000 for the printing. Blue has the ability to pinpoint only direct property owners if a mailing is to be done and can also go on the

website. Cristina said the book has been of great value over the past several years for property owners within the watershed and can be used next year with workshops. Requesting from the board \$2000 of the unused \$6000 from the 2020 education budget can be used. The book can target property owner addresses. Blue is looking for SLPID to help offset the cost. Cristina did reach out to SLA to see if they are interested in helping to cover the cost. Elliott stated only if the SLA logo was on it. Karl Hardcastle questioned how many copies we would get. Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to pay \$1500 to Soil and Conservation for the printing of purchasing books, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tom Carringi, MOTION CARRIED.

Permitting: Cristina is waiting to speak with Ed Kinowski about the two streams on either side of Browns Beach carrying more sediment into the lake. She has posted photos and videos of them and an algal bloom. She will speak with him when more information is gathered and asked Dean to reach out to the Lake George Association on their reclamation program. Kathy Simmonds requested Dean prepare a timeline so everyone can further understand the process.

#### **Lake Level: (Tom Carringi)**

202.60. There is a small regatta scheduled for Oct 31 – Nov1.

#### **Weed Harvesting: (Supervisor)**

Harvesters out on October 6. The winter stick buoys were placed. They are working on harvester repairs. During the cleanup on south end, the belt was damaged due to rocks on the shore. In regards to purchasing a new harvester, this is the best option to get rid of weeds to purchase new equipment. The weed problem has outgrown our equipment. Purchasing a new FX-11 harvester and new conveyor is needed. SLPID has only the two machines and its time to expand and do more. One harvester is 16 years old. Victor Mazotti MADE A MOTION to have a referendum vote for the purchase of FX11 Weed Harvester and conveyor not to exceed \$400,000, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kathy Simmonds. MOTION CARRIED. Walter questioned putting it out to bid. Dean Long stated it is a sole source and we will stay with the same supplier. He will issue documentation for the record noting the sole source. It was determined the referendum vote will be held at the November meeting. Ballots will be requested by email and mail and sent to Secretary.

#### **Aquatic Weed Control: (Dean Long)**

Observed water celery on the north end. Aquathol does control it. Will look into other possibilities to control. Larry Eickler will map density and issue report in the coming weeks. There is still minimal Eurasian water milfoil. Herbicide treatments for 2021-will treat both sides of Kaydeross for water chestnuts with no swimming restrictions. Solitude will be writing its final report in the next coming weeks and Dean will make recommendations.

Letter will be sent out tomorrow to DEC regarding the permit for docks at Saratoga Marina and 550 Waterfront Local, as the docks currently interfere with navigation. Hoping DEC can enforce the removal of them.

Walter Supley stated he noticed very few zebra mussels this year. Kathy Simmonds she experienced the same. Cristina Connolly stated there are a lot of zebra mussels on boats coming out of the lake. Victor Mazzotti asked how bad the zebra mussels are. Zebra Mussels make the water clear but alters eco system. The zebra mussels spit algae back into water – which creates different changes in the water.

#### **Water Shed Management Plan (Cristina Connolly for Tracey Clothier)**

Task 1 Description of the Watershed is underway. It includes the following information. The outcome of this task is the Watershed Existing Conditions Report. Completion is anticipated by the end of November 2020.

1. Update the general description of the watershed with existing information and data.
2. Update the inventory and assessment of streams, wetlands, and land uses.
3. Estimate watershed land use and vegetation loading factors.
4. Complete all base maps including:

Land Use Map of the whole watershed which will be used to develop a stormwater model.

Subwatershed base map that only shows the boundaries the watershed for Town of Saratoga, Stillwater, Malta and City of Saratoga Springs.

Soils map for the subwatershed map.

Streams and Wetlands map for the subwatershed as well. The intention of the map is to convey where the pollution vulnerabilities are around the entire lake and where we can plan improvements.

Aquatic vegetation map with historic comparisons.

### **Communications Report: (Walter Supley)**

Walter has paid \$10 to boost facebook post reaching 1500 people. Walter would like to see this as a budget item. Dean stated there is a communications budget. Kathy stated she would like it stated in the minutes that \$600 is being allocated for social media.

### **Old Business:**

Walter questioned what the cost would be to stock the lake. Cristina replied DEC stocks the lake with Walleye fry and the next stock will be in a few years after all of their fish counts are done. It would not be feasible for SLPID to stock fish. Kathy stated this information was in the summary update email Cristina previously sent out. Dean stated 1.3 million Walleye are stocked in the lake near Riley Cove. Cristina said typically 8 to 8.5 million are stocked and in 2018 they stocked 13 million fry. Walter would like to see other species stock such as Bass or Perch. Karl replied there are Bass. Cristina said no because Bass typically adapt to the environment and will lay more eggs if needed. Whole lake survey will be in 2025. Netting for pan fish will be done 2021 when ice is out. Cristina has been invited to participate in this event. SUNY Oneonta does a hydro-acoustic fish survey. We will have them come next Spring.

### **New Business:**

Draft bylaws – were submitted to Commissioners prior to meeting for review and comment. Some commissioners stated they hadn't had time to review these documents so action was deferred to November meeting.

1) Ethics

2) Executive Sessions

3) Conflict of Interest – Karl felt the oath of office with the county Commissioners sign cover this. Kathy stated no this is a conflict of interest statement for doing business with SLPID. Karl questioned why there is a statement about missing 3 meetings. Both Tom and Karl stated they are volunteers and should not be held to this standard. Victor mentioned to make it a more general statement. Kathy commented that no one would be asked to leave providing they had an excuse for missing a meeting here and there plus there is zoom or phone in to the meetings. She reminded that the Commissioners are representing their district.

4) Written Policy on Public Comment – 2 minutes – no questions or answers

- 5) Procurement Management guide – how much money is allowed to be spent without board approval? General comments was its in the budget. Kathy stated we should have a not to exceed limit \$500. It can be a verbal approval. Karl stated some equipment for the Weed Harvester is expensive and when there is a breakdown, it needs to be purchased immediately.
- 6) Credit Card holders – Secretary (under Debbie's name) and Weed Harvesting Supervisor
- 7) Check Writing – Asst Treasurer and Lake Administrator
- 8) Post Office Keys – Asst Treasurer and Secretary
- 9) Building (Garage) Keys – Weed Harvesting Supervisor and Lake Administrator
- 10) Passwords for everything – 2 people should have

Kathy Simmonds MADE A MOTION to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of personnel matter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Karl Hardcastle. MOTION Carried.

With no other business presented, by common consent the meeting ended at 8:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Deborah Curto  
SLPID Recording Secretary