

**SLPID Meeting VIA ZOOM  
May 20, 2021  
APPROVED minutes**



Call to Order: 6:30 p.m. Presiding Chair: Kathleen Simmonds

Roll Call

**Commissioners present:** Town of Stillwater, Karl Hardcastle. Town of Saratoga, Tom Carringi. Commissioner at Large, Victor Mazzotti. City of Saratoga Springs, Kathy Simmonds. Town of Malta, Walter Supley. Commissioners Absent: None

**Staff present:** Recording Secretary Deborah Curto. Lake District Administrator, Cristina Connolly. Weed Harvesting Supervisor, Lonnie Van Buren.

**Others:** None

**Public Comment:** None

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Secretary report (Deborah Curto)**

\*Present April 2021 minutes. **Discussion:**  
None

**Motion to accept April 2021 minutes:**

First: V. Mazzotti      Second: K. Hardcastle      All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

\*Present monthly secretary report:

**Motion to accept Secretary report:**

**Discussion:** D. Curto asked to make name tags for Lake Steward staff. Cristina will send information for nametags next week.

First:                      Second:                      All Commissioners present voted:

**Treasurer report (Mike VanPatten)**

\*Present monthly bills to be paid.

**Discussion:** Via email to commissioners: Monthly financial statements, bank reconciliations, payroll, and invoices for approval. Total cash year to date is \$772,000, Total assets year to date is \$1,350,000. The current bills to be paid are \$14,810.00. Total Equity is \$1,345,000. **Motion to accept to pay the monthly bills:**

First: V. Mazzotti      Second: W. Supley      All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

\*Present monthly treasurer report:

**Discussion:** Did receive \$2,000 from the City of Saratoga Springs, and they will re-instate the \$5,000 next year. All funding is cut due to COVID.

The census report did not come this year. Kathy stated we do not have a formal agreement with Saratoga.

**Motion to accept Treasurer's report:**

First: K. Simmonds

Second: V. Mazzotti

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**Lake Administrator (Cristina Connolly)**

**\*Safety Report.**

**Discussion:** Cristina met with a representative from the Department of Labor on-site with Lonnie. We reviewed OSHA and policies required by law to be in place. Cristina is creating a workplace violence policy, training, along with the portion in the HR manual. There have been instances on the lake where we have had issues with public harassment of employees. The staff needs to be trained as to what to do in these situations. CPR and First Aid training took place for employees (Harvesting crew and administrator). A couple of items need to be purchased. **\*Lake Steward Report.**

**Discussion:** Cristina is currently doing online training for lake stewards and still in the hiring process. NYS Parks will provide a parking attendant and increased law enforcement at the launch for the stewards. Educational events are all set for June 9 and June 13. She is also waiting on Coast Guard Auxiliary for dates to conduct boater safety checks. They are waiting on Covid procedures to be lifted. **\*Lake Admin. Report.**

**Discussion:** Cristina reminded the Treasurer the Riley Cove lease payment is due. The truck is getting a bed liner and should be delivered next week. Conveyor still on schedule for the end of June, July. Same with Harvester.

Cristina met with Sara Dorsey, who is currently conducting the audit. Sara requested a couple more documents, and they were forwarded to her.

Chair Simmonds asked Cristina to report on the update of the overlay district and amending the legislation during her report:

Tom Wood, Town of Saratoga Supervisor, asked Cristina to attend the May meeting to explain the Zoom meeting between him and SLPID. Cristina's opinion is the meeting went very well, and Supervisor Wood agreed. The supervisor thought it was a good idea for SLPID to be involved with SEQR input. At the end of the meeting, the ZBA chair thought it was not a good idea. Cristina summarized SLPID's goal of an overlay district for the entire lake for stormwater regulations to fill in the gaps where there are none, and she spoke with Blue Neils of CSW. Blue can assist SLPID and the municipalities with organizing and administering this. She also gave an overview of amending the legislation and the district boundary line. Supervisor Wood asked her thoughts on boat inspections, tagging, dock, and boat regs. The comments were positive. One board member disagreed with the overlay district commenting this is in place in the Town of Saratoga and does not want to see another regulatory agency oversee the small property owners. It bothered him that SLPID wants enforcement power. He thought the Town was already doing these for land use. Cristina said they are understandably on the defense, and the Town Board members are doing their due diligence with specific questions. They were all appreciative and are waiting for the next step. Cristina said the next steps are 1.- for Blue, Tracey, Dean, and herself to meet, put on paper a draft of the overlay district with pros/cons, what the gaps are, funding, and administering. 2.- Forward to the SLPID commissioners for their comments. 3.- Host a workshop with all the municipality's representatives together to agree. A word document of the legislation with SLPID Commissioners input was forwarded to the SLPID attorney for comment and proceeding with that. Cristina stated the Town Board members all felt revisiting district boundaries, boat, and dock regulations make sense. One member commented that boat and dock regs come up regularly in discussion and felt that SLPID should

not have backed down and had a responsibility to continue pursuing dock and boat regs in 2012 and if so, we would not have the mess today. Victor asked if they would be willing to give us more revenue to accomplish that and if the Towns were willing to give us money?

#### **Weed Harvesting (Lonnie Van Buren)**

**Discussion:** The harvesting crew of Patrick, Mark, and Lonnie began on May 3. Mark was formerly a Lake Steward. The crew has received first aid and CPR training. Lonnie will conduct safety data sheet training next week. Harvester training for Mark will begin next week. Repairs have been made to get ready for harvesting, including heavy equipment repairs on the shore conveyor with all the dented and damaged stainless steel beltings replaced. A big job was the slide material. The Lowrance unit transducers were replaced with a much stronger and permanent bracket added. Harvesters went in the water on May 18. Dept of Labor consultation. We are almost in full compliance. Today five of the six buoys were put in the lake. The sixth buoy will be put in after the regatta. Next week we will be in the water full time.

#### **Lake Level (Commissioner Carringi)**

**Discussion:** lake level today is 203.23. The Lake level has been going down. Chair Simmonds asked Cristina if the boards at the dam were out? Cristina responded yes, last they called her, a couple of weeks ago.

#### **Water testing CSLAP (Commissioner Hardcastle)**

**Discussion:** Equipment should arrive end of May, and we will start taking samples in early June.

#### **Aquatic Weed Control (Dean Long) \*Herbicide treatment update.**

**Discussion:** Kara Sliwoski will be doing a site inspection of the 37 acres on the east side that will be treated with ProcellaCor. June 6 is the treatment date, with June 14 being the rain date. Very small and targeted treatment. Victor asked about the sediment. Dean said a study and analysis would be needed to get some grant monies. We need to get the additional information and make sure the Towns will work with us on this topic. We need to look at the watershed and changes and show the record to confirm the need for a grant. Commissioner Mazzotti asked for a timeline on this. Dean said some are ongoing as part of the watershed plan, and some of it himself and Cristina will do more site work and testing. Dean may have some of the prior documentation updated by the July or August meeting.

Cristina asked Dean about purchasing a turbidity meter for a couple of hundred dollars, doing our testing, and saving money? Commissioner Hardcastle asked Dean if this is a turbidity meter? We could add it to the water meter. Dean said that would be the other option. Karl said he would get a price on it. Karl asked Dean if we should continue to test for ecoli? Dean said we need to refocus the testing. Dean said SLPID was doing 14 sites, and it should be cut back to 5-6 sites where no one else is testing. Dean will review data and send Karl and Cristina an email with the best spots before beginning.

#### **\*Floating island update.**

**Discussion:** Dean and Cristina looked at the streams in the Town of Stillwater to Malta town line. It had rained three days before, and the streams did look clear. Cristina took a high flow and low flow and awaiting test results. Continue down this path, get the results and decide from there. Commissioner Mazzotti asked if we should ask the Town of Stillwater if they want to pay for the floating island? Dean thinks it would be wise to firm up what they would be willing to do. Dean and Cristina will draft a letter to the Town of Stillwater. At last month's meeting, Cristina stated that the SLPID board decided to wait until next year to firm up data on the streams and decide on placement. There is sedimentation build-up, and

we have ongoing complaints from property owners that it is so bad that they have problems accessing the lake and putting docks in the water. Part of the proposal could be to do a feasibility study. Victor stated he feels we should move forward. Tracey said a proposal would be needed and a feasibility study.

**Grants, Watershed Management plan (Tracey Clothier) \*Watershed management plan update.**

**Discussion:** Tracey sent out a report by email today to Commissioners suggesting to form a subcommittee. What problems are you trying to solve, and what is the realistic approach to take, and what is the support of the towns? Worthwhile to think it through before we go any further. Commissioner Mazzotti said I thought you, Dean, Blue, and Cristina were going to draft this together, have the Commissioners review for revisions, and then we can have another meeting with the Towns together? Legislation is moving forward on its own, and we know it may take 3-5 years or not happen at all. We should look at another process, continued testing, looking at all the culverts and inlets, and looking at the dredging. Victor said we are all in agreement to move forward with the next step. Tracey asked if everyone knew what an overlay district is? All commented yes.

Tracey said she had done a lot of work on the land-use report portion and what is different in each community and how they are different. When you talk to the Towns, they all think they have sophisticated land-use regs in place. Chair Simmonds asked, will this be finished soon? Tracey said, yes, it will as the Town are all quite similar with their regulations. It will be completed next week, along with the recreational portion. The towns with professional staff do pretty well and are trained.

Grants came out last week. The only thing that Tracey can match up is a consolidated funding grant application for a local waterfront revitalization program, which was discussed, and she knows the Board does not want to pursue this. There is a possible grant for dredging called a Water Quality Improvement Program. She will review and try to find a program that could help us. Commissioner Hardcastle asked the culverts on the lake are state-owned and wouldn't be the ones to repair/maintain? Tracey said, No, not necessarily. Mike VanPatten asked if the grants were reimbursable? Does SLPID have to spend the money first to be reimbursed? Tracey said County Soil and Water has put in multiple grants- we can speak with Blue on that. Tracey will continue to review and find what, if any, grants SLPID could benefit.

**Resolution #26-2021**

Whereas the Commissioners approve to contract with Rick-Lederer-Barnes of Upstate GIS to complete GIS mapping for the Watershed Plan Update. This will be at a rate of \$80/hour with a not-to-exceed amount of \$2500. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action to contract with Rick Lederer-Barnes of Upstate GIS to complete the GIS mapping for the Watershed Plan update, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the district.

First: Victor Mazzotti

Second: Kathy Simmonds

All members present voted: YEAH

**Communications (Commissioner Supley)**

**Discussion:** Facebook post-Aquatic Invasive species floating classroom - 2,776 people viewed, 238 likes. The Take the Pledge post was not boosted - 146 views, 13 likes. Fisheries post - 3,461 views and 374 engagements for boosting that ad.

**Old Business:**

Amending SLPID Legislation

**Discussion:** Chair Simmonds commented already discussed.



**New Business:**

**Discussion:** Commissioner Hardcastle questioned if we were going to stop the Zoom meetings? Chair Simmonds replied. No, there is no need to. Commissioner Hardcastle wants to resume in-person meetings saying we are all vaccinated. He sees no reason to continue to Zoom. Chair Simmonds stated our consultants live in Lake George, Slingerlands and Lonnie live far away, and from a budget standpoint, we are saving money in overtime. Commissioner Hardcastle stated, if you do not have a computer, you cannot attend the meeting, Lonnie can with his telephone. Chair Simmonds said her years with SLPID, there is no difference in public attendance with an in-person 6:30 meeting or a zoom meeting. Debbie said there is also computer access at the public library, her years with SLPID, there is very little public attendance at 6:30 meetings. Mike stated the Treasurer's reports could be signed in person. Debbie said they can still be signed over the computer, and in a pdf, the report sent for review via email does hold a basis. Commissioner Carrangi suggested Zoom is very convenient for him, especially this time of year with work and driving in the winter, and zoom is working for him; he is split. Commissioner Supley stated he is not getting his covid vaccine, and if that is a factor with him being a commissioner, he understands, in-person helps with Commissioner Camaraderie. Commissioner Mazzotti is open to both options. Debbie is in favor of Zoom. If no computer, you can use a phone like Lonnie, and we get very little public input. Cristina said zoom is better to avoid late-night driving. Commissioner Hardcastle then asked for an explanation of how the meetings are on the website?

**Discussion:** Sandy Bay property is for sale. People have contacted the Town of Malta which calls have been referred to Cristina. Several interested parties would like the lake frontage to do daily dock and mooring rental. Cristina would like to call Saratoga Plan to see if they are interested in purchasing and allow SLPID to use for educational classes. The property is landlocked, accessible by boat, and owned by a property management company for \$54,000. It would be a great add-on for educational events for SLPID. Commissioner Hardcastle stated it is landlocked and owned by Skidmore, a swamp, wetlands, and no buildings can be built on it. Chair Simmonds said she did walk the land with a realtor, and it may be a nice piece of land for educational uses. Cristina mentioned for a floating island as well. Cristina asked again for approval to contact Saratoga Plan, it will not hurt? The Board agreed.

**Motion to Adjourn at 7:58 p.m.**

First: V. Mazzotti

Second: K. Hardcastle

All Commissioners present: YEAH

Approved minutes signed by Chair of the Board, Kathleen Simmonds

