

**SLPID Meeting  
Malta Community Center  
June 17, 2021, at 6:30 p.m.**



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

**Commissioners present:** Town of Stillwater, Karl Hardcastle. Town of Saratoga, Tom Carringi. Commissioner at Large, Victor Mazzotti. City of Saratoga Springs, Kathleen Simmonds. Town of Malta, Walter Supley.

**Commissioners absent:** None

**Staff present:** SLPID Recording Secretary Deborah Curto. SLPID Lake Administrator, Cristina Connolly.

**Others:** Lake Consultants- Tracey Clothier, Dean Long.

**Excused:** Assistant Treasurer, Michael VanPatten. Weed Harvesting Supervisor: Lonnie Van Buren

**Public Comment:** None.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

Commissioner Simmonds, Thanked Cristina for the event last Sunday, members and presenters Dean Long, Tracey Clothier, Blue Neils, Dustin Lewis, and Lauren Henderson. Commissioner Supley commented he ran a Facebook post on the Lake Community workshop 2141 people saw the post.

**Secretary report (Deborah Curto)**

**\*Present May 2021 minutes.**

**Discussion:** minutes presented:

The following documents were submitted at the meeting:

Draft Minutes

**Motion to accept May 2021 minutes:**

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

**\*Present monthly secretary report: None Discussion:**

**Motion to accept secretary report: None**

First:                      Second:                      All Commissioners present voted:

**Treasurer report (Mike VanPatten)**

**\*Present monthly bills to be paid.**

**Discussion:** The bills paid before the meeting were \$87,691.58 plus an additional \$5,184.51. The total bills to be paid is \$92,876.58.

**Motion to accept to pay the monthly bills:**

First: W. Supley              Second: T. Carringi              All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**\*Present monthly treasurer report: 2022 Budget presentation**

**Discussion:** The Education line item was not used last year due to Covid. Cristina prefers to keep the line item at \$6000, the board approved. Dean asked what the herbicide treatment line item is? \$75,000. Cristina requested any changes or comments from the board to email Mike. We will have further discussion at the next meeting. Cristina stated \$434,910 would be the amount we receive in 2022. \$35,750 was transferred in 2020 for lack of funds from over expense of herbicide treatment. Commissioner Mazzotti questioned when the agreement is due with the Towns and City? Cristina has a list of items to save for and asked if anyone had questions and to consider changing the name of 2022 aeration treatment to water quality and combining the line items in the event of a new invasive species to combat. Commissioner Hardcastle questioned wages in budget? He feels raised wages should be in the budget. Commissioner Simmonds stated the budget needs to be to the county by August.

Cristina said commissioners might want to think of bonuses as an incentive for seasonal employees to return and help them with expenses, health insurance or consider offering health insurance. A considerable amount of time and training goes into employees. Commissioner Simmonds had asked Cristina to look into the cost of health insurance. Bonuses were taken away by commissioners last year. Commissioner Mazzotti stated bonuses are not allowed. Cristina said yes, they are. Debbie stated health insurance could not be given to seasonal employees. Cristina said yes, seasonal employees could receive health insurance as it is up to the employer. It was questioned, how do we know what the bonus would be used for? Cristina said that is the employee's decision. Commissioner Simmonds stated to consider a flexible health account. Insurance can be obtained through AMSURE or NYSHIP. Commissioner Simmonds questioned if the Stewards have tablets? Cristina said we have six, they work slow, and most use their phone.

The following documents were presented:

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

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

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

**Lake Administrator (Cristina Connolly)**

**\*Safety Report**

**Discussion:** A creepy guy at launch. Email sent to Commissioners for camera quote Park police have increased their presence. Cameras must be approved by Parks legal department and may not happen. Commissioner Mazzotti asked if anyone took a picture with their cell phone? The man was also found in the shed. Commissioner Mazzotti asked if the cameras would be monitored? The Commissioners agreed it would be a good idea to move forward.

**\*Lake Steward Report**

**Discussion:** Many boats on the lake, considering the launch closes early and South Shore is taking in fewer boats to launch.

The floating classroom went well and received good feedback. The second classroom was canceled due to the weather. The presentation Sunday was also well received with good feedback. Comments from the public have been positive and there is further interest to see additional programs. Cristina will be attending the SLA meeting next week and discuss education events and if they would like to contribute.

**\*Lake Admin. Report.**

**Discussion:** Conveyor and harvester are still on schedule for July.

Truck – still waiting on spray-in bed liner, do not understand what is taking so long and have not heard back.

We continue to receive many of the same phone calls asking for boat and dock regulations and angle placement for docks. An attorney from the Jones law firm called to ask questions on dock and boat regs as he has several lawsuits. The HR manual is still in review. They are on vacation for a couple of weeks. Cristina spoke with Sara Dorsey, and she also needs a couple more weeks to finish the audit.

Floating Islands – Cristina spoke with Supervisor Kinowski. He does not think it is a good idea. The sedimentation issues must be addressed first. Then, impeding with navigation, attracting waterfowl, lake views in front of property owners. Same issues SLPID has discussed. Would an island be necessary once the sedimentation issue is corrected?

Cristina discussed with Supervisor O Connor the property at Sandy Bay and Deputy Supervisor Mark Hammond, chair of the Open Space Committee.

**RESOLUTION #27-2021**

Whereas the Commissioners approve to contract with Saratoga Surveillance, Daniel Brown, for installation of a 4-camera surveillance system at the New York State Boat Launch Steward shed. The cost of the surveillance system is not to exceed \$749. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action to contract with Saratoga Surveillance, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: V. Mazzotti      Second: T. Carringi      All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**RESOLUTION #28-2021**

Whereas the Commissioners approve to contract with NE Aquatic Weed Harvesting, LLC., for rental of a Weedoo machine with an operator to remove water chestnuts at the mouth of the Kaydeross Creek.

The contract period is July 26, 2021- July 30, with a bad weather date of August 2, 2021 – August 6, 2021. in the amount not to exceed \$9,500. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action to contract with NE Aquatic Weed Harvesting, LLC, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: W. Supley      Second: T. Carringi      All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**Weed Harvesting (Lonnie Van Buren)**

**Discussion:** Machines currently are at the North end; weeds are starting to pop out. Karl said he does not see Crispus at all. Dean has seen a fair amount of Crispus. Dean stated we should get 2-3 years from the treatment.

**Lake Level (Commissioner Carringi)**

**Discussion:** 202.67 lake level today. (handout)

**Water testing CSLAP (Commissioner Hardcastle)**

\*NYSFOLA and DEC contract to manage the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program.

**Discussion:** Testing to begin on Monday. Different creeks will have samples taken this year as opposed to those taken from last year. Dean suggested cutting sampling to three times for the season. High numbers in the past are due to geese, except for Sucker Brook caused by farm runoff. One sample has been taken for CSLAP with 14 feet of visibility after very heavy rain. The magnesium oxide filter is attached and there is relatively light phosphorous. The report was forwarded to commissioners.

Funding is expected to be cut for CSLAP next year. Dean Long will compose a letter for Nancy Mueller of NYSFOLA.

Karl reached out to YSI, and a turbidity probe cost is \$1,100.00. Karl is not sure where we would use it other than Sucker Brook. Walter questioned if CSLAP measures that? Karl recommends holding off that expense. Dean felt it was not something we should undertake at this time.

Motion for Dean Long to draft a letter to Nancy Mueller of NYSFOLA on why CSLAP data is important for SLPID and Saratoga Lake.

First: V. Mazzotti

Second: K. Hardcastle

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**Aquatic Weed Control (Dean Long)**

**\*Fish Creek remediation**

**Discussion:** Cristina did four-stream samples in Stillwater to determine what stream was delivering the most sediment. The stream at Cozy Cottages had slightly higher turbidity between 8-14, which is not a lot.

Restarting sampling for e-coli with \$2,000 allocated, so we should stay under budget by \$1,000 this year by cutting back.

Fish Creek – Reviewing the 2010 Hydrologic study from SLA, the stream width changes from 270 to 190 feet wide where the sediment has accumulated. The depth is reduced to around 5 feet so there may be over 10 feet of added material on the stream bottom.

FEMA does have specific programs for stream restoration with 160 pages of guidance to review. Dean said he would like to talk to Delaware County Soil and Conservation District as they do a lot of stream restoration and fill us in on how to go about it, the paperwork, and if this is a fit for SLPID. It is a two-step process. Early assessment, eligibility impacts, historic resource impacts, how it fits in with other communities along the waterfront. It is geared toward a more complex

waterfront. By operating Winnies Reef dams, we can adjust the lake level before a storm and adjust for property owners to do waterfront work. Although, Central Rivers has done a much better job operating the dam and is keeping consistent levels. There is an approach here and a category this could fit in. Commissioner Mazzotti asked if Dean would meet with Delaware this month and report to the board if FEMA will pay some money?

Dean replied that if we removed the fish creek sedimentation, we can quickly lower the lake the end of October, drop the lake down, and remove sediment. We may be able to get the State to pay or the Town of Stillwater? Commissioner Mazzotti asked if this was feasible for this fall? Dean Long said no, it could take years. Commissioner Mazzotti asked who is in charge of FEMA and how can he get a face-to-face to meet these people?

Commissioner Simmonds stated we had talked a lot about sedimentation. Before we jump into Fish Creek, we need to review where we should spend our funds. Do we want to prioritize Fish Creek or the other sites? Dean said it is a process and as a first step getting Fish Creek done could give flexibility for removal at other sites. Commissioner Simmonds is right; we need to prioritize other sites. Hopefully, it will work out and have the right FEMA buzzwords. We would still have to deal with FEMA and Army corp of engineers for the lake sedimentation removal as well.

Commissioner Simmonds questioned if this delta in Fish Creek is within SLPID doing this? Dean stated No. However, it is an impediment to the lake. Cristina said SLPID does have a contract with the dam. Does that matter? Several meetings will be needed to determine if this category fits in for funding. Commissioner Mazzotti asked if Dean has filled out any forms yet? No, Dean has not reviewed any yet. There is a lot to it with; first, contacting Delaware County and others who have done this to find how the process works and contact names. We need to see how the process goes and if it fits. Again, Commissioner Mazzotti asked Dean if he will contact Delaware County and what the timeframe is? Commissioner Mazzotti asked if this is an application or letter? Dean said he assumes. Dean will reach out to people to find contacts and have a discussion if it fits. Commissioner Mazzotti asked if we don't do this and just do sedimentation on the lake, what is that process again? Dean said, we would go out there, do a survey, figure how much dredging, where to access, and do it when the lake is low with DEC's approval. Commissioner Mazzotti said for Dean to send a letter out and make contacts. Commissioner Hardcastle said if the lake is lowered enough, Town trucks could drive out there with no problem.

**\*Biobase renewal**

**Discussion:** Dean is still working on how to map the Biobase from last year. This year they are starting and stopping and see if it is easier. Cristina asked if this should be an item on the budget next year-yes?

RESOLUTION #29-2021

Whereas the Commissioners approve to renew the Biobase contract with Navico for a twelve-month subscription beginning August 14, 2021, in the amount of \$1,399.50. NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action to renew the Biobase subscription with Navico, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: W. Supley

Second: K. Simmonds

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**Grants, Watershed Management plan (Tracey Clothier)**

**\*Watershed management plan update.**

**Discussion:** The grant we will hold off for now. The grant allows you to assess culverts and inventory streams in Stillwater and Malta and address sediment discharges for the Towns or State to correct. Commissioner Mazzotti asked, are culverts an issue? Dean said yes, some are wrong sizes, need repair, etc., causing sedimentation in the lake. Commissioner Mazzotti asked when we can get this done by? The grant is due at the end of August. Commissioner Mazzotti asked if it is beneficial for him to have a face-to-face?

**Communications (Commissioner Supley)**

**Discussion:** Last boosted post was the aquatic weed harvesting program statement. Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter were viewed by 10,000 people 600 people driven to the website. The cost of \$90 vs. the \$30 was worth the exposure. Commissioner Hardcastle stated everyone always asks him what is going on with SLPID.

**Old Business:**

**Discussion:** None

**New Business:**

**Discussion:** None

**Motion to Adjourn at 7:53 p.m.**

First: K. Hardcastle                      Second: K. Simmonds    All Commissioners present: YEAH



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Signed by: SLPID Chair, Kathleen Simmonds