



SLPID Monthly Meeting - MINUTES
August 19, 2021, noon
Malta Town Hall
SLPID 2022 Budget Public Hearing

Call to Order noon: Chair Kathleen Simmonds

Commissioners present: Simmonds, Hardcastle, Mazzotti, Supley, Carrangi

Staff present: Lonnie Van Buren (Harvesting Supervisor), Cristina Connolly (Lake District Administrator)

Others: Dean Long, Tracey Clothier (consultants)

Blue Neils, Saratoga County CCA, Sarah Dorsey, Dorsey Tax and Accounting.

***Present 2022 preliminary budget (Mike VanPatten)**

Budget attached to the minutes

Public comment on the budget: Walter Supley as a private citizen, would like to thank the SLPID Board members for all their hard work, and he supports the budget.

Motion to close the public hearing

First: V. Mazzotti

Second: K. Simmonds

All Commissioners present: YEAH

RESOLUTION #30-2021

Whereas the Commissioners approve the 2022 preliminary budget. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners approve the 2022 preliminary budget, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the district.

First: W. Supley

Second: V. Mazzotti

All Commissioners present: YEAH

PRESENTATIONS:

Blue R Neils CPESC, CPMSM

Program Coordinator

Saratoga County/CCE

ISWM Program

www.saratogastormwater.org

Discussion: Blue Neils gave an overview of the Saratoga County, Intermunicipal stormwater program. Blue has been with ISWM since the inception of the department in 2004. Three other staff members (soon to be four) beside himself lend support to 19 local governments, and they are here for SLPID as a local government to work together and share services. Blue described MS4, the Clean Water Act, the Natural Urban Program, and the six control measures for each municipality for discharges into the watershed.

Sarah Dorsey, CPA

Dorsey Tax and Accounting
Presenting SLPID 2020 audit
<https://www.dtacpas.com/>

Discussion: Sarah gave a review of the processes SLPID had in place for the year 2020. Sarah commends the board's staff for transparency, consistency and the SLPID staff for good communication. In her initial instances of review, she did not see anything of great concern. Sarah reviewed all the monthly bank statements, bank reconciliations, and they are accurate and paid on time. Upon review, the 2020 approval methods have varied and have not been consistent. However, further discussion showed that most recommendations have been implemented as December 31, 2020, with a new SLPID Administrator. Additional approvals and policies for staff payroll forms, payroll approvals, and original receipts for vendor purchases have been put in place. Reviewing the past year, all revenue agreements and receipts are in place, all bills are correctly paid on time, and payroll records have been filed promptly. Suggestions for the board going forward are 1. All independent contractors have a yearly, signed agreement in place. 2. All contractors have proof of insurance. 3. Any additional services or tasks not in the contractor's yearly agreement should first have a written scope of services with cost and time frame then reviewed and agreed upon by a board vote before any work begins. 4. Sarah cautioned the board to exercise limited control over subcontractors and what they do. 5. The Riley Cove lease agreement should be updated. 6. Review the fuel bill price before SLPID is billed to make sure it coincides.

Sarah thanked Mike VanPatten for reconciling the annual financial report and recommends keeping it consistent.

Mike VanPatten asked for Sarah to explain the difference between an audit, review, and an AUP and that this was an AUP. Sarah recommends SLPID have an AUP every three years.

Secretary report (Chair, Kathy Simmonds)

***Present July 2021 minutes.**

Discussion: None

Motion to accept July 2021 minutes:

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

Treasurer report (Mike VanPatten)

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

Discussion: The new format focuses on cash. This month, SLPID spent \$211,000 and has a total cash balance of \$384,820.04. The truck and conveyor are paid off with the bulk of the bills and additional operational expenses, including Solitude. Invoices to be approved for payment are \$116,782.94.

Motion to accept to pay the monthly bills:

First: W. Supley Second: K. Hardcastle All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

***Present monthly Treasurer report**

Discussion: Mike VanPatten stated he was scanning all the payroll information in the past couple of reports at Commissioner Hardcastle's request and asked if it is needed as it takes up so much time. The

other commissioners agreed it is unnecessary as the District Administrator reviews, approves, and signs off the payroll.

Mike VanPatten reminded the board to use caution on spending as new money does not come until March 2022. There is \$283,000 left until March 2022. The suggestion is for Lonnie to review the fuel bill beforehand and look up the Town of Malta cost per gallon for each invoice.

Motion to accept Treasurer's report:

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

Lake Administrator (Cristina Connolly)

***Safety Report:**

There were no known injuries to report. Lonnie and Cristina met to review paperwork from the state DOL Safety and Health department. There is more documentation to complete and finalize then send in by the end of September.

***Lake Steward Report:**

There have been many rain-out days, especially weekends. The number of boats going through the launch this year is considerably less than previous years so far, even before covid. 1. Weather. 2. Closing the launch down early when it gets to a certain amount of people to control the chaos. 3. About half the vehicles parking are carloads of people either being picked up by a boat to go to Sandy Bay or park and walk to nearby marinas and 550 Waterfront. Then the lot is too full for trailers with boats to park. All except one steward this year are college students, which has not been good as far as coverage of the launch, taking summer courses and are leaving after this weekend for college. One steward from the past four years is going to return to help coverage through September.

For several days, Cristina, with stewards, pulled any straggler water chestnuts after the Weedoo. She has also been conducting the standing boat count and needs one more day to complete it.

***Lake Admin. Report.**

Discussion: As of this week, SLPID owns a new dump truck. The conveyor is anticipated to be shipped out next week. There is much paperwork to review with the conveyor since it is coming from Canada, all information needs to match perfectly for crossing the border. The one problem being is the SLPID address matching the fed i.d. number. Looking back in what little records SLPID has, there are about half a dozen different addresses found that have been used. Cristina discussed this with Mike VanPatten and is going with the P.O. Box Ballston spa address. She recommends for everyone to use that address, specifically Ballston spa and not Malta.

The new harvester is almost ready to be shipped. They are waiting on Cummins to test the engine. Once that is completed, it is 1-2 days for shipping.

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

Discussion: The Weedoo worked very well comparing previous year's machines and drivers. Jim McNamee's services were excellent. The crew took twelve full truckloads of chestnuts out and simultaneously kept on schedule harvesting weeds. Lonnie recommends hiring Jim and the Weedoo in the future. The last day was debris removal at Kaydeross Creek, Point Breeze channel, and Stockholm Road channel.

Commissioner Supley asked if property owners could hire the Weedoo next year? The harvesting permit is specific to deep water, and it will be dicey to invite that. There are general permits for property owners to do matting. Commissioner Supley asked if property owners could add on to SLPID's next herbicide treatment? Dean Long said the herbicide permit targets only aquatic invasives, which we have a handle on. When conducting an herbicide treatment, a small area is not feasible. SLPID has been highly successful in eliminating the invasives. Tracey Clothier asked, a few years ago, when SLPID had the water chestnut eradication grant, how did that work? Dean Long replied, the problem was, to minimize the chemical load, we split the north and south side of the creek, which was not a good approach with the moving water. We needed to go back to the mechanical process. Commissioner Mazzotti asked, how safe are these chemicals? Dean Long answered they are only active against plants, specifically the invasive plants. The herbicide is an enzyme path interrupter either against or protective of chlorophyll.

Lonnie continued the harvesting report: This past week, the shore conveyor engine blew. Lonnie and the crew purchased a new engine, a Predator with 22 H.P. vs. the old Briggs and Stratton at 18 H.P. and at half the price. They also shortened the engine shaft. By Lonnie and the crew replacing it themselves was a substantial cost saving as it only took them one and a half days to complete, and the conveyor works better than it ever did.

***Lake Level (Commissioner Carringi)**

Discussion: 202.80

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

Discussion: the last CSLAP Secchi depth reading was 2.5 meters. During September, Commissioner Hardcastle will do the deep water testing weekly.

***Fish Creek remediation (Dean Long)**

Discussion: The challenge with remediation at Fish Creek is that there is no specific FEMA category for sediment removal that gets us away from under the Army Corp. of Engineers. It would be an aquatic habitat restoration permit. The good part is you do not have to create any compensatory wetland mitigation. The tough environmental issue is if we removed the sediment, does it impact the adjacent wetlands? It would not affect the dam operation. It just allows us to drop the water level to 199 level and then to 196 level to the bottom sill of the dam. The next step is to discuss this further with Blue and Dustin because these permits are run through the NCRS and Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Then, go to CT Male since they already have enough data to figure out what information is needed to gather and what potential impacts there would be. Then decide if we should move forward. If there is too much damage with a short-term drawdown, DEC and Army Corp. will decide this is not good to proceed. This will be what kills the idea.

Tracey Clothier asked if this would go up in priority for flooding issues? Dean thinks it could, and it would help us to lower the lake level preemptively.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked Dean what he needs, and can this be accomplished this year? Dean Long replied he needs to gather more information and discuss this with CT Male for a price. It will not happen this year, and we need to see what funding is out there. There is a lot of foundational work and pricing to see about tying everything together and if it will work.

Commissioner Supley asked if all permits go through, how long to dredge? Dean Long responded that the drawdown would be about one month and target one or two deltas per year.

Chair Simmonds reviewed that Dean Long will speak with Blue, Dustin, and CT Male by next month's meeting. Tracey Clothier will work on a grant.

Mike VanPatten asked if the grants are up-front money or would SLPID need to match funds? Not sure. Blue Neils commented another source to look at is the Northern Border Regional Communities, which is Federal and can co-mingle funds at a federal level.

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

Dean Long said the lake survey showed no milfoil in the 2021 treated location or the 2018 treatment area. Commissioner Mazzotti asked about adding the thermistor temperature recorder for next year at the cost of \$2,500. Commissioners decided to hold off for now and see about funding and where we stand next year.

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

Discussion: Chair Simmonds asked Tracey Clothier for a status update on the watershed management plan. Tracey Clothier said most of the watershed management plan is complete. However, as more items come up, there is more to add. Chair Simmonds asked out of the six tasks, where do we stand?

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| 1. Describe the watershed. | 90% complete. |
| 2. Water quality. | Complete except for 2021 information. |
| 3. Invasive species management. | Is the same, and no need for revision. |
| 4. Zoning and other regulations table. | Complete. |
| 5. Public access and recreation. | 90% complete and will do the boat count in the next couple of weeks to add on. |
| 6. Public participation. | Had a meeting with each municipality's planners, Supervisors, and County planner. We could generate a public participation meeting as a separate meeting for the October meeting. This would be an informative meeting. |

Tracey Clothier distributed the land use table for the municipalities. She will update the table this weekend to be passed out to the planners with the roundtable meeting summary.

***Communications (Commissioner Supley)**

Discussion: The SLPID newsletter post 1700 people viewed, and 127 read the newsletter. Cristina commented the feedback is that the newsletter is beautiful. Sarah Cole does a fantastic job formatting it.

***Old Business:**

Discussion: None

***New Business:**

Discussion: Commissioner Hardcastle asked about hiring a new secretary? All Commissioners replied that it is not a rush at this point.

The next SLPID meeting will be on September 30, 2021, at noon at the Malta Town Hall.

***Motion to Adjourn at 1:50 p.m.**

First: K. Simmonds

Second: W. Supley

All Commissioners present: YEAH

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read "K. Simmonds". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned on a light yellow rectangular background.