



**SLPID Meeting Minutes
Malta Community Center and Zoom
October 21, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Chair Kathleen Simmonds 12:03

Roll Call Commissioners present: Simmonds, Supley, Carringi, Hardcastle

Commissioners absent: Mazzotti

Staff present: Lonnie Van Buren, Harvesting Supervisor. Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator
Others: Mike VanPatten, Asst. Treasurer.

Via Zoom: Consultants: Tracey Clothier and Dean Long

Public: Professor Dan Buckley, an ecologist, is interested in helping with Saratoga Lake and attending the SLPID meetings

PRESENTATIONS:

SLPID Chair Kathleen Simmonds opened the meeting, Commissioner Hardcastle interjected, saying in the January Resolutions, the meetings are to be at 6:30, and why aren't we doing 6:30? Chair Simmonds said because we returned to in-person meetings from COVID and 6:30 was not an option anymore. We are trying to be more accessible to the public and each other. Commissioner Hardcastle said the Town of Stillwater Community Center would take us in the evening. Chair Simmonds said it had been agreed that is too far. Commissioner Carringi said evenings are tough in the winter for driving, seeing, and the weather, he prefers earlier. Commissioner Hardcastle said; personally, he wants 3:00-5:00 p.m. for his case. Commissioners Supley, Hardcastle, and Carringi said to push the discussion off to Executive Session for Commissioner Mazzotti to be there to decide. Cristina said the subject of meetings is not up for discussion in the Executive Session and needs to be discussed in a public meeting. Dean Long then said, correct; it is not a topic for Executive Session. Commissioner Hardcastle said he is making a motion for 3:00-5:00 p.m. for meetings here on out; at GE, he could leave his job early. Carringi said he would prefer an hour-long meeting. Mike VanPatten and Chair Simmonds said them too.

Motion to change the remainder of 2021 meetings to 3:00 p.m.

First: Hardcastle Second: Carringi All Commissioners present voted: Supley YEAH, Simmonds, No.
Motion carried 3-1.

Secretary report (SLPID Chair)

***Present September 2021 minutes.**

Discussion: No Changes

Motion to accept September 2021 minutes:

First: Supley

Second: Simmonds

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Treasurer report (Mike VanPatten)

Discussion: Mike VanPatten asked the Commissioners to please email him back a confirmation that the Treasurer materials sent are read, understood, and then confirm receipt for the record. This shows that the Commissioners understand what they are reading, and it is their oversight. Last month ended with \$241,000 in cash. As of today, there is \$194,000. We are in good shape to last until March, when the tax money is received. Mike said the Commissioners need to stop unnecessary spending outside of the budget.

Chair Simmonds asked to go over the budget vs. actual, and her total was different. Mike said he did it under QuickBooks that automatically updates the amounts, and under net numbers, one number was not color-coded correctly. Chair Simmonds then asked about the NYS past payroll and interest. It was discussed no more time was to be spent working on this. It was twenty years ago (2005)? Mike said he would complete it without charging. Cristina asked if the audit was paid for yet? Mike said he had not received an invoice. Commissioner Hardcastle questioned the fee charged on the attorney invoice and spoke to Mike about it. Mike said, yes, they are correct rates. The invoice is for discussing the SLPID Legislation, Overlay District and attending meetings on employee's status, letters to the board. The invoice was from the beginning of the year. Commissioner Hardcastle then asked for the employees' total hours to budget. He was unaware of the hours of the Secretary and the amount of money she was paid? Employees' total hours are in the regular monthly treasurer's report.

Motion to accept to pay the monthly bills:

First: Supley

Second: Simmonds

All Commissioners present voted:

Motion to accept Treasurer's report:

First: Simmonds

Second: Carrangi

All Commissioners present voted:

Lake Administrator (Cristina Connolly)

***Safety Report.** No accidents to report. Cristina does need to complete end-of-the-year forms and create safety manuals to be approved required as a unit of government.

***Lake Steward Report.** Lake stewards have ended for the season. Cristina partially reviewed and edited the data as that was all the Commissioners allowed. She only reported half her time for this on payroll to not go over hours. If there is time allowed next week, she will do more as Tracey is waiting on information for the Watershed Management Plan, and DEC and ESF are waiting on values for their reports.

*** Administrator Report.** After the last meeting, there was a substantial algal bloom on the lake that lasted for about six days. It was about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the shoreline and went out a couple of hundred feet. Commissioner Hardcastle interjected that he took a sample and sent it out. If it is toxic, they contact him directly, and so does the County Health. He met with the Supervisors on the process of contacting everyone. Also, for example, if it is toxic, by Browns Beach, they would have to shut down for one day, and he wanted to follow up on that. Commissioner Hardcastle then said Cristina previously mentioned purchasing a fluorometer. Personally, Commissioner Hardcastle thinks the County should do it. Dean commented the fluoroprobe measures algae chlorophyll and does not measure toxins. SLPID can get toxin kits for analysis. They are \$200 bucks or so. The concept is for SLPID to have a fluoroprobe to tell if

it is blue green rather than green. Dean suggested thinking of ordering it, as the opportunity to use it would be good. Chair Simmonds asked to get back to the Administrator report.

Cristina stated the State did say by the photos it was a confirmed HAB. She immediately called Dustin Lewis with the County Soil and Water District to come out with his drone and photograph so that SLPID can begin to have some solid data on these and keep better track of them. The Regional Water Engineer, Region 5, and a scientist with DEC Water Bureau had called her with concern. Blue Neils said he spoke to the Regional Water Engineer, and it is essential to define a procedure for SLPID to keep track of any further instances. Everyone is happy with her contacting Dustin to come with the drone, and Cristina will work with Dustin on future mapping and Blue for cytotoxin kits and a procedure. Cristina filled Dean in on this if he had any opinions. There were and still are many public calls of concern.

Cristina commented that Dustin's drone photos are also good for SLPID outreach programs to show property owners when discussing the Buffer Book, "Take the Pledge" and how vegetative buffers can help with stormwater management and the health of the lake. DEC asked Dustin permission to use his photos for their website. Cristina has been receiving regular calls for hard copies of the Buffer Book. Dan Buckley, who is in attendance today, sent an email of support to work with Cristina, the County, and SLA to promote the "Take the Pledge", shoreline buffers, rain gardens, and planning a day early spring for property owners.

Cristina met with the owners of 550 Union on dock placement and signage on October 8. They agreed to move eight dock spaces closest to the bridge and the long docks on the north end for non-motorized craft. They agreed to place signage on the docks for safety and stated they are within the permits issued and expressed concern that the other marinas are expanding and do not have adequate parking.

The SLPID broken computer has been fixed under warranty. However, it is unusable as there is a bit locker installed on the hard drive. Stored Tech can bypass the bit locker, and the work is paid for in the agreement for the year. Cristina did not receive an answer from the Commissioners for permission to get that taken care of as it would be under her time and she is not salary.

Cristina set a meeting up on November 10 at the County with the Supervisors and Planners to further review and discuss the potential Overlay District.

Cristina forwarded the Commissioner's information on purchasing a port-a-potty and rental at Commissioner Hardcastle's request. She did not hear back further from Commissioners. However, Riley cove is not in favor of a port-a-potty. She spoke with Supervisor Wood, who said there is no problem using the bathroom in the town garage. The Supervisor is not in favor of surveillance cameras in the building or sure of a need or the legality with the Town employees in the building. As discussed at the last meeting, there is the SimpliSafe security system already in the building. If the Commissioners feel there is a need for this, she can hook it up to the phone line. Commissioner Hardcastle then asked about replacing doors. Lonnie Van Buren said he did not see a need. Commissioner Hardcastle asked about a plexiglass screw in? Lonnie Van Buren said that could also be broken if someone wanted to. Commissioner Hardcastle commented when he went up there, he could break-in in a minute. Lonnie Van Buren said another problem is the Town of Saratoga has use of fourth bay, and the town employees use the garage. Chair Simmonds asked that we get back on track with the Administrator report, so she does not hear further complaints of a long meeting.

Cristina said she has on hold finishing the HR manual, Safety Manuals, Procurement plan, and Commissioner Manual as requirements as a Unit of Government among other tasks. She is waiting for approval on salary and hours when I can begin.

Weed Harvesting (Lonnie Van Buren)

Discussion: machines are out of the water. The winter buoys were placed. The crew is working on the harvesters, filter changes, front-end repairs. They have used up all the two-foot stainless steel belting and will need to order more next year. The paddle wheel on the H2 hydraulic line burst. They have yet to do scraping and repainting on old H1 for longer life. It is working well, and there is no problem with the hydraulics on H1. They need to reconfigure the new conveyor tongue. The H3 control seat panel was not in an ideal position, and the box was full of water after the rain. Steve with Alpha Boats will make a cover for us. Commissioner Hardcastle asked about sealing it, and Lonnie said no.

The Harvesting season went well, and the end of next week will be down to three people. Lonnie did purchase a welder. Chair Simmonds asked if Lonnie looked at the fuel bill from the town of Malta? Lonnie said Cristina did send it to him. Cristina said she added it all up, and it does not look like Malta is charging extra. She did ask at the last meeting if the Commissioners wanted her to call the Town of Malta to ask and was told no. Lonnie then said the fuel bill would be over budget given the current rise in fuel costs. Commissioner Carrangi then asked where does the fuel come from? Town of Malta. Lonnie said he is not sure if the Town bills us to trailer the machines. Cristina said yes, they do, and it was in the bills for the Commissioner's review and approval.

Lake Level (Commissioner Carrangi)

Discussion: 203.81. Commissioner Hardcastle commented this seems normal with all the rain.

Water testing CSLAP (Commissioner Hardcastle)

Discussion: Commissioner Hardcastle said he took a hazmat sample of the bloom, and he sent everything out. He needs to record the hazmat. He stated, HAB's do not happen in October and is freak thing. If it is toxic, they will give him a notice and flash him right away and the County Health Administrator. He gets notified right away and had no response, so we don't have one as he did not receive a response. Commissioner Carrangi said the truck from Carmody Ford's service fellow left and is at exit 15 now, and he told him he will take care of him.

Aquatic Weed Control (Dean Long)

Discussion: Dean first asked about the garage discussion and are the truck keys locked up separately in the winter? Yes, all keys are taken care of and not left in the garage. Given that, he does not see how anyone would break in to steal the harvesters or trucks.

On the HAB's and Commissioner Hardcastle, the Water Bureau division took over and has not created an NYHABS communication link, so there is no notice of a toxic HAB. Dean will call the lab to see if he can find what the level was. Dean stated it is a good idea for Crissy and Dustin to work up a good set of maps and photos etc., to show the entire extent of that bloom as it was clearly the largest bloom we have had and involved the entire lake. Dean said the lake is still stratified, and the dissolved oxygen (DO) profiles should still be going on to find out. There is the potential for HABS this time of year and need to keep up on data, so everyone does not forget.

The possible Fish Creek reclamation – Dean has not talked in detail with Consolidated Hydro, and it is up to them to give permission before we move further. Dustin from Soil and Water is working on his contacts and said we should get some input from DEC and Army corp. Dean is waiting to get the facts straight for further work. CT Male's quote for a detailed survey is \$10,200. Dean outlined possible funding for CT Male to be taken from the weed control budget line item, add water chestnut removal, and include the BioBase mapping work altogether. Dean would like the CT Male quote approved. Commissioner Hardcastle said yes. Dean continued that CT Male can do the job as long as Fish Creek is open with flowing water

The Watershed Management plan update has slowed down. Dean is starting to pick up some pieces and needs more information on the HABS and complete the dissolved oxygen (DO) profile testing. Dean hopes to have this for the November 10 meeting with the County to show the existing conditions of the lake, etc., where the lake is with the HABS, etc.

Dean Mentioned changes with the CSLAP program struggling, but the program will be preserved in the end.

Dean stated he had already spoken about a fluoroprobe. Crissy will follow up on toxin kits with a complete analysis. They are a little complicated, not too much. Commissioner Hardcastle asked if it is a probe. Dean said no, the toxin kits are immunological kits that create proteins that react with other agents. Dean is waiting on Darrin Fresh water's report next month to comment further on any herbicide control actions

Commissioner Supley said that he would like to get involved with the BioBase data and joined a Facebook group to help him get it figured out. Walter will sign up with the BioBase program, upload the data and do all the other work.

Cristina commented that the dam is now owned by Central Rivers Power, and she will send the contact information to Dean.

Chair Simmonds commented the grant application to help pay for CT Male was just submitted to the County, and she would like time to hear back. Chair Simmonds would also like to know if the Central Rivers Power Co. will go along with the reclamation before going further with a resolution for CT Male. The Chair then said we could push the Resolution out a month or two if needed. Commissioner Hardcastle reiterated; we can push it out until we get funding. Chair Simmonds said yes, this is what I said. Commissioner Hardcastle then said, like Dean said, we should push out funding until we hear back. Does everyone else agree? Plus, we don't have money. Mike commented, it is not that we don't have money; it is spending money outside of the budget. Commissioner Hardcastle then stated this has been going on since I have been here with SLPID for 46 years.

Communications (Commissioner Supley)

Discussion: There was a Facebook post on HAB's. He did not push it out there for obvious reasons. Commissioner Supley said he agrees with no fall newsletter. From a communications perspective, he thinks Facebook is more current, and he will take Facebook posts to make a newsletter.

Old Business:

Discussion: Commissioner Hardcastle said that according to the legislation, we have to have a secretary and is also in our initial legislation. Simmonds said the SLPID legislation also reads the Treasurer needs to live in the District, and Cristina is acting as Treasurer. Karl said, what do you mean? Mike is not the Treasurer? Mike is Assistant Treasurer, and Cristina is the acting Treasurer. Chair Simmonds asked Commissioner Hardcastle if he would like to be the Secretary to the board? Commissioner Hardcastle

said no. Commissioner Hardcastle said I would like to make a motion for a Secretary. Commissioner Hardcastle was asked again if he wanted to be Secretary and said no. Commissioner Supley said he would like to try Secretary at next month's meeting with an app to type the minutes. Commissioner Hardcastle said; secondly, he wanted to know if we do a public advertisement of the Commissioner appointments? Cristina commented, if you're going to be transparent, yes. Commissioner Hardcastle then asked about the letter to the Supervisors. Chair Simmonds said they went out in July. Commissioner Hardcastle said Chair Simmonds's term was up this year. Chair Simmonds said no, she was just appointed. It is Commissioners Hardcastle and Mazzotti. Commissioner Hardcastle said no Commissioner Mazzotti was appointed last year. Chair Simmonds said that he took over mid-term, and the term ends at the end of this year. The Commissioner appointments will be advertised for public awareness. Commissioner Supley said he wants to be the Secretary with a trial next month.

New Business:

Discussion: None

Motion to Adjourn at 1:13 p.m.

First: Hardcastle

Second: Supley

All Commissioners present: YEAH