



**SLPID Meeting Minutes  
Malta Community Center and Zoom  
December 16, 2021, at 3:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** Chair Kathleen Simmonds 3:00 p.m.

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

**Staff present:** Lonnie Van Buren, Harvesting Supervisor. Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator  
Others: Mike VanPatten, Asst. Treasurer. Consultants: Tracey Clothier and Dean Long

**Public:** Dan Buckley, Walter Borisenok, Michael Reilly, Peter Brooks

**PRESENTATIONS:**

I am Kathy Simmonds, SLPID chair and commissioner Saratoga Springs, Vic Mazzotti, commissioner at large, Walter Supley commissioner Town of Malta, and Karl Hardcastle commissioner Town of Stillwater. Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we received a couple of letters saying what a great job the SLPID Administrator, Cristina Connolly, is doing for us. One letter is from Supervisor Tom Wood, Town of Saratoga, on behalf of the Town Board, saying what a pleasure it is to have one point of contact and how things have worked out really well this year as far as building relationships with the Town. The second letter is from John Boyle, the owner of 550 Waterfront, also saying it was a pleasure to work with Cristina as far as re-locating the docks.

Chair Simmonds announced that the County Board of Supervisors had received three applications for 2022 open commissioner appointments. One for commissioner at large and two for Stillwater commissioner. One gentleman said he could not make it today, but I believe the other two are here.

Walt Borisenok and Mike Reilly. Walter Borisenok said he applied for at large position, feeling he could help out with the lake. He has been a resident for 64 years on route 9p and has time to commit.

Mike Reilly stated he has been a resident for 37 years, grew up in Stillwater. He was a commissioner in the '90s for one term. He is interested in preserving the lake and living full time on 9p and now retired with time to commit to meetings.

Chair Simmonds said so everyone knows it is not the choice of SLPID as far as who becomes a commissioner. It is the County Board of Supervisors who makes the appointments. So, we will wait to hear from the County on the commissioner's appointments for 2022. Introducing staff present, Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator, Lonnie Van Buren, Weed Harvesting Supervisor. Consultants Tracy Clothier and Dean Long.

**Secretary report (SLPID Chair)**

**\*Present October 2021 minutes.**

Discussion: Past minutes were emailed out for review. October 14 and October 27 Executive session minutes and the October 20 open meeting minutes.

**Motion to accept October 14, 2021, executive session minutes:**

First: Mazzotti                      Second: Supley                      All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**Motion to accept October 27, 2021, executive session minutes:**

First: Supley                      Second: Simmonds                      All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**Motion to accept October 20, 2021, open meeting minutes:**

First: Supley                      Second: Simmonds                      All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**Treasurer report (Mike VanPatten)**

Discussion: Chair Simmonds announced that the SLPID Assistant Treasurer just had back surgery last week, so he would try and zoom in. Chair Simmonds asked Cristina to report since Mike has not signed in yet.

Cristina replied, Mike emailed out the invoices for approval to the SLPID board, and he was waiting on a return email from commissioners to approve they read and understand it.

The bills paid prior to the meeting are \$4,131.57. Current bills are \$4,468.57 for a total of \$8,600.14. The SLPID budget versus actual will be attached year-to-date for the January meeting. The monthly cash flow and copies of the weekly payroll reports were emailed to the commissioners on December 4, 2021. Mike also attached bank statements and reconciliation statements for the commissioner's approval.

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

First: Mazzotti                      Second: Supley                      All Commissioners present voted:

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

First: Simmonds                      Second: Supley                      All Commissioners present voted:

**\*Lake Administrator report: (Cristina Connolly)**

Discussion: Since the October meeting, I attended a NALMS seminar on HAB's and the ecology of cyanobacteria. There was a lot of good information and understanding of how a bloom occurs and the health dangers. There is evidence of cyanobacteria overwintering and subsequent year blooms becoming longer lasting and more widespread. When I attended the DEC invasive species summit in Albany, this message carried over. Many State commissioners and department heads attended and spoke of the importance of getting the word out to the public when there is a bloom as quickly as possible, public education with prevention of blooms, stormwater runoff, and the documentation of blooms and testing being necessary. Many area lakes have reported blooms well into November this year. The DEC Summit focused on connecting, collaborating, and cooperating. With the threat of many aquatic invasives out there and the reality of what we can lose economically and environmentally, the lake steward program is vital to the health of Saratoga Lake and all the lakes across New York State. We need to cooperate with the program entirely.

As mentioned at the October meeting and several emails to the board at the end of the steward season, there is quite a bit of work involved in the off-season months planning and organizing. With working hours being restricted, I could not attend those meetings or review the WISPA GIS data in full.

Unfortunately, that did cause a problem with the data showing that Saratoga Lake has three new invasive species. I caught this and immediately double-checked with Dean Long and Larry Eichler, who validated this was not correct. This input could have easily been captured had the editing process been completed. I have been reaching out to DEC and the Natural Heritage Program to correct this. It has caused a delay in the report and more work to do. Commissioner Supley asked, what do you mean by the editing? Cristina explained, there is data recorded on boats that are inspected launching and retrieving. At the end of the season, the information is uploaded to GIS. Cristina then reviews the data and compares it to photos provided for accuracy. This data is submitted to the State for the final year report. Meg Wilkinson with DEC wrote a letter to the SLPID commissioners, explaining the extent of work involved in the off-season and the importance of participating in the meetings, workshops, and data required each year. The program is growing, getting more prominent, and becoming more stringent. We need to work together to battle the economic and environmental effects of invasive species.

Cristina continued; she emailed the commissioners in her work description; several lakes have called to discuss the SLPID Lake Steward program being a model program. Cristina shared her information on training, hiring, costs involved, the de-con station, etc.

The National Science Foundation also called for info on the significant HAB event on the lake. The NSF and Cornell University are developing a portable vacuum-type machine to help rid blooms, anticipating a demo may be available next year.

The second Overlay District meeting was held on November 10. A meeting summary was emailed to the SLPID board and all those who attended the meeting. It was agreed that as good as stormwater regulations are, they are not catching the majority of pollutants. Questions from municipalities remain; how to go about this with limited resources, how to enforce something like this, and what role does SLPID play? The consensus is no matter what, SLPID is responsible for more data, outreach, and education to the public. Dean and Tracy can comment further in their reports.

I also attended the recent County Water Quality meeting, where the HAB discussion came up. I will work with Dustin over the winter on a procedure for documenting future blooms. Blue Neil said his office is acquiring a drone, so another drone is available on top of Dustin's drone.

The New York Development Group, the potential developers of the South Shore Marina proposed redevelopment project reached out to discuss their plans. They are preparing to submit a PDD application to the Town of Malta sometime in January. They were excited to share this project with common goals to improve lake quality and Stormwater management. They know the DiDonna family has assisted SLPID in many ways and would like to continue that in some form. I did forward the information on the roadside boat wash station of the CD3 machine that Tracy sent out before. They downloaded the Buffer Book and will be incorporating vegetative buffers and possibly a public model with educational signage. They are also aware the DiDonna's have helped out when there has been a major storm event to offload weeds and would like to consider that with design.

Cristina emailed out a projected plan for 2022. One correction: the final budget was \$2000 allocated for uniforms and supplies for next year, not \$3,000. Cristina asked if the commissioners had any questions or comments on the projected plan?

Mike Van Patten joined in on zoom. Mike commented further on the treasurer's report with a correction to the October minutes. The total bills were \$9,242.61.

The December report shows cash flow as of November 18, \$160,000. From November 18 through today, SLPID spent \$23,000, showing a balance of \$137,000 with enough cash.

As of December 16, there is \$421,000 of income and \$447,000 of expenses. So far, SLPID has spent \$25,000 more than what was brought in from tax revenues and the municipalities. SLPID is not over budget. It is monies overspent from SLPID funds to recover the deficit. The budget is good. The loss for the year is \$25,000. Mike added Commissioner Supley's Facebook ads of \$1,108.51, completing the total bills to be paid \$9,058.65.

Chair Simmonds asked if the commissioners had any questions for Cristina? Commissioner Hardcastle said you have mentioned getting a meter to measure the HAB's stuff. Cristina commented that at the last SLPID meeting, there was a discussion of SLPID purchasing a fluorescence meter for around \$1,000 next spring. Without physically seeing the algae, the meter would tell what type of algae is in the water, blue, green, or a HAB threat which could be beneficial. Commissioner Hardcastle said personally the County should pay for this, and they can use it on other lakes, and we can send our samples there. Cristina said HAB samples are different than the fluorometer. There are kits to keep on hand for testing blooms, and she has a list of accredited labs in the area for testing if that is what the SLPID commissioners decide. The fluorometer is different. Karl then said we do CSLAP. Dean, stated yes, there are two different things here you are talking about. A fluorescence meter measures specific types of algae and tells if there are cyano or amoeba toxins in the water, this is good because it may not look like a HAB. Still, it will tell if it is cyanobacteria or green or Blue. The price, last he saw, was \$1,135.

The testing kits are approved by the EPA and used to determine if there are toxins in the water and what kind. Some are single-use and some or multi-sample. They can get pricey. We are looking at how to go about it in 2022 and beyond. The fluorescence meter is relatively inexpensive and does tell whether it is HAB-dominated or a green bloom. Cristina said there is a possibility that the County may have funds to purchase sampling kits. We would contact them to come and test. Again, this will be discussed and worked out over the winter.

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

Discussion: Total weed loads for the season were 594. Lonnie submitted all paperwork, bills, receipts, payroll, and load counts to Cristina. Lonnie and the crew modified the opening of the conveyor and welded on the framework for a new tongue jack. In the spring, there is a need to purchase a heavy-duty jack at the cost of \$130. The old conveyor belting has been repaired and tightened. Harvester 1 patch up on steel, paint, and underneath framework will be completed in the spring. Lonnie is looking forward to a new year and hoping that the crew will return.

#### **Fish Creek Reclamation (Dean Long)**

Discussion: Dean said that at the last SLPID meeting, he commented that we have had discussions with the County Soil and Water Conservation District, and stormwater coordinator and they agreed that it is a relatively good idea. We are waiting for the dam Supervisors at Central River Powers, LLC. to respond and if they will cooperate with the Fish Creek channel reclamation. Commissioner Mazzotti asked, once approved, what is the next step? Dean said If the dam operators say yes, the next step is to have CT Male do a detailed survey, then work up specifics on exactly what we will do and the process for permits and grant applications. FEMA does not pay for permits. They pay for remedial work. Then figure out which permits we need and reach out to Federal representatives and begin to learn the process to find

out what we need to do. Chair Simmonds commented that we would need to hire a firm to continue this project if it moves forward.

Dean sent out two graphs on the watershed study to the commissioners. When you look at the changes with the lake, the amount of dissolved oxygen depletion in deep water zones has increased since 1984. At the same time, the thickness of oxygen depletion has increased and appears to be stable since 2010. Why? We do not know if it is the volume of water. Commissioner Supley asked what is the danger zone? Dean said back in 1984, they were estimating the internal regeneration was around 4000 kilograms when repeating the same calculations, he is getting 16,000 kilograms, and that is a lot of phosphorous. The good thing is that regeneration of phosphorous happens at fall turnover when the lake is cooling down. At the same time the regeneration of phosphorous is flushed out of the lake all winter. However, some water remains and gets everything cranked up in the spring and summer again. Just like Crissy said, once you get a bloom, they seem to become progressively worse, and the bloom we had this October was the worst since Irene and covered the entire shallow water zones of the whole lake. There will be an extra slug of nutrients left combined with all the runoff this spring, causing potentially more blooms next fall unless we have a dry summer.

We need to understand exactly how the lake mixes and stratifies fully. One way is by setting up a string of thermistors out in the lake's center to record. It is a string 25 meters in deep-water, as early as possible in the spring through the end of November. Having this will help with the data needed. Thermistors are cheap. They range from \$60-\$80 each, attached to a heavy anchor, large buoy, etc. The problem is collecting and sorting through the large amount of data. Commissioner Supley said we could send it to the cloud. Dean said SUNY Oneonta and Larry Eichler could do this.

Dan Buckley said he had done this for over 20 years and is glad that we are hoping to do it as it is a missing piece of information to have and is critical to understanding nutrient re-cycling in the lake. Dan is happy SLPID started to do some sort of dissolved oxygen testing last summer. More of the bottom is anoxic now and allows phosphorous to be re-released, and a big summer storm is a real threat that could really mess with stratification on the lake and create or contribute to more blooms. Dan is very pleased, and he has used the HOBO data log for years in Maine, and he can help. You need to figure out a way to place the buoys. Commissioner Mazzotti asked Cristina to look into this and contact SUNY Oneonta to get pricing. Dean Long said he knows the SUNY Oneonta Bio-station Director and assistant director and will do so with Cristina. Dean noted before we move on to collect the data, we need to know if we can handle the data.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked for more information on Luther Forest. Dean said it is not Luther Forest. It is Luther Forest Road. Dean used a simple lake model and modeled the entire watershed and the Luther Road watershed. Looking over the math, you see everyone has about the same average total phosphate discharge into the lake. The reason is Saratoga Lake watershed is over 70% forest. Most high intensity developed areas are behind huge wetland complexes and nutrients get filtered before hitting the lake. Luther Road is under 1000 acres, but you see the loading rates. Commissioner Supley asked if this is Global Foundries doing this? Dean said, no, this is Luther Road we are talking about. If Luther Road is developed by another 50 hectares, this confirms what we have conceptualized over the years. The short-run streams and shoreline areas are discharging into the lake, not the long-run streams away from the lake. There is interest in looking at an Overlay district to address stormwater discharges into the immediate lake area.

Dean said Blue has talked about re-starting the gauge station on Nelson Avenue Ext. It would need a pressure sensor to measure water levels level and give a much better idea of how much water is coming through the lake.

Everyone has agreed in the previous meetings that there is no milfoil treatment next year or curly leaf treatment needed. Those funds could go for testing and data.

### **Watershed Management Plan (Tracey Clothier)**

Discussion: Tracey said to build upon what Dean was saying and trying to defend what we want to do and working with the municipalities is an uphill battle. The municipalities are resistant to change and working more. The last overlay meeting was more for exploring, and my conclusion at the moment is they are probably not going to go along. However, it would be the best for erosion control, shoreline stabilization, stormwater, and land disturbance. The meeting was positive about adopting regulations individually for steep slopes and shoreline disturbance. We will be able to make progress with this. We are doing this at a grassroots level and building interest in getting them to talk and find consensus. Overall, it is great that SLPID has initiated this because the municipalities are interested and know there are issues. Deans' graphs can they understand? Probably not, but we will put that in regular language. I am very encouraged, and there may be a hybrid approach for communities to adopt. The big role is SLPID and education. Starting with the [Buffer Book](#) and [Take the Pledge](#), there are great concepts with moving forward with people and the public.

Cristina, Dean, and I have talked about doing a demo project showing the ideal concept of a lakefront model. The Overlay District is an ongoing dialogue. Dean Long said we did make progress, and Tom Wood is key. If Tom supports additional stormwater erosion control rules in the SLPID District, we do need to do something on the shoreline as it is understood now. Malta's planner is very supportive and understands educating and working with people. The model we are using for lakeshore lots is essentially the same as the Lake George Park Commissioner application. It would not have to go to planning or the ZBA. It could be administered by the building inspector and possibly assisted by the County. An Overlay can make a big difference in the lake quality. The Town of Saratoga has a well-written stream corridor/steep slope protection rule. Commissioner Mazzotti asked what is the next step? Dean said we would meet with the City of Saratoga Springs' new mayor and then have more information to discuss this further and finish up the watershed management plan.

Dan Buckley said in Maine that getting municipalities involved is through education to the taxpayers, lake health, and property values. Then the taxpayers will talk to the local councilman.

Walt Borisenok commented each Town has different dynamics with high volume development on the south end of the lake compared to the north end. When you have conversations and say this is the format we should run, each town Supervisor and Planner come from a different perspective. Very few people understand an Overlay district. SLPID needs to get this out first on what is going on with changes to the lake and why then coming up with a plan first. You need to educate the public and get out there.

From our point of view, Chair Simmonds said we need to get the Towns on board first. Walt Borisenok said no, who puts pressure on the towns? The public. Education is a common-sense approach. There is a whole different dynamic type, one end of the lake with steep hills and the other a gentle flow. You

need to look at hillsides, runoff ability, and where flood plains are. These are dynamics you need to think about and educate the residents more about to help your case.

Cristina said if the commissioners read the summary of the last Overlay meeting, the consensus is SLPID commissioners need to understand that outreach and education to the property owners should not go on the back burner. The outreach can be amped up and is a necessary component for SLPID. If an Overlay district happens or not, outreach and education should be a priority. Tracey said yes, we are not quite there yet with an overlay, and education is an important part of SLPID.

Tracey emailed out the Executive Summary of the watershed management plan with recommendations. Tracey has more to add from Crissy and Dean. This document will drive all our activities for the next 5-10 years and needs to be more precise with recommendations. Tracey suggested that she, Dean, and Crissy sit down and work this out. Tracey would also like the commissioners to give suggestions in this plan and go around the table now.

Commissioner Carringi, do you have anything to suggest that will drive us for the next ten years?  
Commissioner Carringi said, no, not really.

Commissioner Mazzotti said to him it is all about protecting the lake, and that is why he is here. There should be continuity with the municipalities. Also, the SLPID legislation is so poorly written, and we have spoken about amending that. Tracey asked, is this a recommendation to revisit the SLPID legislation? Commissioner Mazzotti said Yes, it was agreed on to pursue it and poorly written. We can give recommendations, and the public replies, well that is nothing. We understand how hard the municipalities officials work. It just makes sense there is continuity. Invasive species control. Moving forward on Fish Creek. Just driving around, you can see the sediment pouring in the whole section of 9p with many people complaining about it. Is the goal with Fish Creek to get the sediment in the lake taken care of? Tracey said, no, you will never get that taken care of unless it is first addressed uphill where it is coming from.

Chair Simmonds will read through the report again and give recommendations.

Commissioner Hardcastle said, I have been involved in this for years and been working with the Towns on this, and we have had this in place for years and thinks it is fine the way it is.

Commissioner Mazzotti said there are stormwater regulations, and there are items not addressed in the regulations that we need to educate the public and planners.

Tracey said it is evident that the percentage of lot permeability is only addressed within the City of Saratoga Springs. If lot permeability was adopted for all, this could make a huge difference and is very reasonable.

Commissioner Supley feels the Towns are not looking at us and feel this is more of a local level district thing, and commissioners should go door to door instead.

Dan Buckley asked if the draft report will be sent out to the public for comment or suggested a select group of people for comment? Dan mentioned the 2020 Times Union article calling on SLPID commissioners to step up with these same concerns on the lake and link together with the towns, County, and property owners for the long-term success of the lake's health. Tracey said her feeling is to keep this internal until recommendations as a group is done first, and the second draft will be sent out to the public for comment. Dan offered to look at the science part of it. Chair Simmonds asked when

will this be ready? Tracey said she would work on it over Christmas, get together with Dean and Crissy, and prepare for the website, email list, and the January meeting.

Peter Brooks asked if there is a recommendation on identifying short, direct discharge streams versus the entire watershed? Tracey said, yes, there is.

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

Discussion: Lake level is 201.72

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

Discussion: Commissioner Hardcastle said the CSLAP application for next year is filled out. He spoke to his volunteers. They basically go out and take a sample twice a month and tell the true health of the lake and the true way to tell if the lake is going up or down. The cost is \$645 for CSLAP.

#### **Communications (Commissioner Supley)**

Discussion: The overview of Facebook has reached 33,000 people in total. There were no posts for December or November. He spent more than budgeted as unaware of ads are for Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter \$10.00 for each one, not altogether. One video from the summer of 2020, on the weed breakdown, 672 people watched.

**Old business** – Mike said when he sends the treasurer's report out; he always asks to please confirm receipt and has asked in other meetings. He asked the commissioners to please acknowledge that email. He would like confirmation that commissioners read and understand it.

**New business** – None.

#### **Motion to suspend the meeting and go into exec session at 4:22 p.m.**

First: Simmonds

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

#### **Motion to close the meeting at 5:20 p.m.**

First: Simmonds

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

The SLPID January 2022 Organizational and regular meeting will be held on January 11, 2022, 3:00 p.m. at the Malta Community Center.