



**SLPID Meeting Minutes
Malta Community Center and Zoom
May 19, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Simmonds, 3:05 p.m.

Roll Call Commissioners present: Simmonds, Mazzotti, Baker

Absent: Carrangi

Staff present: Lonnie, Weed Harvesting Supervisor. Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator

Public: Dan Buckley

PRESENTATIONS:

Public Comment: None.

Secretary report (SLPID Chair)

***Present March and April 2022 minutes.**

Discussion: No Comments.

Motion to accept March 2022 minutes

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

Motion to accept April 2022 minutes

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

Treasurer report (Commissioner Mazzotti)

Discussion: The monthly financial management report with bills paid was presented to the commissioners. Current funds are a healthy \$598,032. The tax levy funds, and municipal funds have been deposited and recorded. Commissioner Mazzotti stated he likes the new format of the monthly financial report. The commissioners present agreed. There were no questions on the treasurer's report or paid bills.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report

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

Motion to accept the bills

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

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

Discussion: **Safety** – no accidents to report.

Lake Steward report

All stewards are hired; payroll is set for all employees. Cristina has been conducting remote training with the stewards. Next week will be in-person training, and employees begin work on Friday. Proper permits and secure insurance certificates are left to do.

Administrator Report

The June 4th event at Browns Beach on stormwater run-off prevention for property owners is finalized. Representatives from the Labella group and the Department of State will present an update on the Stillwater revitalization plan. The event flyer has been distributed to the towns, city, planning departments, county supervisors, assembly, senate, and all the lake associations that Cristina has contacts. Cristina said Sarah Cole was a huge help with the flyer, and she did a fantastic job. Cristina also wanted to thank Dan Buckley, who is in attendance. Dan will be presenting at the June 4th event and offering property assessments and suggestions on improving stormwater run-off for individual properties. Dan is also training Cristina on conducting these assessments. A master gardener from Cornell Cooperative Extension will install a rain garden at Browns Beach before the event as a demonstration. The gardens will be permanent with signage.

One idea to further this message is to use the Browns Beach demonstration and a home on Riley Cove as examples of mitigating stormwater from reaching the lake and feature them on the SLPID website and at outreach events.

The developers of South Shore would like to do a vegetative buffer and rain garden with their design, and the city is interested in using the Waterfront Park as an example. Cristina said a lake steward from a couple of years past is returning this year and is a photographer/videographer. As a lake steward, Cristina noted that he took many SLPID photos for us and is excited to help in any way to document these projects.

There are two dates, the end of June and the end of July, weather dependent, for the Coast Guard to give boater safety checks at the state launch.

July 15 and August 6 are scheduled at the city Waterfront Park with SLPID stewards and Adirondack Watershed Institute for an event. These events will be on stormwater run-off and Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention. There will be activities, interactive displays, and availability to answer questions on issues impacting the lake and watershed. Cristina said she has the dates secured and a flyer for the advertisement, just waiting on the city officials to confirm. If it is not approved for some reason, they will be held at the boat launch.

Cristina is also reaching out to several of the homeowner associations around the lake, asking if SLPID could do a one-hour informal presentation at each to discuss with property owners an

Overlay District and give suggestions on stormwater run-off prevention for properties. Cristina has spoken to Dean Long about working together on these events over the summer, and Dean is willing.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked about offering a boater safety course to the public? Cristina replied in past years, SLPID has hosted them with the town of Malta. The boater safety course is now offered as an online course where most people participate, and this information is on the SLPID website. The town of Malta may still host an in-person course.

So far, the outreach events have not had a cost to SLPID. The two events with the Adirondack Watershed Institute will cost \$150 per day. The fee covers their staff coming for the day, bringing educational equipment, handouts, games for kids, etc.

The NY development group, the developers of South Shore, has graciously offered a future dock space to SLPID, Marine Patrol, and Malta emergency.

The equipment has come in for the thermistor project, GPS, and fluoroprobe. The buoys are due by the first week of June. The thermistor project and GPS will proceed in June.

A meeting is scheduled for May 24 on the overlay district discussion at the county. Most everyone with the municipalities has committed to attend. Dean and Cristina will be attending.

The weed harvesting position is still open. Most inquiries ask if SLPID is in the NY state retirement system or state health insurance. NY state retirement is an incentive for a seasonal position to entice teachers or someone almost ready to retire that does not want year-round employment or lake stewards hoping to get in with DEC or Parks. Cristina will be pushing the ad out again today and over the weekend to gain more attention.

Sheriff Zurlo and Sergeant Gurney of the Sheriff's department have organized a press conference to promote a safe boating season on Saratoga Lake. They have intentions to enforce all navigational and criminal laws. There is a new marine patrol crew, new boat, and other equipment for this season. Sergeant Gurney invited Cristina as a representative of SLPID to give a brief statement. The Sergeant said this is the perfect time for the public to hear we are working together, as it should be and will be and that SLPID is contributing to extra patrols on the lake. Commissioner Baker asked when the date was? Tuesday June 14, at Browns Beach. Commissioner Baker suggested longer days for marine patrol instead of extra days.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked if it was possible to push a message out for kayakers and paddleboarders to not go to the center of the lake? Cristina commented that is touchy as they also have a right to be out there, and a couple of years back suggested the possibility of proposing a path along the shore. At that time, the commissioners did not think it was necessary.

The mapping for the buoy layout should be completed soon. The buoy layout will stay the same, and there is no support for changing the navigation laws.

Two weeks ago, Cristina went with DEC fisheries to conduct a fish count. DEC captured 375 total fish over two nights, 145 black crappie, 130 bluegills, and a few dozen pumpkinseeds. The crappie captured ranged in size from about 4-13.5", with numerous fish over the 10" minimum size length. A fair number of fish were in the 6" range, indicating the likely presence of a strong year class of younger fish. Most sunfish were in the 8" range or larger. This was all good news as it suggests the special regs for fishing on Saratoga Lake are working.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked about walleye. Cristina said the count was explicitly for panfish. However, other notable catches include a few walleyes in the 20" + range plus a few largemouth pushing 5lbs.

Fisheries has a new "Big Panfish Initiative" signage describing the new fishing regulations at the NY state boat launch. Cristina learned and assisted in how to take a scale and fin sample to check the fish's age, measure, weigh and document each fish.

There was so much discussion on cyber-attacks and a cyber security policy at the January meeting. Currently, this is a moot subject due to the volatility of the cyber insurance market.

NYMIR is in the process of renewing its cyber insurance structure and should be finalized in August.

In next month's meeting, Cristina will have a DRAFT of the 2023 budget to present for the commissioners to review and adjust.

There is a new Land Use Agreement to be signed. The Agreement is for parking the harvesting machines along the shore of the south end of the lake between Riley Cove and Manning Cove.

Commissioner Mazzotti made a motion for Cristina to execute and send in the Land Use Agreement for parking the harvesters on the South end of the lake between Riley Cove and Manning Cove.

First: Mazzotti Second: Baker Commissioners present: YEAH

***Weed Harvesting Report (Lonnie)**

Discussion: Lonnie and Patrick started work on May 2. Tom began the following week. Lonnie said they did purchase a heavy-duty jack for the conveyor and other necessary tools for equipment repair. Lonnie commented that we are still seeking a driver for 6-8 weeks and a weed harvesting operator.

Commissioner Simmonds asked if a college student would fit the job? Lonnie said this is hard to say because college typically begins before the season ends and

It is just the current market of employment. Lonnie still has hopes we will find the right person and is not asking for any increase in wages. It is a good job. We just need the right fit.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked if and who would be monitoring any HABS's on the lake? Cristina said she would be the one doing that. Commissioner Simmonds asked when will the thermistors go in. Cristina said beginning to mid-June.

Lonnie stated that the buoys would go out next week.

Commissioner Simmonds asked when we would get the GPS equipment going? Cristina said we have all the equipment, and she is now getting the employees and lake steward training going. Once that all falls into place, the other projects will be her focus.

Lake Level

Discussion: Lake level is 203.34

RESOLUTION #26-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve to contract with Sarah Dorsey, CPA of Dorsey Tax and Consulting, 11 Court Street, Saratoga Springs, NY, as the District Accountant for filing annual financial reports for SLPID at a rate of \$165 per hour. The Lake District Administrator will approve and sign the final contract.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action to contract with Sarah Dorsey of Dorsey Tax and Consulting and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Mazzotti Second: Baker All Commissioners present: YEAH

RESOLUTION #27-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve to contract with Rick Lederer-Barnes of Upstate GIS to complete the mapping for the buoy coordinates of the 5-MPH local navigation laws with GPS coordinates. This will be at a rate of \$90.00 per hour with a not-to-exceed amount of \$720.00.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action to contract with Rick Lederer-Barnes of Upstate GIS to complete the mapping for the buoy layout, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Simmonds Second: Baker All Commissioners present: YEAH

RESOLUTION #28-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve changing the signatures for the SLPID check signing with the Adirondack Trust Company and approving Victor Mazzotti to sign checks if the Lake District Administrator is not available. The SLPID commissioners approve the Lake District Administrator (Cristina A. Connolly) to have authority to make changes on the Adirondack Trust Company Account. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action for The Lake District Administrator, (Cristina A. Connolly) to make these changes and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Simmonds Second: Baker All Commissioners present: YEAH

RESOLUTION #29-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve to increase the limit on the two SLPID Adirondack Trust Company Credit Cards to \$10,000 and approve the Lake District Administrator (Cristina A. Connolly) to have authority to make changes on the Adirondack Trust Company Account. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action for The Lake District Administrator (Cristina A. Connolly) to make these changes and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Mazzotti Second: Baker All Commissioners present: YEAH

RESOLUTION #30-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve the installation of decals on the SLPID truck, boat and equipment not to exceed a cost of \$1,000. from the advertisement budget. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action for The Lake District Administrator, to hire for the installation of decals with the SLPID logo on equipment and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Mazzotti Second: Simmonds All Commissioners present: YEAH

RESOLUTION #31-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve the 2021-2022 Lake Assessment Report as a working document for SLPID. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action to approve the 2021-2022 Lake Assessment Report on April 21, 2022, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Simmonds Second: Mazzotti All Commissioners present: YEAH

RESOLUTION #32-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve to adopt the new SLPID HR Manual with an annual review and approval. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action to approve the 2022 SLPID HR Manual and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Mazzotti Second: Baker All Commissioners present: YEAH

RESOLUTION #33-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve to contract with Lawrence Eichler, Research Scientist, 1323 Bay Road, Lake George, New York, to complete the yearly aquatic plant survey and assessment for the year 2022. The project will be invoiced in three equivalent payments: one following acceptance of the proposal, one with the release of the interim report, and the final payment with the release of the final report. The contract period is in the amount of \$16,095.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action to contract with Lawrence Eichler, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Simmonds Second: Baker All Commissioners present: YEAH

New business – Commissioner Baker mentioned Minerva lake is using a new herbicide to combat milfoil. Lake George will be using it after final approval. Commissioner Baker said it would be good to reach out to Minerva Lake on their success. Commissioner Baker stated that he does not see many weeds growing. However, he does notice many floating weeds that all land on the south end of the lake. Commissioner Simmonds said yes, that is not milfoil but native weeds that are not rooted. SLPID cannot treat those.

Old business – None

Motion to suspend public meeting and enter Executive Session to discuss new Harvesting Operator Employee pay

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

Motion to close Executive Session and re-enter the public meeting at 3:36 p.m.

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

RESOLUTION #34-2022

Whereas the commissioners agree to increase the hourly wages of the weed harvesting department employees an extra \$1.00 per hour and any new harvesting employees for 2022 beginning pay at \$20.00 per hour.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action to increase the weed harvesting department wages effective immediately, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

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

Motion to end the public meeting at 3:37 p.m.

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

The SLPID June 2022 regular meeting will be held on June 16, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at the Malta Community Center.