



**SLPID Meeting Minutes  
Malta Town Hall  
December 15, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

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

**Roll Call Commissioners present:** Simmonds, Mazzotti, Baker, Carringi

**Staff present:** Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator. Consultant, Dean Long.

**Public present:** Peter Brooks

**Public Comment:** limited to three minutes. The time is not intended for commissioners or staff to answer questions or speak, only to listen. The Board of Commissioners will not take action on an item presented during the public comment period.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Secretary Report (SLPID Chair)**

**\*Present October 2022 minutes.**

No Comments.

Motion to accept October 2022 minutes

**First: Simmonds**

**Second: Baker**

**All Commissioners present voted: YEAH**

**Treasurer report (Commissioner Mazzotti)**

**Financial Report:** Total assets for the year are \$ 987,160.55. Total Liabilities show \$1,169.09 due to the outstanding balance for the credit cards. This is a decrease from October of \$4,420.35.

Year-to-date (January to November) operating expenses total \$359,449.98. The remaining budget for expenses is \$67,460.02

The commissioners requested Cristina review the three accounts with the Adirondack Trust bank and move half of the year's leftover funds to a money market account and the checking account to an interest-bearing money market account to write checks from.

Cristina said the remaining budget expenses are needed until March, when the County funds are received, and she will research the options for the commissioner's decision.

Motion to accept the Financial Report

**First: Baker**

**Second: Mazzotti**

**All Commissioners present voted: YEAH**

Motion to accept the paid bills. Invoices were emailed to the commissioners.

**First: Mazzotti**

**Second: Baker**

**All Commissioners present voted: YEAH**

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

**Safety** – No accidents to report for SLPID this year. The public employee safety sheets for the State will be updated.

The steward data has been finalized for the year and sent to the State. The final report will be completed in the spring.

Cristina attended the core partners meeting on invasive species management this Tuesday in Albany. It was sharing information and a review of the year and improvements for next year. Several more meetings are scheduled in January and February on the new protocol and science on AIS and planning practices for 2023

Cristina ordered a lot of educational material and giveaways for the SLPID steward program next season through DEC. These are at no cost to SLPID.

She forwarded a dropbox link to the commissioners of the finalized Stillwater Water Quality Report. The report's purpose is to evaluate the Town of Stillwater's impact on the water quality of the Saratoga Lake watershed. The report will also be helpful information in our upcoming special stormwater discussions.

The .gov domain paperwork is finalized. SLPID has a new email and the .gov domain for the SLPID website.

The town of Malta closing on the Mangino property was scheduled for today. Cristina will keep SLPID posted on any ideas proposed for SLPID's future involvement.

The South Shore developers and the town board have held two workshops. The condos were reduced from 100 to 85. The building height will be 27 feet; currently, 30 feet is allowed. There will be 60-70 boat slips with no day users. The events center was eliminated. The view shed coming down Dunning Street will be increased by removing the trees at the public's request. The town board members seemed encouraged and optimistic toward the project and have asked for the developer's next step to create the PDD.

Cristina applied for the Global Foundry/ Malta community grant, and SLPID has been awarded \$3,000 for the 'Buffer-in-a-Bag' idea. She attended the award ceremony yesterday evening. It was very well attended, and she will work on pricing and planning over the winter so the materials can be distributed in the first few weeks of May. Cristina said she spoke with Ian Murray from Brookside nursery. Ian has some good ideas and can help with storage and distribution.

The County Water Quality committee meeting was last week. Dustin from County Soil and Water offered the possibility of discounted plants through his contact.

The special stormwater regulations with the municipalities and County are moving forward. The other good news is that the grant Tracey filed for with the Hudson Valley Greenway was also awarded to the Town of Malta and SLPID.

Cristina said the next steps are to meet individually with the municipality's Supervisors and planners moving forward in the next few months. Some have expressed that Zoom meetings may be best as the winter months are the busiest for most or waiting for in-person in March.

The SLPID survey to property owners was closed and forwarded to everyone. The responses were positive toward change and adding protections. Cristina asked if the commissioners had input. The commissioners replied that it was very insightful.

Saratoga Plan is acquiring Snake Hill and has a new Executive Director who reached out to Cristina. After the new year, she will meet with him to discuss public use ideas for Snake Hill and how Saratoga Plan and SLPID could work together.

SLPID insurance has been updated and paid.

Cristina received confirmation from the County this week that the SLPID budget for 2023 was approved and matched what she sent in.

There was a Facebook notification that a SLPID post reached over 10,000 people. It was the story from the news channel and the harvesters.

As for the SLPID municipality agreement, all three towns agreed to an increase from \$3-5,000, and the City of Saratoga Springs agreed to sign back into the agreement with a \$7,000 annual fee with amendments. Malta town attorney Steve Gottman thought it was unnecessary wording as the municipalities do not do the work or act on the lake. That is SLPID's job, and it is a simple agreement to give SLPID extra funding.

Cristina reached out to Marilyn Rivers, the City's risk and safety director, to discuss the changes. Her thought is that the additional insured status protects each municipality for the work SLPID does on its behalf because each municipality is legally responsible for the landscape they legally own and maintain.

Steve Gottman said that if the language is necessary for the City, he would like to add: "Nothing in this agreement shall be deemed or interpreted to require any municipality to complete any work or take any action other than the funding set forth herein."

Cristina noted that as far as the additionally insured portion, that was in the old agreement. However, Cristina has yet to see any past paperwork that SLPID ever followed through naming the municipalities as additionally insured. Cristina asked permission from the SLPID commissioners to run the agreement past the SLPID attorney. Commissioner Mazzotti said yes, please. The other commissioners agreed.

Cristina then commented that she emailed the 2023 projected plan out and did receive positive feedback from the Supervisors and the County. She asked if there was any feedback today from the SLPID commissioners; is it all good to move forward for next year?

Commissioner Mazzotti said that regarding educational outreach if the events could be recorded and placed on the SLPID website, and going back to stormwater regulations, in the past, we spoke about the catch basins and maintenance of catch basins. Have we tried to stay on top of that? Cristina said she has reached out to the DOT with specific questions from the special stormwater meeting, and they have yet to respond. Commissioner Mazzotti asked about the Towns and the catch basins. Cristina said they are on state-owned land. Dean commented yes that they are State catch basins, and the step was to try and get some meeting with the DOT engineer, and they pulled out at the last minute. Commissioner Mazzotti asked if we should contact the Regional DOT Director because he is the local engineer's boss.

Dean said yes, and Carrie Woerner. Commissioner Mazzotti noted that it would be great to get Carrie Woerner involved, and he would be happy to be on the call. Dean said yes, but this is the time of the year that might be hard to get anyone. We should resend the list of questions and set something for March or April with Carrie Woerner as the hosting group.

Cristina said the local engineer said he would come to a sit-down meeting, and yes, the winter months are tough. She did initially speak with the Director, who referred her to the local engineer for the stormwater meetings.

Commissioner Baker commented that he is a friend of Sam Zhou at DOT.

Commissioner Simmonds said it does not make sense for Cristina to reach out to the Regional Director or anyone else first because she has spoken to both already. Commissioner Simmonds asked Cristina to reach out again to the local engineer. Dean said yes, do we really need the Director or the local engineer, and that is the best step.

Cristina continued that further special stormwater regulation meetings will be strictly stormwater discussions, not docks. Commissioner Mazzotti then said that going back to storm drains and DOT, we should also talk about salt use.

Dean Long said that report was supposed to be issued last month but has yet to be finalized. They do brine spray 9P.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked about dredging Fish Creek. Dean said we are waiting for an answer from the new Emergency Management Director.

Commissioner Mazzotti said the inlets along 9P with the sediment buildup are getting larger. How do we get on dredging these?

Dean said again that it gets back to Fish Creek getting dredged first, then the small dredging can be done. Stillwater has given us an avenue with their report. They quantified this and rejected doing much work and do we need to focus? This is a slow process; it takes time to get in the queue of DOT doing the work and funding it.

Commissioner Mazzotti said we need Carrie Woerner's help to get a meeting and input.

Commissioner Carrangi then asked what happened to the islands. Cristina said we did not do them because they were not feasible.

Cristina said she would first like to reach out to the County Administrator on the Fish Creek project to find out where we are in the process and discuss with the town Supervisor and not go above them directly to the State.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked, didn't we do the mapping from CT Male in the past? Dean replied, no, not yet, until we hear back from the County. Commissioner Simmonds said we passed a Resolution saying we would, and we didn't.

Cristina said there is only use in spending money on it once we find out first if we can move forward.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked if we should go ahead with it since we approved it.

Dean said no, we don't know if the County finished its submittals to the State and Federal agencies, and Crissy will reach out to the County Administrator and the County Emergency Response office to see where we are first.

Commissioner Mazzotti told Cristina to start putting pressure on this to get this moving.

Commissioner Baker asked when talking to Carl (in County Emergency) if Mike was working with it because he knows him too. Dean said he did not know.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked what the benefit is of having CT Male updating the survey.

Dean said we need to wait for the County's response first to see their feedback and then the State to see if it will fit into their wetland remediation categories or how they would want to move it forward.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked where our jurisdiction ends.

Cristina replied on the North side of Lees.

Commissioner Mazzotti said well, Fish Creek has issues too. Whom should we contact on the State and Federal?

Commissioner Simmonds noted again that we need to reach out to the County first and stay local before we go above their head.

Dean said he would make sure Cristina has all past communications he had with the County, and she can reach out locally. Even if it is a FEMA project, the County and local still need to approve it.

Commissioner Simmonds asked if there were any other comments on the 2023 plan.

Commissioner Simmonds commented that she does like the microscope idea for HABs.

Commissioner Mazzotti said we should approve that now. Cristina said no, not until spring when we look into it more.

Commissioner Mazzotti said how much, \$1,000.

Dean said if it is the bloom pix, around \$1,000. The system is where the microscope interfaces with a smartphone and then sends it to bloom pix for analysis. Currently, the company is trying to gear up on what services they will provide next summer. We should hold off until then, and we will know more.

Cristina said there is no rush as we can most likely receive it in a couple of days after ordering.

Commissioner Simmonds asked if Cristina was all finished with her report.

**\*Water Quality Report** (Dean Long)

Dean said he had a quick note to report that he was finishing the temperature data and that it would not take too long. The data gives us new knowledge of how the lake behaves.

Dean said options for treating the water chestnuts next summer are a backpack sprayer with the herbicide Clearcast or the other option is the Weedoo for a day or so and then finish up with hand harvesting. However, hand harvesting is a lot on Cristina's plate and not practical for her time.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked Cristina if there was a group you spoke of before. Cristina replied yes, possibly PRISM or hiring a local company.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked will you reach out to them, Cristina?

Cristina said she had already spoken to them to get a feel and would get price quotes.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked what about using college students.

Cristina looked into it, and they were not available then.

Commissioner Mazzotti then said what about summer classes.

Cristina said again that, at that time, they did not have anyone available.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked what about Cobleskill getting a group up for a week for course credit.

Dean said that possibly availability may improve post covid.

Cristina said she would research the hiring cost, availability of volunteers, and the Weedoo cost. Dean will get a quote for Clearcast.

Dean said we would get a permit for Clearcast just in case and then weigh both options and decide in the spring.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked, with respect to property owner maintenance and docks, can property owners use the Weedoo.

Cristina said she had passed the Weedoo phone number out before, and there are a couple of local businesses on the lake that offer services to clean shore frontage and around docks that many people use.

Commissioner Mazzotti said we should post them on the SLPID website.

Cristina said she was instructed before not to. Commissioner Mazzotti said If you put a statement saying we don't endorse them, we are just giving options. Cristina said she would do that.

Commissioner Carrangi said the zebra mussels are getting bad at his marina. Cristina and Dean said they could do a zebra mussel count to understand changes if time allows.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked if there was anything we could do about the Zebra mussels and that they do clean the lake, and even Lake George is rampant with zebra mussels.

Peter Brooks (from the public) joined in the conversation, asking if we should worry about zebra mussels as in Lake Champlain twenty years ago, there was a lot of alarm, but the water got clearer right away. The population boomed, and it has gone down to a much lower level. He continued that we should do some asking around and that there might be other information.

Dean replied that zebra mussels had been around even longer in Saratoga Lake since the early 90s, and they ebb and flow. They contribute to many water quality issues but are hard to control. They are not a problem that is solvable and creates more problems by trying to treat them.

Peter Brooks said maybe they are stopping some of our weed problems.

Dean said no, they clear the water for more sunlight to enter, making more weeds grow.

Commissioner Simmonds said to move on and clarify that we are applying for a Clearcast permit to have on hand.

**\*Lake Level (Commissioner Carringi)**

Discussion: Lake level is 201.25.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked Cristina if she was in communication with the Dam on what the water level should be. Cristina said yes, the Dam is open, and the winter level is all weather dependent.

**New business:** Commissioner Simmonds asked the SLPID commissioners if they viewed the County trails meeting and the positive feedback from the Supervisors on Cristina's work on behalf of SLPID.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked Cristina if you attend County meetings to forward the projected plan for 2023 and what we have accomplished. Cristina said that she already had.

Commissioner Simmonds said the three Supervisors positively commented on Cristina's hard work. Supervisor Kinowski added a letter to ensure the SLPID commissioners saw that.

**Old business:** None

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION #41-2022**

WHEREAS the SLPID commissioners agree for the Lake District Administrator to prepare and submit the 2023 CSLAP membership form and NYSFOLA application in the amount of \$661.00 for SLPID to participate in the 2023 CSLAP water testing program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Commissioners direct the action of the Lake District Administrator to submit the CSLAP and NYSFOLA applications for the 2023 CSLAP program, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

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

A motion to set the January 2023 Organizational meeting with a regular SLPID meeting to follow was presented by Chair Simmonds on **January 9, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Malta Town Hall.**

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

Motion to Adjourn meeting at 3:55 p.m.

Discussion: Commissioner Simmonds acknowledged it is commissioner Carringi's last meeting and thanked him for his service with SLPID.

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