



**SLPID Meeting Minutes  
Malta Town Hall  
April 20, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** Chair Kathy Simmonds, 3:02 p.m.

**Roll Call Commissioners present:** Simmonds, Mazzotti, Borisenok, Scalici, Baker.

**Staff present:** Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator (via Zoom). Consultant Dean Long (via Zoom).

**Public present:** Dan Buckley, Hub Miller, Michael Funk, Supervisor Mark Hammond

**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.

Hub Miller stated he was there to observe. He is with the SLA. The SLA recently hired a consultant to write a strategic plan, and it has become clear that SLA should be engaged with SLPID, and he is here to observe.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Secretary Report (SLPID Chair)**

**\*Present March 2023 minutes.**

No Comments.

Motion to accept March 2023 minutes.

**First: Mazzotti**

**Second: Baker**

**All Commissioners present voted: YEAH**

**Treasurer report (Commissioner Mazzotti)**

**Financial Report:** The total in the bank account is \$156,119.73. Operating account, we have a balance of about \$89,382. Assets are about \$860,000.

Commissioner Simmonds commented that we have our check from the county and received all the money from the towns.

Motion to accept the Financial Report

**First: Baker**

**Second: Scalici**

**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)**

Cristina said she was very sorry she was not in person for the meeting and thankful to be there via Zoom.

The County tax levy has been received, and Cristina deposited all the funds.

All Employees are hired, and Cristina is processing the paperwork.

The weed harvesting crew will begin working on May 1. Cristina noted that in the financial report, the commissioners could see that some parts have been ordered for the harvesters. This is so the parts are in and ready before the crew begins. The lake stewards will begin training in mid-May and start at the launch on May 26.

As far as the stormwater meetings, Cristina said she and Dean reported last month on the separate meetings with each municipality and planners. We finished those and are now shooting for the end of May or the beginning of June for the next roundtable meeting.

Cristina noted that a property on Crescent Avenue in the City of Saratoga Springs faces significant and multiple violations involving new drainage pipes, riprap and gravel into the lake, and other factors. This prompted DEC to reach out to Cristina at the beginning of January with questions on the property itself and the lake's mean high-water level (MHWL). There is a meeting scheduled with DEC, Dean, and Cristina to discuss this further.

This property is over one acre, and it does fall under current stormwater regs, MS4, etc., and is being taken seriously. It does set an example of how Dean has proved in his models and basic knowledge how clearing and land disturbances along the lake significantly affect water quality, and having an ongoing chain of communication between all agencies is important.

The "Buffer in a Bag" \_distribution day will be included with the town of Malta Memorial Parade on June 20. Cristina will pick up the plantings the night before to set them up early in the morning before the parade begins. Distribution by the town Supervisor will be after the parade at the Community Center.

Dan Buckley and Cristina met with the Water's Edge garden club founder and the property manager for a property assessment on small changes along their shorefront and drainage pond. Cristina said she plans to do a presentation to the HOA sometime this season to discuss and help them further in any way. She also noted that some new home construction has signed up for these assessments, and the word is getting out.

Cristina touched base numerous times with the Sheriff on the plans for the upcoming boating season and with Sergeant Gurney, and the Marine patrol who will be joining SLPID on June 25 for an event at Browns Beach.

Tim Blodgett from Saratoga Tackle will discuss fishing and fishing tournaments on the lake. Larry Eichler will present on the vegetation assessments he does for SLPID and Dan Buckley on stormwater runoff. The Dock Browns food truck will be available. She is pulling together a variety of interests for people and hopes to have some giveaways.

Cristina stated that the SLPID operations are going very smoothly, and she is looking forward to starting with the employees and getting the public involved this season.

Commissioner Simmonds asked Cristina do you have a time for the Browns Beach event. Cristina said not a definitive time. It should be 11:30-2:00 or something close to that.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked Cristina if there is any increase in the Sheriff's patrol this summer. Cristina said yes, there will be.

Commissioner Scalici commented that he would like to offer to go with Cristina if meeting with the Sheriff, again saying he speaks the same language and can help Cristina.

Cristina replied thank you, and she would keep that in mind. She does not have any formal meetings scheduled but will keep that in mind.

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

Dean began with the thermistor temperature profile summary sent to the commissioners. Dean noted that we did this last August through October 17.

The lake's thermal conditions are much more complex than what you would normally believe a small lake such as Saratoga Lake would have. The south basin below the Snake Hill basin circulates in the fall. In the coming weeks, once Crissy is back, we will pull the string of temperature recorders and see the full winter's worth and reset them to go another year or more.

Regarding the Fish Creek reclamation, the new Director of Emergency Services in the County and the Assistant have spoken to Crissy and me. Crissy will set up a meeting to further discuss the Fish Creek reclamation with them. The County and State are suggesting that SLPID can take the lead on it and not have to wait for the town of Saratoga to co-sponsor an application. One of the things we need clarity on is that even though the Fish Creek project is not in the county emergency management plan or the documents that identify any threats is that we can go ahead and look at this further as SLPID is taking the lead or sub-sponsor role while they are catching up on paperwork. Once we get that clarified, we can move forward to see how the state would look at it as far as if it is a possible project to move forward with or not.

CSLAP will be starting the water quality testing at the end of May or early June.

Crissy has the Weedoo scheduled in late July for water chestnut removal, and she has arranged for the PRISM group to assist in hand harvesting. Hopefully, we may be down to just a hand-pull after this year.

The other thing Crissy mentioned is that we have a lot of materials on shoreline stormwater draft rules prepared and good comments from the planners. There is still some fear from a couple of planners about the workload. However, everyone agrees we need to do something, and we need to fine-tune it to what will work for the towns and accomplish controlling runoff directly into the lakes from the redevelopment. Dean noted that as he drives around the lake, you find many house and yard renovations that have crept up over the winter and see the runoff. Everyone agrees we must do something about the small lot development along the lake.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked about Fish Creek; we talked about the CT Male survey. Since it appears the towns want us to take the lead, we should move forward with that study.

Dean said not the towns. First, before we spend a large sum of money, we are working to clarify with the county and state to make sure if SLPID can be the lead and plus clarify if this is a doable project.

Plus, Crissy spoke about the mean high-water level with DEC, so if we need any survey work on the mean high-water level on the lake, we will have CT male do both projects at once, so they don't have to redeploy surveys, etc., and cost even more. We first need to get those clarified.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked what the timeline is. Dean said he suspects that possibly in August, we may have some clarity with the county and state on the process.

Commissioner Borisenok asked when you say wait for the town of Saratoga, is it because you are experiencing a delay, and if so, he can find out why it is being dragged out with the town.

Dean said no, not the town dragging it out. The project was not identified in the last update of the emergency management plan and hazard identification plan with the county. This is the part where it is missing, and once we all understand further, at some point, the town of Saratoga will have to be involved, just not yet. It is trying to make sure we have everything first.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked what is the next step and how do we take it.

Commissioner Simmonds stepped in, saying from what the email reads that Crissy forwarded to everyone is, that the state is still trying to figure this out.

Dean said yes, and when they spoke with Crissy subsequent to that, they did say yes, you can be the applicant. We need to see this in writing and definitively that SLPID can be the applicant, and then we find out from them and the county what steps are next.

Then, the next step is to find out if it is a viable project to move forward with or trying to fight a system that we may not be able to get through. Dean said this is what you need to understand and that there is a short guide to the rule that is 160 pages long, and without spending too much time on learning this first, we need to figure out IF we can move forward to not throw a gutter ball. Crissy and I will be sitting down with the county and state to make sure it is 100 percent clear that SLPID can move forward.

Dean continued, if so, this would be applied under the wetland reclamation portion of the FEMA projects, which the local entities are responsible for permitting. Then we would need to work with the county and town to do the permitting work.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked Cristina, are you setting up these meetings with the county and state, or are they already?

Cristina replied that she forwarded that email chain to the commissioners and that we are waiting on setting up a meeting and, as Dean commented, for them to get back in touch with us.

Commissioner Mazzotti said you could get on them and keep pushing these people. It is frustrating to him.

Cristina said this is a learning process for all involved as this is the first time they have had a request like this and the type of government agency that SLPID is and that we want to make sure it is something that can go forward before spending money.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked if we take the lead, what do we need to do not to throw a gutter ball? Can't we just apply and move forward?

Dean said this is a wetland reclamation project that will ultimately have to go to the Army Corp of Engineers, and we need to make sure we can move forward and show that.

Commissioner Mazzotti said what are we waiting for? Let's get CT Male to do this study.

Dean said to the extent that if you guys want to spend this large amount of money and if it is not started correctly or rejected, that money is gone.

Commissioner Baker stated that if it is a county or town project, they should be footing the bill for this as it will be costly.

Dean said the dredging would be expensive, and that is where we need to convince the county, town, and sewer district to be involved, as a possible flood would affect the pump station.

Commissioner Simmonds pointed out that if we go ahead, this is going to be costly.

Commissioner Mazzotti said if we agree to move forward on the survey, we can start the process and hope the county or town will provide financial assistance.

Dean stated again, I know you want this to move fast. However, the critical point is to look at how much this will cost and have budget discussions first.

Commissioner Mazzotti said that going back to the inlets, they ultimately need to be dredged, and can we piggyback on that to move forward with this project?

Dean said if the Fish Creek project does go through, it would be a good three years at least to see if it works. Looking at grants now will not be applicable to 2026 or beyond.

Commissioner Mazzotti said for Cristina to get an updated cost from CT Male.

Cristina said yes, she did and will.

Commissioner Mazzotti then asked what happens if there is a clogged inlet and who will dredge it, the town?

Dean answered Yes, and there are general permits for post-storm damage remediation. Not for lake delta formations. Post-storm damage remediation is what DEC specifically allows, not pre-storm. We have had talks with DEC to justify what are the flooding impacts, and the bottom line

is if there was definitive flooding caused by a storm that plugged an outlet, that could be fixed, but that would be town or county operations.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked who checks on these outlets.

Dean said again that some are owned by the county, towns, or DOT.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked can we have a meeting set up with the county, town, and DOT.

Dean replied yes; again, this is what we talked about, and Crissy has contacted them for a meeting at the right time when all of this comes together.

Commissioner Simmonds asked Cristina to send the Stillwater stormwater document out again to Commissioner Mazzotti.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked Cristina, you are going to be setting up these meetings?

Cristina said, yes, I am in contact, and everyone is on board to have a meeting, and we are waiting for the right time. As Dean said, these matters are all intermingled into one, and we can't rush them until it all falls together.

Cristina then said she does go periodically to check the streams and culverts, and when they are full of garbage and debris, she calls the county or town, and they come in and clean them out and post signs. The neighbors report that the county and towns do care for them.

Cristina said another item to mention, if she may, and Dean is finished, is now when you drive around the lake after rainfall, it is not so much the streams where you see stormwater runoff; it is the entire east side of the lake that is brown from properties and projects.

Cristina mentioned that Commissioner Simmonds loaned SLPID a drone and that during a rain event, she would use it to take photos to document the runoff in the lake. Also, she will pick up bottles from CNA labs to test the streams and lake sediment plume and outside of the plume so we can begin to have data.

**New business:** None.

**Old business:** None

Commissioner Simmonds motioned to set the next SLPID meeting on May 18, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. at Malta Town Hall.

**First: Simmonds**

**Second: Mazzotti**

**All Commissioners present voted: YEAH**

Motion to Adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

**First: Mazzotti**

**Second: Scalici**

**ALL Commissioners present voted: YEAH**