



**SLPID Meeting Minutes
Malta Town Hall
December 7, 2023, 3:00 p.m.**

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

Roll Call Commissioners present: Simmonds, Scalici, Borisenok, Mazzotti

Excused: Baker

Staff present: Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator.

PRESENTATIONS:

Secretary Report (SLPID Chair)

***Present October 19, 2023, meeting minutes.**

Discussion: No Comments.

Motion to accept October 19, 2023, meeting minutes.

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

Treasurer report (Commissioner Mazzotti)

***Present November 2023 Financial Report:** Year-to-date income is \$466,368.06. This includes \$462,154.40 from the tax levies, \$3,000.00 from the Global Foundries grant, \$1,188.66 from interest income, and \$25.00 in donations. The remaining budget for expenses is \$122,791.36. Additionally, the budgeted surplus for the year is \$16,320.61.

Discussion: None

Motion to accept the October 2023 Financial Report

First: Scalici Second: Borisenok All Commissioners present voted: YEAH.

Motion to accept the November 2023 paid bills. Invoices were emailed to the commissioners.

First: Simmonds Second: Borisenok All commissioners present voted: YEAH.

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

This past Monday was the end of the season CR-PRISM all partners meeting. The focus was on changing climate conditions and, staying on top of planning for future warmer weather trends and managing aquatic invasives.

New York State's Open Space Planning is resuming its process and updating its 2016 report. Cristina will meet with the regional committee member for Saratoga County next week. This will be to discuss the process and get ideas within the Saratoga Lake watershed on preserving open space, primarily the Kaydeross and Fish Creek corridors.

Cristina would like to begin advertising for seasonal employees sometime in January. There is a new pay equity and wage disclosure law for all advertised positions to disclose compensation and hourly pay ranges. Cristina said SLPID could advertise with the current hourly starting rate for each position with a goal for the commissioners to discuss and agree on 2024 wages in March and April. Commissioners agreed to advertise lake stewards beginning hourly rate at \$16.50 and weed harvesting and truck drivers' starting hourly wage of \$20.83.

Commissioner Scalici asked where the SLPID positions are advertised. Cristina said through the NYS Department of Labor, local colleges, CR-PRISM, LGPC, other lake associations, social media, Saratoga Rowing Association, Saratoga Plan, etc.

Three proposals for the plant survey have been submitted for discussion in 2024. One is from Adirondack Research, submitted last summer; another is from Larry Eichler, who has always conducted the plant survey, and the third is from Upstate Freshwater Institute, all within the same price range.

Commissioner Simmonds commented that her thoughts are to go with Adirondack Research for 2024 and a new set of eyes, even for one year.

Commissioner Mazzotti agreed.

Cristina said the other proposal from Adirondack Research is to take the past three years of BioBase data gathered from the harvesters, merge it based on survey dates, export it, and organize the data into a formatted file for easy storage. Then, the current BioBase subscription can be canceled. After, SLPID can use the free government subscription to upload data.

Adirondack Research proposed an hourly rate of \$125.00 with an estimated ten hours to complete the scope. If they approach seven hours and feel the limit will be over ten hours, they will seek further SLPID approval to continue.

The goal for 2024 would be to remove the Lowrance units from the harvesters, replace the harvesters with a simpler GPS unit, and use one of the Lowrance units on the pontoon boat to

map weed beds before and after harvesting. SLPID would continue to store this data, and maybe not now, but several years from now, that data could be useful for looking at late- season versus early-season plant changes and how to manage them.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked if a resolution was necessary to move forward.

The board decided to move forward with Adirondack Research, merging the BioBase data, which is already approved within the line item in the 2023 budget.

The Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI) submitted a proposal to SLPID for additional water quality work for 2024. Proposals are to assist SLPID with algae testing, tributary monitoring, and assessment of internal phosphorous loading and sediment concentrations.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked if SLPID should move forward with accepting this proposal.

Cristina replied that it was not a rush and that commissioners should review the proposal and let her know if there were further questions or recommendations.

Cristina said she would contact UFI to clarify the algae testing and HAB monitoring portion and ask if it is different or beyond what they already do. Cristina's thoughts were to take Dean Long's suggestion of testing the east and west sides of the lake every two weeks and incorporating that into the algae testing HAB monitoring portion of the proposal.

The Office of the State Comptroller recently called the SLPID accountant with a random audit. A few general questions were asked, and they requested a few copies of checks. Cristina provided the information to the accountant, and the State Comptroller's office appeared satisfied.

There was a comment at the last meeting regarding surplus funds being taken away if not used within a specific time. While speaking with the accountant, Cristina double-checked and validated that funds would not be taken away and that there is no limit to building up savings within the SLPID purview. Discussion should be had in 2024 on agreed-upon board-designated funds for future goals.

Cristina wanted to recognize a monetary donation from Julia Stokes to SLPID and thank her for her contribution and support.

Commissioner Borisenok mentioned a conversation with the Saratoga Plan Executive Director related to the anticipated Snake Hill acquisition and asked Cristina if it was mentioned to her being a Land Steward for Snake Hill.

Cristina replied that this was mentioned over the summer and that she would be willing to do so and be supportive in any other way with Saratoga Plan.

Cristina presented the year's invoices and receipts from checking and credit cards for the commissioners' review.

Commissioner Simmonds asked the commissioners if they reviewed the 2024 SLPID Projected Plan.

Commissioners replied they had, and they were pleased. Commissioner Simmonds said it was very comprehensive.

Cristina noted that within the plan, Dean Long suggested water sampling to understand better the differences in water quality on the east and west sides of the lake. This would begin in July and further testing in September and October.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked where we stand with the Department of Transportation and the culverts around the lake.

Cristina said there is a new DOT engineer she met in the summer, and he reviewed with her the problems with encroachments on DOT land and right of ways. The culverts and streams were all inspected and in good working order.

Commissioner Borisenok commented that the culverts can only handle so much. With the intense amount of rainfall we have been receiving at once, there is no place for the water to go but downhill.

Cristina said that as far as the sediment buildup in the lake from the streams, the DEC biologists she spoke with have said what they have seen appears to be natural sedimentation over a long period of years. However, they are looking further into it and will let her know if they find another reason.

Cristina noted the Hannaford Corporation has selected SLPID as the January 2024 Nonprofit Partner for the Community Bag Program at the Weibel Avenue, Saratoga Springs store. This means that for every reusable shopping bag purchased during January, Hannaford will automatically donate \$1.00 to SLPID.

Commissioner Scalici asked if this only applies to the Weibel Avenue store.

Cristina replied yes. However, if a bag is purchased at another store, the patron can use the attached card and request online that the extra \$1.00 goes toward SLPID.

New Business: None

Old Business: None

Motion to set the SLPID Organizational meeting with the regular meeting to immediately follow on January 11, 2024, at the Malta town hall, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

First: Simmonds Second: Scalici All Commissioners present voted: YEAH.

Commissioner Simmonds made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 3:36 p.m.

First: Simmonds Second: Borisenok All Commissioners present voted: YEAH.