



**SLPID Minutes
Malta Town Hall
May 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.**

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

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

Absent: Baker

Staff Present: Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator

Public Present: Cynthia Young (Town of Malta Supervisor), Adrian Cattell (Town of Malta Stormwater), Paul Mattison.

Secretary Report (Commissioner Simmonds)

***Present March 2026 meeting minutes.**

Discussion: None

Motion to accept the March 2026 meeting minutes.

First: Mazzotti

Second: Scalici

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH.

Treasurer Report (Commissioner Simmonds)

***Present the March and April 2026 Financial Report:**

Discussion: Year-to-date income is \$517,810.03, which includes \$506,008.33 from tax levies, \$3,000.00 for the Global Foundries grant, and \$8,801.70 from interest income. Expenses: Year to date expenses total \$53,348.91, which is primarily comprised of payroll expenses of \$31,516.00, Professional Fees/Contractor expenses of \$11,150.72, and \$6,692.62 in Lake Management. The remaining budget for expenses is \$468,301.09. Additionally, the budgeted surplus for the year is \$1,333.00. Assets: Total assets at the end of April were \$1,561,600.68. This includes \$1,014,963.11 in the bank accounts/certificates. Liabilities: Total liabilities were \$1,759.92 at the end of April. This is the outstanding balance for the credit card.

Motion to accept the March and April Financial Reports.

First: Simmonds

Second: Borisenok

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH.

Motion to accept the paid March and April invoices.

First: Mazzotti

Second: Scalici

All commissioners present voted: YEAH

Lake District Administrator Report (Cristina Connolly)

Follow-Up From Last Meeting

The first annual Ice-Out Contest was held. The winner was Laurie McDonald, who correctly selected March 27 as the ice-out date. This winter brought a good amount of ice and snow cover, with full ice cover beginning on December 20, 2025, resulting in approximately 12 weeks of ice and snow coverage.

As a follow-up to questions raised at the last meeting, NYSDEC Fisheries also shared positive information regarding the walleye population in Saratoga Lake. Staff spoke with anglers at the boat launch who reported catching several walleye and showed photos of healthy-looking fish. NYSDEC is planning a fish survey this fall.

New Report

2025 Harvesting Report

Reviewing 2025 harvesting operations, a total of 670 loads were removed from the lake. There were only a couple of minor repairs and minimal downtime as operators performed general checks and maintenance each day.

Harvesting activity was slower in June, increased toward the end of July, and declined in August, with efforts focused primarily on the heavy-water stargrass beds on the northeast side of the lake. For most of the season, operations collected uprooted floating vegetation.

Overall, 2025 harvesting operations were efficient, with improved public feedback and understanding. We continue to have a strong team of returning employees this season.

To improve in 2026, operators will begin keeping better records regarding the percentage of floating vegetation collected compared to vegetation cut. I will closely monitor the stargrass beds, and the herbicide application for curly-leaf pondweed is expected to have positive results, which should help.

Harvesting Operations

Harvesting operators began returning to work in staggered shifts beginning May 4. All equipment is in good condition, and harvesters are scheduled to be launched on Wednesday, May 27, and harvesters to begin on June 2. I will monitor the weed beds to determine where to begin harvesting this season.

Navigation & Water Testing Buoys

Summer navigation and water testing buoys were installed on Tuesday, May 19. The Saratoga Rowing Association has been very communicative regarding buoy placement and regatta coordination.

Herbicide Treatments

The curly-leaf pondweed bed from Brown's Beach to South Shore is growing healthy and established; it is a bit later this season, most likely due to the ice cover. Plans are in place for a full 70-acre herbicide application on Tuesday, May 26.

Water clarity is currently very good at approximately 6.5 meters, and the lake remains stratified. Surveys conducted between the City Waterfront Park and 550, where a resident reported curly leaf, found only native pondweed species.

While surveying weed beds, many healthy-looking bass and perch were also observed.

Lake Stewards

Lake steward training has begun, with inspections at the boat launch beginning tomorrow and continuing seven days per week throughout the season.

NYSDEC Freshwater Wetland Rules

We have been following the newer NYSDEC freshwater wetland regulations, which lowered the size threshold for regulated wetlands and expanded DEC authority.

However, due to legal and administrative challenges, the expanded regulations have been rolled back to the previous standards for now, using the older jurisdictional and permitting criteria until the newer regulations are fully resolved or reinstated.

Water Quality Testing

Preparations are underway for this season's water quality testing. Yesterday was NYSDEC water sample training.

This year, NYSDEC has a newer probe that SLPID will share with Ballston Lake as part of additional testing. NYSDEC is piloting this with a few large lakes to compare probe data with traditional CSLAP testing for accuracy. SLPID CSLAP volunteers were in attendance

The 2025 CSLAP report has been released publicly and is available on the SLPID website. Overall, the lake quality remains unchanged.

For the additional water quality testing, Dan Buckley has volunteered to graph the data to compare both the north and south ends of the lake, so we can compare how each end functions.

I have been communicating and coordinating with NYSDOH regarding cyanobacteria surveys, sampling, and comparisons with satellite imagery. We are ready to begin those surveys and samples throughout the summer.

NYSFOLA Conference

I attended the NYSFOLA conference. There was valuable information regarding toxic algae blooms, case studies from other lakes, seminars on agricultural management practices, and shoreline best management practices. SLPID volunteers were awarded plaques at the luncheon for "Lake Steward of the Year".

Additionally, over the fall and winter, I completed two courses on algae management and one on wetland conservation and restoration.

Shoreline & Environmental Initiatives

At today's Malta Park Committee meeting, we received approval to begin installing a vegetative buffer along the shoreline and around the drainage pipe. This work will commence within the next couple of weeks.

We will also be marking out pollinator plots in late August for planting in the sandy pine barren areas. These plantings are expected to take approximately 4–5 years to fully establish and are designed to support habitat for the Karner blue butterfly.

In addition, SLPID staff were granted permission to conduct a water chestnut pull with access through the park.

Further Public Outreach

A new outreach idea under consideration to gain property owners' interest is a shoreline property owner information kit that includes a home algae-testing strip kit with algae identification and instructions, along with additional SLPID materials on shoreline maintenance, and an SLPID QR code for public reporting.

I am researching a possible pilot buoy program for next year to help filter nutrients from the shoreline. It is a startup founded by a group of recent college grads. As of now, I do not have much info on the design. They may let us try them out at no cost.

I have been collaborating with the owner of KOS, the floating sauna business, who is interested in giving back to the community by contributing a portion of the proceeds to the SLPID “Take the Pledge” Program. One of SLPID’s long-time goals is to have a small stormwater garden in each municipality. We have one in Stillwater near the entrance to Browns Beach. This season, there will be plantings at the Malta waterfront property. We are awaiting input from the Mayor’s office on whether City Waterfront Park is feasible with the KOS contribution. The City of Saratoga Springs formally supported the SLPID “Take the Pledge” program by a City Resolution.

Public Input

Public calls and questions continue to come in regarding docks, patios, stairs in the lake, and shoreline projects. More residents are reaching out for guidance on proper permitting and lake protection practices. Progress is gradual, but public awareness continues to improve. I will go around and share the SLPID community guide with the local businesses again.

Digital Towpath

We are signed up with Digital Towpath, and the website is in development, with Sarah working on it.

Old SLPID Boat

I am looking for commissioner input.

SLPID currently has a surplus boat stored in the garage that has not been used for several years:

- 1989 16-foot aluminum Sea Nymph
- 15 HP four-stroke, Mercury gas outboard motor
- 2010 trailer

A few years ago, Point Breeze estimated the value between approximately \$3,500 and \$6,000.

Given the value, as a municipality, we can sell it, as we did with the trucks, if there is a private buyer, or advertise it to gauge interest. Or, as Tom at Point Breeze indicated, they can take it and try to sell it.

Town of Stillwater Riverview Revitalization Committee

I participated in the first committee meeting to discuss the Riverview Revitalization Program in the town of Stillwater along the Hudson. Discussed:

- Community growth and future needs
- Walkability
- Water access
- Trail connections
- Waterfront improvements

This is a grant the town received to identify areas that are abandoned, vacant, or underutilized and to gather stakeholders and public input to support the town's growth. The timeline is to have it completed by the spring of 2027.

Administrative Updates

- All permits and certificates of insurance for the season are complete.
- Paid Family Leave and disability requirements have been paid.
- County tax levy for 2026 has been deposited. Municipal agreements with the Town of Malta and the Town of Saratoga have been deposited. The Town of Stillwater has just come in. Waiting for the City's contribution. Also, thank you to Carol Dooley for a monetary donation.

Water Levels

Water levels have remained on target at the summer operating level of approximately 203.3 feet.

Legislative Outreach

There is nothing new to report regarding state funding opportunities related to pursuing the Jefferson Project for Saratoga Lake.

Next week, the two newly elected County Supervisors representing the City will be meeting to learn more about SLPID, its operations, and what they can do to support SLPID.

Motion to sell the 1989 Sea Nymph boat, trailer, and motor for the best offer and advertise it on Facebook Marketplace

First: Simmonds

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Motion to conduct the next SLPID meeting on July 16, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at Malta Town Hall Board Room, 2650 Route 9, Malta.

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

Motion to close the meeting at 3:17 p.m. and enter into executive session for property transactions

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

Motion to close the executive session and enter into the meeting at 3:32

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

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

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