SLPID Minutes
Malta Town Hall
March 19, 2026, at 3:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Simmonds, 3:00 p.m.
Roll Call Commissioners Present: Simmonds, Baker, Scalici, Mazzotti, Borisenok (via Zoom)
Staff Present: Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator
Public Present: Dan Buckley, Michael Urbaetis, William Root Jr., Bernie Zabek

Public Comment: Michael Urbaetis, William Root Jr., and Bernie Zabeck requested that their concerns regarding the past ice-fishing season for walleye and perch be entered into the record. They have been in contact with Cristina, who is reporting their observations to NYSDEC Fisheries. As avid ice anglers on Saratoga Lake for the past 15 years, they report a noticeable annual decline in catch rates. Additionally, some walleye caught have exhibited red sores consistent with hemorrhaging. Mr. Zabeck has also provided detailed records of his catch history, including species data and GPS coordinates, to support Cristina's communication with the NYSDEC wildlife and Fisheries biologist**.**

Secretary Report (Commissioner Simmonds)
***Present January 2026 meeting minutes.**
Discussion: None
Motion to accept the January 2026 meeting minutes.
First: Simmonds **Second: Baker** **All Commissioners present voted: YEAH.**

Treasurer Report (Commissioner Simmonds)
***Present the January and February 2026 Financial Report:**
Discussion: Income: Year-to-date expenses total $23,598.42, which is primarily comprised of payroll expenses of $16,147.34 and $5,267.34 in Lake Management. The remaining budget for expenses is $497,038.06. Additionally, the budgeted surplus for the year is $1,333.00. Assets: Total assets at the end of February were $1,078,253.20. This includes $531,615.63 in the bank accounts/certificates. Liabilities: Total liabilities were $1,634.44 at the end of February. This is the outstanding balance for the credit card.

Motion to accept the January and February Financial Reports.
First: Baker **Second: Scalici** **All Commissioners present voted: YEAH.**

Motion to accept the paid January and February invoices.
First: Mazzotti **Second: Simmonds** **All commissioners present voted: YEAH**

Lake District Administrator Report (Cristina Connolly)

Cristina said she has had several discussions with NYSDEC fisheries; they have not had any other anglers reach out with concerns, nor have any others been raised with SLPID. Cristina said SLPID is taking the concerns seriously, appreciates all the data provided by the gentleman, and asked them to share her contact information with other anglers for any questions or information. NYSDEC fisheries responded that they are taking the complaint seriously and, based on this concern, fisheries will plan additional targeted surveys of walleye and yellow perch this spring, including collecting samples for routine fish health testing as part of their wildlife fish health monitoring program. Additional population sampling is also planned later in the fall. NYSDEC validated that the herbicide ProcellaCOR has not been shown to directly affect fish health or survival, and that less than 2% of the lake was treated in 2025. Environmental factors do impact fish behavior

Herbicide Treatments
The herbicide letter of notification was mailed on February 13. Permits have been filed by Ready Scout with the NYSDEC and were paid for by SLPID. To date, we have received only three inquiries from property owners, all in support of the herbicide treatment, and there have been no complaints. Once we receive a response from NYSDEC, I will notify the commissioners. The current plan is to survey the curly leaf pondweed in early May and determine the treatment.

SLPID Volunteers
Congratulations to SLPID volunteers Karl Hardcastle, William LaMay, and Neal Kramer for receiving the NYSFOLA Lake Steward Award this year. They will be honored at the conference in Lake George this spring.

Shoreline & Environmental Initiatives
The Malta Town Board has officially named the waterfront park “Observation Pointe at Mangino’s”. Next week, Cristina will be meeting with an environmental firm to walk the property and gather recommendations for native plantings. Cristina said next week she will also conduct the first property assessment signup for the year, for a property owner requesting guidance on establishing a shoreline vegetative buffer.

Additionally, she will be collaborating with the owner of the floating sauna, who is interested in giving back to the community by providing native plants to promote the SLPID “Take the Pledge Program”.

The NYSDOT has reviewed the Route 9P corridor within its right-of-way. They expressed concern that if they were to reestablish vegetation along 9P, property owners might remove it, and suggested that SLPID focus on increased outreach and education efforts this summer to build property-owner support and work with NYSDEC and the “Trees to Tribs” program next year.

Legislative Outreach
Nothing new to report on with state funding to pursue the “Jefferson Project for Saratoga Lake”. Discussions regarding local funding have not yet formally begun.

Lease – Riley Cove Launch Area
Historically, SLPID has used the Riley Cove common launch area to offload harvested weeds from the south end of the lake, as it is our only viable location. Equipment is staged there during the day, at the end of the day, the conveyor is placed in the parking lot, and the harvesters are parked on the neighboring Kunz property, which has been provided at no cost.

In 2017, Riley Cove Corporation requested improvements, which led SLPID to fund a new gate and gravel and to enter into a ten-year lease agreement. The lease allows use of the property during the harvesting season at $1,050 per season and is set to expire this October.

Cristina has been in contact with the president of Riley Cove Corporation, who will discuss potential renegotiation terms with their board. He has said they believe the current compensation is undervalued. He will discuss the agreement further with his board and have a proposal for the May SLPID meeting. The Kunz family is happy to allow the use of their property at no charge.

SLPID Legislation and Amendments
In researching to rebuild the SLPID files and speaking with the Senator and Assemblywoman, two amendments to the SLPID legislation were identified:

- One states that SLPID cannot be dissolved if municipal funding ceases.
- The other clarifies that the SLPID Treasurer is not required to reside within the district and explicitly grants SLPID the authority to accept and utilize grants, as well as acquire and dispose of property using non-tax funds without voter approval.

This allows purchases or sales over $10,000 to be made without a public vote, provided taxpayer funds are not used, and does not fully clarify requirements related to grant programs, which may still require municipal participation.

Assemblywoman Woerner has indicated she will consult with the DEC for further interpretation. Cristina will ensure these documents are properly archived in SLPID records and forwarded to legal counsel.

SLPID Website
The SLPID website must be updated to meet ADA compliance standards. Two options have been presented:

- WebInstinct Proposal: $5,600 to update the current website for ADA compliance, with additional costs for future changes.
- Digital Towpath: A return to the original .gov platform, which is a government-run, compliant system designed for municipalities. This option operates under an intermunicipal agreement and includes electronic records management to ensure compliance and continuity.

The Digital Towpath annual membership fee is $1,600 and functions as a cooperative, with member input on updates, costs, and improvements, with a yearly board meeting and vote. It also offers additional features that our current website does not provide.

Discussion: Commissioners agreed to use Digital Towpath, with Commissioner Borisenok commenting that if it does not work, we can always change it.

RESOLUTION #2026-10

A Resolution Establishing Initial Membership in the Digital Towpath Cooperative:

WHEREAS The Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District has adopted and will maintain the technologies afforded us through the Digital Towpath Cooperative's (DTC) systems and services, and
WHEREAS The Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District has realized an increase in service to the residents of our local government through the use of these tools, and WHEREAS The continued use of the systems and services will continue to enhance our citizens' egovernment interaction with our local government and promote the security, authenticity and availability of electronic public records we hold; and
WHEREAS The Agreement for Services outlining our participation in this cooperative has been presented to and reviewed by this board,
THEREFORE, we authorize the Director/Administrator to enter into the Agreement establishing our membership in the Digital Towpath Cooperative and hereby designate Cristina Connolly to represent our local government in all proceedings of that body.
First: Simmonds Second: Mazzotti All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

New Business Discussion: Commissioner Simmonds proposed an SLPID Official Ice-Out Contest, and the giveaway prize is a Saratoga Lake Wall Clock. All commissioners agreed to proceed and instructed Cristina to move forward with the contest.

Motion to conduct the next SLPID meeting on May 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at Malta Town Hall Board Room, 2650 Route 9, Malta.
First: Simmonds Second: Baker All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m.
First: Baker Second: Scalici All Commissioners present voted: YEAH