

**SLPID Monthly Meeting (VIA ZOOM)**

**February 18, 2021**

**Call to order** at 6:30 p.m. presiding Chair Commissioner Kathy Simmonds

**Commissioners present** Town of Stillwater, Karl Hardcastle. Town of Saratoga, Tom Carrangi. Commissioner at Large, Victor Mazzotti. City of Saratoga Springs, Kathy Simmonds. Town of Malta, Walter Supley.

**Commissioners absent-** none.

**Staff present:** SLPID Recording Secretary, Deborah Curto. SLPID Lake Administrator, Cristina Connolly.

**Others present:** Lake Consultants- Tracey Clothier, Dean Long. Assistant Treasurer, Michael VanPatten.

**Excused:** Weed Harvesting Supervisor: Lonnie VanBuren.

**Public present:** none

**Public Comments:**

Mr. John Cashin submitted comments via email as his internet connection is sparse. FOIL request was submitted by John Cashin and responded via SLPID attorney.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Secretary report (Deborah Curto)**

\*January minutes presented:

A review of the January minutes as presented.

The following documents were used at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes

**Discussion:** none

**Motion to accept January minutes:**

First: K. Simmonds Second: V. Mazzotti

All members present voted: YES

**Motion to approve organizational resolutions:**

First: K. Simmonds Second: V. Mazzotti

All members present voted: YES

**Treasurer report (Mike VanPatten)**

**\*Present monthly bills to be paid.**

Discussion:

Register reports and statements of revenue and expenditures were distributed to the Commissioners via email before the meeting for review. Bills to be paid \$4,922.27.

Commissioner Kathy Simmonds questioned if we are paying ADP \$93.00 per week for processing payroll? Mike commented yes.

**Motion to accept to pay the monthly bills:**

First, V. Mazzotti                      Second              W. Supley              All members present voted: YES.

**Treasurer's monthly report:**

Discussion:

All of the year-end reports have been completed except, the US Census Bureau Financial report, as it has not been released. A cash Flow Bar graph is to show trends that Mike will issue monthly. Commissioner Karl Hardcastle commented this is useful. Commissioner Kathy Simmonds asked what the service charge of \$57 is from Adirondack Trust, this was a wire fee for the deposit on new equipment.

The following documents were presented:

1. Financial Statements: Balance Sheet, Income Statement.
2. Monthly Bank Reconciliations
3. Weekly Payroll Reports
4. Monthly Vendor and Invoices

**Motion to accept Treasurer's report:**

First, V. Mazzotti                      Second              W. Supley              All members present voted: YES.

**Lake Administrator (Cristina Connolly)**

**Safety Report- none.**

**Lake Steward Report-** The 2020 Data report for the Stewards has not been completed. Will be completed in March or April per state.

**Lake Admin. Report-** Cristina spoke with SLA President, Eliot Cresswell about SLA funding the floating island project. SLA is not opposed. However, SLA is more interested in helping SLPD fund their educational programs with the floating classrooms, property owner education on run-off, shoreline buffers, take the pledge. Cristina stated the floating islands are an educational opportunity for all to see who are out on the lake while also helping to mitigate nutrient load and that we could always put together a press release or contact reporters for an article and hold an event at the Brown's beach tent for outreach education on this. SLA has expressed they would not like to have any ongoing ownership or maintenance of an island but if it has an educational opportunity, they may be willing to show support in funding. Cristina said, will see how the floating island plan progresses, fully assess the sites, and have a game plan, then go from there with SLA.

With SLPID board approval, Cristina will look at the chance of hosting the floating classrooms safely and will put some pricing together. The SLA President seemed supportive of helping to fund these as they have already seen the success and comments from past SLPID floating classrooms. Cristina said Commissioner Hardcastle volunteered the use of a pontoon boat and himself as the driver which will save money, thanking him.

For further board decision - Cristina would like to secure the Browns Beach tent early in June to present info on the difference of weeds, the harvesting program, and hand-harvesting water

chestnuts and use the new shoreline buffer book. This could be done safely outdoors, have a pre-registration and the only cost would be organizing it. Cristina would ask capital district PRISM and Cornell Co-op to send a couple of people for presentations at no-cost and Dean and Tracey could also present. Cristina will reach out to Kristen at LGA for educational ideas during COVID. The board approved her pursuing the educational events.

**Navigation issue with Marinas** Speaking with DEC permits, DEC has placed phone calls with the Marinas and asked nicely for the dock reconfiguration. However, it appears nothing is going to change as it has been several years now with 550 Union docks staying in place and Saratoga Lake Marina has not responded to DEC. Cristina would like to send another letter to Erin Burns the regional permit administrator for DEC permits and show that the DEC staff has had informal contact with the marinas, and nothing seems to be happening and if she could step in so we can address the navigational hazard. All Commissioners approved the letter to Erin Burns to be submitted.

**Weed Harvesting** (Lonnie VanBuren. In absence- Cristina Connolly)

Discussion: Cristina asked about leasing the weedoo for water chestnuts. The board advised her to go ahead as it was approved at the January meeting. Cristina said she will discuss with Lonnie and Dean the best week and schedule this.

**Lake Level** (Commissioner, Carringi)

Discussion: 200.9 (3 feet below normal level) Ice is approximately 12" deep. Last year's ice-out was March 17<sup>th</sup>. There is a fishing tournament this weekend. It appears the lake has a lot of usage this winter.

**Water testing, CSLAP** (Commissioner Hardcastle)

Discussion: SLPID will begin to take E-coli tests earlier in the season before hot weather arrives for a baseline at Sucker Brook and Lake Lonely. Dean indicated earlier that more water samples should be taken this season to have a better record and for Everblue lakes.

**Aquatic Weed Control (Dean Long)**

A summary was sent via email. No questions were presented on the email report sent.

Draft reply to EverBlue lakes for aeration was sent out to commissioners for comment. There was no comment or questions. This is a good technique for lakes that are not stratified and works well, changing the water chemistry enough to change phosphorous to prevent algae blooms. Deepwater aeration may be an option to use in the future on the lake. SLPID needs more water testing data. Could have lake stewards do additional dissolved oxygen tests during the summer months.

**South Shore Marina conversion:** DEC has a new guideline book on marinas for Stormwater permits and a civil engineer manual (guidance book) for small craft harbors what they should look like. This is a guideline book.

Dean is recompiling data on the bio-base for the harvesting loads. Water depth, sonar depth, distinctive interference. Commissioner, Kathy Simmonds mentioned having a hard time reading the bio-base report. Dean stated, it is not complete and additional data is coming. After manipulating the data, Dean was able to get information on the weed harvester runs. DEC wants SLPID to report on how much harvesting is done. Bio-base is not accurate and reads that the harvesters are cutting when machines are idle and rocking. Next year, would like to

place a flashpoint to push when harvesting is being done. Dean will be in touch with Cristina after next week to discuss the biobase readings.

Assistant Treasurer, Mike VanPatten questioned the type of document required for South Shore Marina conversion. Is that a regulation that they have to follow? No, it is a guideline. Dean commented if the project at Route 9P followed the guidelines, there would not be a mess they have now. Commissioner Walter Supley commented he heard there would not be any public access. Commissioner Tom Carrangi stated that the Town of Malta missed the opportunity to purchase this property which would have allowed the Town of Malta to own lakefront property for its residents. He further stated that when Brown's beach went up for sale, the Town of Stillwater purchased it and they now have beach access.

**\*Floating island update:** Determine who will be stepping up to do this project. SLA does want information on the islands.

### **Grants, Watershed Management plan (Tracey Clothier)**

#### **\*Watershed management plan update**

**Discussion:** Tracey is working on the land use regulations. Compiling previous data and comparing shoreline information from each municipality. Tracey stated she and Cristina will do outreach and meet with the Town Supervisors and Mayor and survey what their interests are in Saratoga lake - dock regulations, land clearing - where do they need assistance?

Commissioner Kathy Simmonds asked if the watershed plan is still on schedule? Tracey said it is a bit behind because of writing the grant. The grant should be announced shortly.

Commissioner Kathy Simmonds questioned when meeting with the Supervisors, would it be a standard form / same questions? Tracey said, yes and questions will be sent out in advance to SLPID Board members. Tracey will also be looking at dock regulations. 2012 was the last time it was reviewed. With the South Shore Marina proposal and no more public dock space rental, where will the existing boat owners dock their boats? Will new marinas pop up and private homeowners extend dock space for rental? There are no rules for boats and docks on Saratoga Lake, Saratoga Lake is not a State lake. Walter suggested we should revisit regulations. There was a discussion of who would enforce the regulations. Cristina asked, when the dock regulations were first introduced, she read that the permit fees would be generated for SLPID funding, is that true? Tracey stated, yes. Commissioners, Walter Supley and Victor Mazzotti agreed to revisit and carefully think about dock and boat regulations again. Commissioner Karl Hardcastle stated, SLPID has no law enforcement power. Commissioner Walter Supley said he would like SLPID to look into this further and see what the options are. Tracey commented the original plan was for SLPID to use the fees generated for more improvements with the Lake District. It was agreed to consult with SLPID Attorney Anderson on SLPID's authority and moving forward.

#### **Communications (Commissioner Supley)**

**Discussion:** Cristina put together an article on ice fishing with 165 views. Boosted to 700+ leads for \$46.

**Old Business:** Commissioner Victor Mazzotti looked over current SLPID legislation and reached out to Don Boyajian, Region 5 DEC Attorney. Commissioner Mazzotti suggested the SLPID board should revisit amending the 1986 legislation. The first step would be to reach out

to the State representatives and draft an amendment for more power and jurisdiction on land-use in the District and to have enforcement with DEC attorneys to step in and represent SLPID. At this time DEC cannot represent us in any matter. Cedar Bluff is now on their radar. Commissioner Karl Hardcastle stated back in the day, SLPID was a pilot program, SLPID is a special district and we should clean it up with legislation. Cristina will reach out to Commissioner Mazzotti, next week.

**New Business:** Cristina asked if the board reviewed the Darrin Fresh Water proposal. Commissioner Kathy Simmonds questioned the billing when the survey is not completed. Cristina stated a signed contract is needed for the work and billing is in two payments asking Assistant Treasurer VanPatten for confirmation. Commissioner Simmonds then asked if the survey is needed annually or can it be done every other year? Cristina stated the report is necessary for the herbicide permits yearly. Cristina will reach out to Larry, Dean, and Beth Magee to triple-check and table discussion for the March meeting.

**Motion to Adjourn**

First W. Supley  
voted: YES.

Second

T. Carringi

All members present

*Kathy Simmonds, CHAIR*  
*4/17/21*