



## SLPID Monthly Meeting (VIA ZOOM)

April 15, 2021

**Call to order** at 6:28 p.m. presiding Chair Commissioner Kathy Simmonds

**Commissioners present** Town of Stillwater, Karl Hardcastle. Town of Saratoga, Tom Carringi. 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:** John Cashin

### Public Comments:

Mr. John Cashin questioned whether any response has been received from the Town of Saratoga (40 acres have been cleared, SLA issued demand letter siting clearing without approval) and if SLPID has taken any additional action on letter sent. K. Simmonds stated no response has been received and we do not have plans to do anything further.

V. Mazzotti, C. Connolly and K. Simmonds have met with 3 towns, with Commissioner Hardcastle and Commissioner Supley in attendance with the municipality they each represent. All were receptive to amending legislation. Each town asked to be kept informed. Meeting with City of Saratoga Springs soon. Questionnaire has been received from 2 towns (which T. Clothier has submitted)

### PRESENTATIONS:

#### Secretary report (Deborah Curto)

**\*March** minutes presented:

A review of the March minutes as presented.

The following documents were used at the meeting:

1. Agenda
2. Draft Minutes

**Discussion:** minor change to (spelling of name)

#### Motion to accept March minutes:

First: V. Mazzotti

Second: W. Supley

All members present voted: YES

#### Treasurer report (Mike VanPatten)

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

Discussion:

\$788,000 in bank account running \$200,000 short from last year at this same time. This year will be tight, and we need to watch what we spend. Register reports and statements of revenue and expenditures were distributed to the Commissioners via email before the meeting for review. Bills to be paid \$8033.49 Monies have been received from the county (\$410,000). City of Saratoga Springs still has not been paid.

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

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

**Treasurer's monthly report:**

Discussion:

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 K. Simmonds                      Second W. Supley                      All members present voted: YES.

W. Supley asked to make a statement on the treasurer's report. He stated that he received a reassessment from the town of Malta and if that would impact the monies we receive. M. VanPatten explained the procedure of real property tax cap.

**Lake Administrator (Cristina Connolly)**

Several calls have been made to City of Saratoga in regard to annual contribution to SLPID. Return call received (Rachel) from Public Works office. Message was forwarded to her, then forwarded to Deputy of Finance. Contacted Michele Madigan – stated it was a five-year contract and not to worry about it. They have requested a formal email request and will include a copy of the contract. M. VanPatten stated he sends a bill to the other towns; however City has its own procedures. C. Connolly will get it straightened out.

**Safety Report- none.**

**Lake Steward Report-**

Operating at launch Friday May 30, full-time. With boat washing station. Training will be week before and after. Currently recruiting new stewards and planning.

Invite for June 13 for Brown's Beach is being worked on. Also reached out to towns for summer programs. Transportation has not been formalized and no commitment from town on Summer programs whether programs will be available. Floating classroom class on hold.

**RESOLUTION # 21-2021**

Whereas the Commissioners approve to contract with Public Sector HR Consultants to review and advise SLPID on the new SLPID HR Manual at \$175.00 per hour, not to exceed \$2,000. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action to hire Public Sector HR Consultants, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

Discussion:

K. Hardcastle questioned the full cost of the project. V. Mazzotti questioned if there were any grants available. C. Clothier stated at this time there are not, she is monitoring. M. VanPatten stated the largest grant we have received in the past was \$25,000 for Water Chestnuts, which T. Clothier confirmed

First: K. Simmonds                      Second: T. Carringi                      All Commissioners present:

**RESOLUTION # 22-2021**

Whereas the Commissioners approve to contract with Adirondack HST to train specific SLPID staff in CPR & First Aid at the SLPID building. Adirondack HST fee is \$75.00 per employee and \$25.00 for their driving time. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action to hire Adirondack HST, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District. (four employees cost \$325)

First: K. Simmonds                      Second: V. Mazzotti                      All Commissioners present:

**RESOLUTION # 23-2021**

Whereas the Commissioners approve SLPID employees needing a Boater Certification course to take the NYS approved online course at \$34.95 per person. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action for these employees to take the approved NYS Boater certification course, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District. (four employees)

First: K. Simmonds                      Second: K Hardcastle                      All Commissioners present:

**Weed Harvesting (D. Long)**

Discussion: Herbicide programs. Circulated notes.

**Floating Island** – Pushback and resistant from residents. One consideration, and recommendation is work on finding ideal location and plan on the build next year. With Floating classroom not yet available, floating island is a good education tool for the floating classroom program. Also need to look at additional resources. V. Mazzotti questioned if we had sites chosen and what would change from this year to next year. Also trying to establish a base line condition. Need to know what the shoreline is today and monitor what conditions, water samples. K Hardcastle asked if additional water samples should be collected? We need to do stream sampling around each individual stream. How many inlets? 6. How many tests? We need to get a Low flow / high flow. Can we do that so that we can install a couple islands to see how it goes. Is there a place where a homeowner would want to have it in their place? It has to be placed in 5-6 feet of the shoreline. If we do not get a homeowner consent, we cannot do this. K. Hardcastle suggested sucker Brook – slow flow, high e-coli. Cold Spring, Titan property. V.

Mazzotti asked if there is a law that states we cannot put anything in front of a homeowner's property. K. Simmonds stated it's a good neighbor policy whether it is required or not. K. Hardcastle stated there is the littoral zone. SLPID has no water or land control. Under 100 feet does not require a permit. K. Hardcastle stated the high e-Coli is reflective on rainy days. Any other avenues to control e-coli (Geese and land use – failed septic systems – Sucker Brook – cattle or horses up in the water shed).

Cold Spring – Titan Property would not be as intrusive. Any streams along Browns Beach would work. V. Mazzotti asked if we could get approvals from that owner, could we go forward. C. Connolly stated someone needs to dredge in front of their property. We also have no one to pay. C. Connolly stated we need to get data on the water quality. V. Mazzotti stated we need to stop spinning our wheels on this. We need to have someone to pay for dredging. K. Simmonds stated D. Long did a presentation a while back with costs and there is no one to pay for the dredging. C. Connolly stated if the legislation was changed, perhaps SLAP would assist to pay. T. Clothier stated that we need to do some science first. We have gaps in information. We know Stillwater may pay for one. Are the streams good candidates? Whats happening in those streams? We need to measure. D. Long will do testing of water. Low flow/high flow sample. Will possibly have results at next meeting. V. Mazzotti concerned with dredging issue. It slows down water, increases sedimentation. One thing triggers another. What parts of the lake need to be dredged over the next couple of years. K. Hardcastle questioned D. Long – can he get phosphorous on the meter? Streams are shallow. Would it be similar to CSLAP sample? W. Supley questioned if we could dredge wouldn't it make sense the sandbar at end of lake and get that sediment out (lower lake). D. Long said that would be a possibility. It becomes a flood control issue. D. Long is not recommending that, but it is an angle you can pursue. K. Simmonds if its easier to get a permit for that? If we could drop the lake level to 197 right now we are at 200 ish. We could dredge select areas. DEC will not allow us to get down to that level (Wetland protection permit). It could last 50 years or one storm. D. Long will look back at CT Male report and where the plug of sediment is on Fish Creek and if wetlands. Should we do a face to face with the DEC people once that report is submitted by D. Long. The sandbar is what causes the flooding. K. Hardcastle states that the sandbar is visible. T. Clothier stated the study is on the website. Move forward with D. Long a plan for the floating island. Wrote an article for the newsletter. Education is key. Do stream testing – evaluate each stream, building the case. Once report is complete. C. Connolly and D. Long will meet with homeowners.

Watershed plan – working on the Lorenz Fish Finder and GIS – system, DEC has permit condition that we can harvest no more than 50% of wetlands found in lake (Franklin Beach, Kaydersoss, south of Snake Hill)

**Herbicide treatment** - Paperwork is all in. One comment received from resident. No impact on treatment.

**Weed harvesting** – (C. Connolly) nothing new. (Lonnie, Mark and Patrick begin May 3<sup>rd</sup>) Equipment delivery on same schedule.

**Lake Level** (Commissioner, Carrangi)

Discussion: 202.25 lake level. Level is going up. Rising is steady. Dam is closed.

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

Discussion: No report

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

**\*Watershed management plan update**

**Discussion**

Struggling to find new GIS provider. The person from LA Group has left. Looking for an independent contractor to finish up the mapping. No other issues except for the GIS.

**Communications (Commissioner Supley)**

**Discussion:** Couple new Facebook ads went out. Latest one – lake turnover. boost post for \$10 only spend \$4. Four new page likes. Reach has dropped 49% because over 28 days because of no advertising. 332 people have go into website. Increased engagements for \$4.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** none

**Motion to Adjourn 7:27 pm**

First V. Mazzotti

Second K. Hardcastle

All members present voted: YES.