



**SLPID Meeting MINUTES  
Malta Community Center and Zoom  
September 30, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Presiding Chair: Kathleen Simmonds

Commissioners present: Commissioners Simmonds, Mazzotti, Supley, Carringi, Hardcastle

Staff present: Lonnie Van Buren, Weed Harvesting Supervisor, Cristina Connolly, District Administrator

Others: Mike VanPatten, Assistant Treasurer. Dean Long, Consultant

Public Comment: None

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Guest, Brianna Milanese** – Retirement Specialist, NYS Deferred Compensation.

**Discussion:**

Ms. Milanese presented to the Commissioners the supplemental retirement benefit to the board. SLPID is a Government agency and qualifies to join the NY State retirement system. The SLPID board does not want to offer the NYS retirement plan to employees but can still be eligible to provide the NYS deferred plan at no cost to the District for employees to contribute their pay to a pre-tax or Roth IRA.

**RESOLUTION #31-2021**

Attached is the Resolution for SLPID to adopt the Deferred Compensation Plan for employee's voluntary participation.

First: Mazzotti

Second: Hardcastle

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**Secretary report (SLPID Chair)**

**\*Present August 2021 minutes.**

Discussion: None

**Motion to accept August 2021 minutes:**

First: Supley

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**Treasurer report (Mike VanPatten)**

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

Discussion: Last month, there was \$384,000 cash, have spent \$143,000. As of 9/30/21, there is a total of \$241,112.73 in restricted and unrestricted funds. Invoices paid before the meeting were \$97,449.31, plus \$24,351.86, totaling \$121,801.17 to be approved.

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

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

**\*Present monthly treasurer report.**

Discussion: SLPID adopted budget was submitted to the County and approved.

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

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

**Lake Administrator (Cristina Connolly)**

**\*Safety Report.**

**\*Lake Steward Report.**

**\*Lake Admin. Report.**

Discussion: A written report was sent to the Commissioners and read at the meeting. Commissioner Hardcastle questioned how Cristina has been reporting algal blooms at the launch, and he is in charge of CSLAP. Cristina should contact him to handle it. Cristina said she is doing it this way as requested by NY State Parks, DEC, and Health Department for all NYS Parks property. Commissioner Hardcastle said it all goes to the same lab in Syracuse. Cristina said State Parks samples go to Albany. Cristina will also call Commissioner Hardcastle to take a duplicate sample in the future.

**Weed Harvesting (Lonnie Van Buren)**

Discussion: All new equipment is delivered. Lonnie appreciates it for a better job. Some modifications are needed due to a change of product lines. Lonnie would like to purchase a welder as he has been using his own. The cost is approximately \$1,500. Commissioner Hardcastle asked about contracting someone to weld and do repairs? Lonnie said the price is not a lot for the welder. He has always been doing the welding jobs for SLPID with his welder, as it saves a tremendous amount of money. Commissioner Hardcastle questioned the type of welder, if it is mig or tig, as there are several types? Lonnie said he would purchase a basic power supply and add to that.

Today, 9/30/21, is the last day of the harvesters cutting. They have been taking 21-22 loads out a day. They will remove the buoys, get ready to take all the equipment out of the water, clean and any maintenance needed.

Commissioner Hardcastle said he would like to see a surveillance system in the SLPID building monitored by cell phone to view and explained how it works to the board. Lonnie said there is a SimpliSafe alarm on the building, all doors, and all four garage doors, which would be hard to open. The building is metal, and there has never been a problem. There is limited cell service and no Wi-Fi. It is the Town of Saratoga's building shared with SLPID. The Commissioners asked Cristina for a price quote through Saratoga Surveillance and clear with the Town of Saratoga.

Commissioner Supley then asked about purchasing another GPS for the third harvester. The last discussion was to wait on buying another unit until the current units are figured out how to use and if there is a reason for another.

Commissioner Hardcastle said he was out on his jet ski several times south of Browns Beach in line with Cold Springs Road and went in the same weed bed. He jumped off to clean his intake in about 8-10 feet of water, a few hundred feet from shore. Lonnie explained in general, the harvesters do not cut there. Commissioner Hardcastle said it happened to him several times, and he could see driving into it. Lonnie explained the harvester cutting paths, and they did their proper rotations in that area, some weed beds are not cut.

**RESOLUTION #32-2021**

Whereas the Commissioners approve the Harvesting Supervisor's purchase of a welder of his choice, not to exceed \$2,000. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners approve the purchase of a welder for the repair of SLPID equipment, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Mazzotti

Second: Supley

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

**Lake Level (Commissioner Carringi)**

Discussion: 203.4

**Water testing CSLAP (Commissioner Hardcastle)**

Discussion: Last reading was on the 27<sup>th</sup> of August. The Secchi disc reading was at 3.1 meters, high.

**Aquatic Weed Control (Dean Long)**

Discussion: Larry Eichler conducted his lake survey. There is very little milfoil. No herbicide treatment is necessary next year. The use of the Weedoo was very successful on the water chestnuts and will continue next year with the Weedoo for 2022 without herbicide treatment. There is a mass of water stargrass at the sailing club. The harvesters tackled that quickly.

**\*Fish Creek remediation**

Discussion: Dean, Cristina, Blue, and Dustin met to discuss pursuing the Fish Creek remediation plan. Additional information is still needed by reaching out to various agencies to find out the process. Further information on various grants is needed. The County Board of Supervisors sponsors outside agency grants that SLPID may qualify. SLPID will request \$9,000 for the bathymetric survey of Fish Creek as proposed from C.T. Male to do the work. Cristina will put the application together and submit it to the County Administrator.

Commissioner Supley asked if dynamite could be used in Fish Creek and be easier? Dean Long explained there are several environmental issues, people live there, and that would only move the sediment to a new spot. Commissioner Carringi asked how far the Dam is to his Marina? Dean Long responded Route 29 near the antique dealer Commissioner Hardcastle said near the ice cream stand.

**\*Motion to submit Saratoga County outside agency funding application in the amount of \$9,000.**

First: Simmonds

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

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

**\*Watershed management plan update.**

Discussion: An update on the watershed management plan was emailed to the Commissioners. A public information meeting will be held at the November SLPID meeting.

**Communications (Commissioner Supley)**

Discussion: Water chestnut Facebook post generated 3,000 views. One hundred fifty people clicked on the SLPID website.

**Old Business:**

Discussion: Commissioner Mazzotti asked where we are with the overlay district? Cristina said no feedback had been received on the regulations table. She will discuss with Tracey Clothier, move forward with a draft, and schedule another meeting with the municipalities. It is essential to include Blue Neils and Dustin Lewis.

**New Business:**

Discussion: None

**Executive Session to discuss HR Manual**

**Motion to suspend the meeting and go into Executive Session at 1:03 p.m.**

First: Simmonds

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present: YEAH

**Motion to end Executive Session and resume the regular meeting**

First: Simmonds

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present: YEAH

Discussion: Commissioner Hardcastle would like SLPID to purchase a port-a-potty for Riley's cove and at the SLPID building to save money for employees using the bathroom. Commissioner Mazzotti asked for Cristina to get more information and pricing on this.

One floating holiday is requested for Harvesting Employees to use in one-hour increments if needed to attend appointments. Commissioners decided for those employees to use Juneteenth, an already existing paid holiday, as a floating holiday.

Commissioners decided for the HR Manual, if there is any leftover sick leave when an employee leaves SLPID, sick leave is not to be paid out and lost.

Commissioners decided that the Administrator position details will be either in a separate Memo of Agreement or in the HR Manual.

**Motion to close executive session and resume meeting at 1:28 p.m.**

First: Simmonds

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present: YEAH

**Motion to close regular meeting at 1:30 p.m.**

First: Simmonds

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present: YEAH



**September Meeting Summary**

**Cristina Connolly**

- Waiting on an answer from Docufree accounting to remove the \$3,000 bill sent to SLPID.
- Contacted Lenovo on the warranty of the broken computer. Waiting on Lenovo to send box and replace with a new computer.
- New conveyor, new harvester, new truck, all delivered. Lonnie is working on modifications of the conveyor and harvester. The crew is working harder than ever, pulling record loads out. Have had all compliments this year on harvesters doing a thorough job. Bob began working and hired one other new employee making five total. -No complaints – all compliments’ people and SLA seem happy with SLPID’s job and efforts of harvesting and stewards. I have seen several Facebook posts from residents thanking the harvesting crew for a great job.
- I have been trying to set up an account for SLPID with Stonebridge steel for Lonnie to purchase items for repairs on equipment. SLPID is not qualifying because all accounts with vendors were closed last year.
- Forwarded the zoning reg table and summary of the round table meeting on overlay dist. to all planners, supervisors, and the mayor. While surveying the weeds within the town of Saratoga side, I took photos of several projects that have potential impacts on the lake and reported them to Gil. Silt fences were placed the next day.

I spoke with Gil and the other town planners/enforcement. They like the idea of working together this way and reporting anything seen to them. Then, I thought, they probably do not have the opportunity to view properties from the lake to see for themselves, and that is why they believe everything is okay? About five years ago, I surveyed the shoreline with a Lake steward and documented with GPS and photos, locations of concern, stormwater runoff and pipes draining into the lake, etc. Tracey and I plan to update this next week, weather permitting, to have when presenting an overlay district plan.

- Dean and I met with Blue and Dustin to discuss Fish Creek remediation. I gathered info on past flooding and hurricanes and located the old fish creek hydraulic study through SLA. Dean will have it scanned.
- Typed up a new municipality letter of agreement waiting on the Attorney to review. I did speak with Supervisor Kinowski on this. He said asking for an extra \$2,000 would not be unreasonable as the towns see all the work and communication in the past year with SLPID. A meeting is set with the Mayor and Michele Madigan to discuss. Supervisor O'Connor and Wood will wait to hear what the City decides and read the new agreement letter. I will have the letter to forward to you before next Thursday's meeting.
- Two Algal blooms at the launch area. I took photos, documented, and filed reports with DEC.
- Filled out and reviewed insurance for 2022. Many SLPID items were not listed or covered. The only driver listed with SLPID was Fred Furnia, who has not worked for SLPID in years. Insurance on the trucks has only been from May-October. Past years, the crew was driving uninsured for 1-1/2 months. SLPID does not have cyber coverage. Amsure forwarded questions which I went over with stored tech. and submitted. Amsure will send a quote when it is finalized for you to decide
- State health and safety for state OSHA requirements are all completed and filed with the state. The state responded - excellent and closed out the case.
- Lake stewards – So far inspected approx 6,000 boats. It seems to be less than previous years, most likely from bad weather days. Two stewards are left, working weekends into October. Mostly zebra mussels are coming out.
- Coast guard boater safety checks were canceled this year because covid precautions came back into play.
- State Parks legal okayed cameras for the shed at the launch. State police will work with me next year on this.
- Several days of pulling single patches of Water chestnuts with stewards along the shoreline, open water, and the sailing club. Looking good.
- Standing boat count is completed and higher this year. I forwarded it on to Tracey for the watershed management report
- I will be working on editing Wispa data from lake stewards and downloading harvester BioBase in the coming weeks.
- I have a meeting planned with the owners of 550 on dock placement on October 8.
- HR manual- waiting on review and input from commissioners.

THANK YOU