



**SLPID Meeting Minutes
Malta Community Center and Zoom
March 17, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Chair Kathleen Simmonds 3:00 p.m.

Roll Call Commissioners present: Simmonds, Mazzotti, Baker, Carringi,

Staff present: Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator

Others: Consultants: Mike VanPatten, Dean Long

Public: Dan Buckley, Barbara Conner, Mark Hammond, Cara Sherman, Floria Huizinga

PRESENTATIONS:

Chair Simmonds opened the meeting by introducing herself and SLPID Commissioners to the public.

Public Comment: None.

Secretary report (SLPID Chair)

***Present January 2022 minutes.**

Discussion: Past minutes were emailed out for review. No Comments.

Motion to accept January 2022 minutes

First: Mazzotti

Second: Baker

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Treasurer report (Mike VanPatten)

Discussion: Last month, we ended with \$106,000 in the three bank accounts. We spent \$15,000 have \$90,000 left. Income is \$9.22 in interest. Expenses year to date is \$43,168 a net loss of \$43,159.

Invoices for annual municipal contributions have gone out, and Crissy contacted the City. The contract is \$3,000 for the Towns and \$5,000 for the City. We are waiting on them and the County check. The Budget v. Actual was emailed to Commissioners and copies of the weekly payroll, bank statements, and reconciliations for review. SLPID donated \$200 to the Schenectady City Mission in honor of Walter Supley.

Motion to accept treasurer's Report:

First: Simmonds

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Invoices to be approved \$12,686.70

Motion to accept to pay the monthly bills:

First: Mazzotti

Second: Baker

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Chair Simmonds asked why the \$200 donation was under the budget admin expense line item and instructed to place it under the donation line item to avoid confusion.

Chair Simmonds then said the mapping fee for Rick Barnes should be under outside professional services as he is a consultant. Mike said a budget is just a management tool. As long as we know the total amount spent in the end, the movement back and forth in line items is not important. Chair Simmonds disagreed and requested to move both to the proper line items.

Chair Simmonds questioned the movement of the line-item Administrator salary to taxes and insurances. The SLPID Board did not authorize it, and she is not comfortable moving the dollar amounts around for wages or other line items without Board approval. Chair Simmonds said all budget line items should be kept to what was approved and filed with the County. All Commissioners agreed.

***Lake Administrator report: (Cristina Connolly)**

Discussion: **Safety** – no accidents to report.

Lake Steward report

The planning for the Lake Steward program began in January with regular meetings and webinars on training and new procedures across the State. Cristina has started interviews for new employees and reached out to past stewards asking if they would like to return.

Administrator report

Cristina sent a letter to Darrin Freshwater Institute to extend our agreement so they can complete their grant for purchasing equipment.

At this month's County water quality meeting, the committee voted and approved to cost-share \$600 toward a Turner fluorometer with SLPID. That is half the cost of \$1200. Cristina will keep the fluorometer for use on Saratoga Lake. When the County or another lake needs it, they will give her a call for pick-up.

Cristina filed the Global Foundry grant on behalf of SLPID for \$6,000 towards floating classrooms this year.

The Riley Cove lease was written with the correct information, the SLPID attorney reviewed and approved it. The lease will be signed and go in the mail tomorrow.

Cristina drafted a procurement plan, which she will review again in time and forward to the SLPID attorney for review.

The completed HR Manual was emailed to the Commissioners for review. Cristina suggested it be on the April meeting agenda for approval as employees will be starting the first week of May. Lonnie and Patrick will probably begin on May 2. Bob is retiring and offered to come on if needed to help train employees.

Cristina solicited three local quotes for employees' shirts and jackets. The prices were very equal. She predicts to spend \$800.00-\$900.00 of the \$2,000 for two shirts each for employees and rain jackets for the harvesting crew and herself. There will be leftover funds for needed equipment; walkie-talkies, water shoes, small items, and a surveillance system if Saratoga surveillance can keep the same price as approved last year, \$600.

She will also need to purchase a few safety items for the harvesting crew, first aid kits, and vehicle stickers with the SLPID logo for the trucks, equipment, boat, and a truck entering the highway sign.

After speaking with State Parks and Sheriff Marine Patrol, a Franklin Beach road resident contacted Cristina, requesting to further extend the 5-MPH buoys out into the lake to stop the wake created in front of his property. Cristina discussed with the property owner that there are several navigation laws in place and forwarded them to him for review. There is the Town of Saratoga and City of Saratoga Springs law for the 5 mph, the NY Navigation Law 46 that allows municipalities to regulate to 1,500 feet, and NYS Town Municipal law that provides for 5mph within 1,500 feet of the shoreline in a community. If the law were to be changed, it would be through the local municipalities to decide if there is a benefit to move the buoys an extra 300 feet out.

The property owner then requested a meeting with Carrie Woerner's office to change the law further into the lake. Cristina forwarded the laws to Assemblywoman Woerner and Marine Patrol for discussion. Cristina requested Dean join the meeting since they worked together on this from the beginning. Deputy Ball, Marine patrol, asked Cristina to develop any other ideas that may help.

Since then, Cristina has spoken with Supervisor Tom Wood, who was not approached earlier about this. Supervisor Wood opposes any changes and feels the buoys are marked very clear, and the message is at the State Launch for people to know and understand.

Deputy Ball with Marine Patrol agreed the buoys are good where they have been set the past couple of years according to the navigation law. However, to keep it simple for people to understand, it makes more sense to place them the old way in a T-formation. Deputy Ball thanked SLPID for stepping up for the purchase and secure placement of the new buoys. Deputy Ball said it is not necessary for SLPID to produce extra handouts or signage for marinas on the laws and that it is the marina owner's responsibility to advise their clientele.

Commissioner Carrangi asked what he was saying for marinas? Cristina answered that their responsibility is to inform their clientele of the boating and navigation laws. Commissioner Carrangi said everyone knows the laws and what they are.

Cristina then said the placement of the buoys in a T-formation is a good idea and GPS mapped with the permit, then give the Sheriff's department a digital and a few hard copies.

Commissioner Carrangi asked do you mean move them closer to the bridge? Cristina replied, no. One buoy 300 feet out from the bridge, the next buoy 600 feet out, and then two buoys to form a T at 1200 feet out from the bridge.

Commissioner Carrangi asked what is it now? Dean answered there is one buoy out from the bridge center channel about 700 ft on the creek side and the south side it is about 600 feet, and two buoys on the edge of the 1200-foot zone. The placement had to be reconfigured because of all the marina docks now. Dean said, we have been kicking around different postcard and banner ideas, etc. A new buoy costs about \$600 with shipping and an alternative is to use a 9- or 19-inch large pin cylinder type buoy at half the price and still 60 inches off the water. Commissioner Carrangi said you could get a Taylor lifetime warranty buoy; you might get a cheaper one, but you know why it is cheaper. Dean said it is trying to figure out the most cost-effective way to do the buoys.

Chair Simmonds said let's get back to the Administrator report as it sounds as if they are saying we do not need to purchase more buoys.

Commissioner Carrangi said money is not an issue; we should buy more buoys, so they look new. Cristina replied more buoys are not necessary or what they are asking for. The current buoys are new.

Cristina said the discussion is about changing the navigation law further into the lake. You would have boats moving 5-MPH further into the lake, creating more wake, and there are other factors to think of. More importantly, no one seems to be in favor of or see it necessary to change the law. SLPID can change the formation of the buoys to keep it simple, and there is another buoy on the Fish Creek side closer to SRA that could be used on the lakeside of the bridge, and the buoys will all match.

SLPID could ask Rick to GPS the map to the permit, so it is exact to the buoy placement. If tickets are issued, they will hold up. Commissioner Baker asked if SLPID could put the law up on the website. Cristina said yes, once it is mapped, the map can go on the website, send a digital copy to the Sheriff department for their website and a couple copies of the map to have on hand.

Deputy Ball requested Cristina reach out to winter and summer fishing tournaments for them to send a notification, so law enforcement is aware of the events. Law enforcement could be present and minimize the risk of any significant accidents. There was a walleye tournament on the lake in February, and an ATV went in with several people. If the Sheriff's Department knew of the tournament, they would have been present and possibly avoided it from happening.

Cristina and Supervisor Mark Hammond met this week. Supervisor Hammond is always supportive of SLPID when it comes to the future health of the lake, with further encouragement to do more. They discussed the five-year municipality funding agreement. The Supervisor favors increasing the amount at once from \$3,000 to \$5,000. Cristina will send a formal request, and the Supervisor will discuss this further with the Malta Town Board. In meeting with Supervisors Kinowski and Wood this month, they were both supportive of the increase and will propose it to their Board members. Cristina will send the letters out soon and attend any Town board meetings if necessary. Increasing the agreement is up to the Town boards and City Council. Cristina has a meeting scheduled with Mayor Ron Kim in the next week, and Commissioner Simmonds will be attending to meet the Mayor.

The Supervisors are also aware that Cristina reached out to the County Planner asking for a meeting in mid to end of May on further discussion of an Overlay District.

Cristina forwarded a letter to SLA requesting a charitable contribution towards SLPID's education and outreach program, the thermistor string project, and the Fish Creek project. She has not heard back on an answer yet. Cristina thanked Dan Buckley for writing a letter to SLA urging their support for SLPID. Thank you, Dan.

Cristina put together a SLPID Spring/Summer newsletter and asked Sarah to pull some photos with the articles. When complete, she will forward it for review and suggestions before it goes to the public.

SLPID used to be members of NALMS and NAISMA. She has been taking individual courses that they both offer on invasive species and lake management and requested that SLPID join the annual membership for 2022. With membership comes access to more webinar courses, either free or discounted. The money would be from the education budget.

NALMS membership is \$140, NAISMA is \$125. The SLPID board agreed.

Fish Creek Reclamation (Dean Long)

Discussion: The Fish Creek project is making significant progress. The bottom line is that the possible dredging project will move to FEMA through the Saratoga County Emergency Services Department. They need to complete their general plan, and this spring will be assembling their grant application to FEMA, and the Fish Creek project will be a part of that plan. The Town of Saratoga will be the sub-applicant, and the State will be the applicant. Dean and Crissy will be speaking with Carl Zeilman, the Emergency Management Director, to see what he thinks about updating the bathymetric survey with CT Male on how much sedimentation is in the channel. In the coming months, that will be the next step, and it may be better for us to wait and see if it moves to the State level and what they have to say before spending money on the survey.

Thermistor project:

Setting up the temperature profile Crissy has the list to order. Saratoga County Water Quality coordinating committee will buy some of the temperature recorders. We are ready to go ahead and start ordering so we can get them in early May, and as Dan Buckley recommended, we should do both the south and north basin as the south end does act differently than the northern and central parts of the lake.

Snake Hill

Dean said that he could not figure out how they would get that road up to the top when he reviewed the plan. There is no way the road was wide enough to carry the utilities and should be two and half times wider.

Dean summarized Lonnie's 2021 harvesting of 543 loads. Areas four and five were the biggest part of the material removed in late August into September. Areas four and five are the Manning Cove Sailing

Club area. Last year we had a tremendous mat of water stargrass there, and the harvesters spent a fair amount of time removing it. The stargrass was still attached at the root as it did not show up on the BioBase as skimming. This year there was not a lot of loose vegetation to skim because of the weather and lack of boat parades

Dean forwarded the BioBase report that shows density and where the harvesters are going. BioBase has improved their graphics download to allow us to maintain and create the information needed for DEC on the harvesting we do in the deep-water wetlands.

We will see what we can do to get the rest of the BioBase uploaded in the next coming months.

Commissioner Simmonds asked if there was a map to go with the harvesting loads? Dean replied yes and will send it out.

Dean concluded that he would complete the comments with the Land to Lakes Assessment Report.

Dean stated the confusion with the buoys is two sections of the navigation law for citation. The wrong section of the law was being referenced for tickets. Now that it is understood, when tickets are issued, they will be valid.

Watershed Management Plan (Tracey Clothier)

Discussion: Tracey was not in attendance and emailed that she is working on making changes to the Land to Lake Assessment report with the comments. She will have that for the next meeting to discuss.

Lake Level (Commissioner Carringi)

Discussion: Lake level is 202.7. Dean asked if the winter level went as low as 200. Tom said no.

RESOLUTIONS TO BE APPROVED

RESOLUTION #21-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve to partner with the Saratoga County Water Quality Committee to share the cost of a Turner Handheld Fluorometer with Phycocyanin with Rhodamine Calibration. The total cost is not to exceed \$1,200, with SLPID and Saratoga County cost-sharing at \$600 each. The Lake District Administrator will purchase, approve, and sign the final contract.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action to purchase a Turner Fluorometer package, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

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

RESOLUTION #22-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve to purchase equipment for deployment of thermistor strings and surface temperature data collection for a cost not to exceed \$5,000. The Lake District Administrator will purchase, approve, and sign the final contract.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action to purchase the equipment for thermistor strings, and surface data collection, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Mazzotti

Second: Carringi

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

RESOLUTION #23-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve to purchase GPS equipment to study the direction of the lake current coming out of the Kayaderosseras Creek at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. The Lake District Administrator will purchase, approve, and sign the final contract.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action to purchase the GPS equipment and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

First: Mazzotti

Second: Baker

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Chair Simmonds asked if there was a use for the GPS besides the Kaydeross Creek? Cristina said possibly Supervisor Kinowski may want to at Browns Beach. Chair Simmonds replied, and maybe Sucker Brook.

Old business – Commissioner Baker went to the Snake Hill development public hearing and wants to commend Tom Rinaldi. Tom was straightforward with all the facts. In Commissioner Bakers' mind, the owner changed his mind on the development because of Tom Rinaldi, and Tom Rinaldi did a great job.

New business – None.

Motion to suspend the meeting and go into Executive Session to discuss contracts at 3:44 p.m.

First: Simmonds

Second: Baker

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Motion to close Executive Session and resume the open meeting at 4:01 p.m.

First: Simmonds

Second: Mazzotti

All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

Discussion: Organizational Resolution #2-2022 is contingent on the Assistant Treasurer handling the SLPID funds submit bonding and cybersecurity insurance by January 31, 2022. As of this date, the contingency was not fulfilled.

RESOLUTION #24-2022

Whereas the Commissioners approve to contract with Capital CFO, LLC 26F Congress Street, Saratoga Springs, NY, for the monthly Bookkeeping services for SLPID. The Lake District Administrator will approve and sign the final contract.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action to contract with Capital CFO, LLC. and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

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

RESOLUTION #25

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the following SLPID Commissioner, Victor Mazzotti, be appointed to oversee the following agenda item: Treasurers Report.

First: Simmonds Second: Baker All Commissioner present voted: YEAH

Motion to Adjourn meeting at 4:10 p.m.

First: Carringi Second: Baker All Commissioners present voted: YEAH

The SLPID April 2022 regular meeting will be held on April 21, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at the Malta Community Center.