



**SLPID Meeting Minutes
Malta Community Center and Zoom
June 16, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

Call to Order: Chair Kathy Simmonds, 3:00 p.m.

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

Staff present: Lonnie, Weed Harvesting Supervisor. Cristina Connolly, Lake District Administrator. Dean Long, Consultant.

Public present: None.

PRESENTATIONS:

Public Comment: None.

Secretary Report (SLPID Chair)

***Present May 2022 minutes.**

No Comments.

Motion to accept May 2022 minutes

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

Treasurer report (Commissioner Mazzotti)

Commissioner Mazzotti reported the monthly financial report, and bills paid were emailed to the board. A healthy balance of \$463,144.50. There were no questions from the board.

Motion to accept the treasurer's report

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

Motion to accept the bills

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

A DRAFT preliminary 2023 budget was presented to the Commissioners. Commissioner Simmonds commented that in previous years, we did not have enough money for insurance in the budget and to make sure the line item for insurance was appropriate. Last year's payroll expenses were not included; there is a line item for that now. It was questioned the difference between the professional fees and a second line item for independent contractor fees? Last year professional fees of \$33,500.00 were for the independent contractor treasurer's fee. All other independent contractors were under the second line item. For 2023 the professional fee line item will be renamed for Capital CFO, and Dorsey Accounting for \$9,500.00 as the estimated total is less than previous years' bills.

Commissioner Simmonds commented in 2021, the fuel bill went over budget and for 2022, it definitely will again and wants to ensure for 2023 it is sufficient, suggesting \$9,000 - \$10,000.

Cristina said thank you and will get precise numbers of all estimates to put together for the July meeting for the commissioners to review. In July, the State Comptroller will have a definite amount for the tax levy, and August will be the public hearing and adoption of the 2023 budget.

This DRAFT budget does not include any City of Saratoga Springs yearly municipality funding. Cristina said she is conservative as she cannot get an answer from the City or who is in charge this year. She has been shuffled around from each department and has had three presentations to the Council meetings canceled. In previous years the finance department automatically issued the check.

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

Safety – No accidents to report.

Lake Steward Report – The steward program began strong. The stewards are doing the most significant number of washes before launching than in previous years. Some boats do pull in the back of the launch to avoid being inspected and paying before launching also when leaving try to avoid inspections. The stewards have caught several carrying invasives in both directions and talked them into washes.

Cristina will resume door-to-door outreach again with the “Take the Pledge” message and Buffer Book as long as she has proper staff.

Administrators report - The June 4 event went well. Not as many people as we had hoped for. However, it went very well. Sunday mornings are a better day for turnout. There were some excellent questions from attendees. Attendees suggested the municipalities work together for continuity around the lake with regulations and zoning.

Thanks to Dan Buckley for volunteering his time and for a powerful presentation. Two residents signed up for assessments of their property.

Several stewards assisted Cristina and Blue in cutting sod and doing plantings at Browns Beach. The plantings are in, and next is the signage.

Several associations around the lake have replied they are interested in an informational session on SLPID and information on stormwater mitigation—waiting for dates that work for them later in the season. This is part of the outreach for the Overlay District discussion.

Last month Cristina was planning two events, July 15 and August 6, at the City Waterfront Park in collaboration with the Adirondack Watershed Institute. A few items were omitted from the quote, resulting in an increase of \$1108 for both events. Cristina changed the plan and will host only one of these events this year on Sunday, August 6, during Water Week. The cost is only \$554.00. Cristina said she would rather be conservative to cover other fees not included in this year’s budget or if hand-outs or materials are needed for the property owner sessions, which she will collaborate with Dean.

The county fair is supposed to be in full force this summer, July 19-24. If space is available, SLPID will join in with the County table.

On June 26, the Coast Guard committed for their first boater safety check at the State Launch.

The mapping for the buoy layout is almost finished. Thank you, Dean, for helping with the map logistics and for Lonnie and the crew building new anchors and placing buoys.

Cristina and State Parks are working together to locate the buoy permits as no one seems to know, and SLPID has no records or has received any renewal letter or permit stickers. Parks are searching under previous SLPID commissioner names.

We have had a couple of calls from other lakes. Brant Lake is setting up a lake district and had questions on SLPID's state legislation and on setting up a lake steward program. It sounded as if they were leaning toward a County District. Cornell SWCD Administrator called to share and compare information on their Lake District and Administrator position. All good conversations, sharing information and contacts for future collaboration.

Shirts and jackets – still way behind. It may not be worth ordering this year or only a small order.

The Adirondack Trust credit card limit increase went through.

The County water quality meeting was last week. Cristina gave an update on Saratoga Lake.

Commissioner Carringi asked about the South Shore meeting? Cristina said nothing new had happened since the last meeting. The developer and town are still discussing a public benefit. There is a group not happy with the launch idea. The developers are suggesting a way to make them happy would be to leave the public benefit up to the town by giving the town a decided amount of money to use for a more significant public benefit.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked what is our position on this? Cristina said this is the initial application they are working through, and the project has a long way to go. Cristina noted that the new development and stormwater infrastructure would improve lake quality. Dean Long said that as long as they follow local rules etc., public access is up to the town. If they cannot agree on access to the lake, that is unfortunate; these projects seem contentious no matter what you do. Dean continued, as far as the complaints on the current marinas number of docks, their property line does go out in front of the pump station and that entire hillside. Yes, the marina has added docks, and they are in front of their property, and the town has no rule on docks.

Commissioner Simmonds said it is up to the town board for public access. Dean said yes, Kathy is right. It is 100% up to the town board. Commissioner Simmonds said public access is a plus as there is no other public access on the south end. Dean and Cristina said there is public access at Browns Beach.

Commissioner Mazzotti's concern is SLA saying SLPID is not taking a side publicly. Cristina said SLPID should not take sides. Land use is in the jurisdiction of the town. SLPID's concerns are lake quality and protection, the sheer runoff of stormwater will be improved, and as the plans proceed, suggestions

working with the developer and town will happen. The plans are still in the very beginning stages. Commissioner Simmonds noted there is a fine line as SLPID works with the municipalities.

Commissioner Baker asked why do we care what SLA says? SLPID is the municipality overseeing the lake; It is far better to stay separated from SLA's opinions.

Commissioner Mazzotti said we should look at the layout and have a short position statement on a better solution.

Commissioner Mazzotti said the SLPID legislation says we are responsible for protecting water quality and the land around it, but we don't have enforcement powers. Commissioner Mazzotti is hoping with an Overlay District, if there is a project, it goes to our vote, and if the commissioners are in opposition, then for the project to proceed would have to have a super majority before the planning. At least this would be giving some say.

Commissioner Simmonds asked if everyone read the minutes on the last Overlay District? Cristina did email it out to everyone.

Cristina will send an email with the South Shore application plans from the town website. The next town of Malta meeting is on the 26th. Commissioner Mazzotti said if it is going to improve the water quality, then we should make that position.

***Weed Harvesting Report (Lonnie)**

There have been a few breakdowns with putting the harvesters in. The H2 harvester starter broke. The starter is seven years old and burned up, causing the engine to shut down. When the engine shuts down, there is no hydraulics. The harvester was moored overnight to a property owner's tree.

Lonnie ordered an inferior starter to get the harvester going, and when the better-quality starter comes in, we will have the other on the shelf.

Commissioner Carrangi said maybe you should have a reserve starter. Lonnie said yes, that is why I ordered the other.

Lonnie had an old auxiliary trailer pump from his home. He made this work to charge the hydraulics and lift the head to tow the harvester safely the next day.

Next, the top roller on the same boat went. Lonnie said we need to have one or two spare top rollers as we only have lower rollers on the shelf. Waiting on a quote, one of the employees will drive to get it.

The lower roller went bad on the H1 machine and was fixed that day with a spare lower roller we had on the shelf.

The new machine (H3) control lever broke and was fixed immediately.

The steel on the new conveyor's jack is too weak, bending up and down, just a bad design; it is fine at the moment; we have a spare to use for now and will rebuild it at some point.

Lonnie said the repairs early in the season may be a good sign, and all is well as repairs happen every year.

With the breakdowns at once, harvesting started late. However, there is not a whole lot out there. Yesterday were three loads, and today five loads.

Lonnie said as far as the equipment budget. It cost \$3,000 to repair the old dump truck, which is well worth it and a good truck. Lonnie noted Cristina spoke with him about keeping track of expenses and the 2023 budget and categories. As some items purchased have not had proper categories to keep separate, some of the line items overlap as the same and are unsure where items were spent at the end of the year. Cristina said in the draft she has a category for vehicle repair, boat repair, tools, fuel, and an employee protective category.

Lonnie asked Commissioner Simmonds if the weeds were topped out in front of her home? Commissioner Simmonds replied they are just below the surface out to the sandbar, solid.

Commissioner Simmonds asked if the others in the weed harvesting department were happy with their wage increase? Lonnie said yes, very happy, thank you.

Cristina asked permission to read the budget items in the 2023 DRAFT for weed harvesting: Vehicle expense - \$4,000, harvester repairs - \$6,000, fuel \$7,000, a new category for tools - \$1,000, and an employee protective category for supplies throughout the season.

Commissioner Simmonds said it best to raise the Fuel line to \$9 or \$10,000.

Commissioner Simmonds asked if the \$2000 for the welder went under equipment repair last year? Cristina said she did not know last year. Lonnie commented he does not know that is why Cristina changed the categories for a better explanation, and she and Lonnie have a sheet to keep track of all expenses as they are purchased.

***Water Quality report (Dean Long)**

CSLAP sampling began with Karl. Commissioner Simmonds said she had not seen anything regarding CSLAP yet. Cristina said Karl told her there is a new website to view the reports instead. Dean said he would send everyone the website link, and the CSLAP report for 2021 should be out next week.

Dean said Crissy and I have been looking at containers for the GPS units to show the currents out of the Kaydeross Creek.

Dean has been getting the anchor lines ready for the water temperature buoys. In the next couple of weeks, they will get the thermistors deployed.

Dean said this year will be a decision point if we go with the Weedoo again in 2023 for the water chestnuts or an herbicide application to finish them off. Larry Eichler will do the plant survey in august to tell us if we need a milfoil treatment.

Dean said as far as the County meeting; everyone seems to understand the fundamental thing is we need a way to regulate the lakefront lot development. The comments are it is a great idea. However, it is too much work, and do not want to give up regulation. With future meetings, we can structure the overlay more where it could be administered by the District, taking it off their plate. The Supervisors seem to be behind it. Mayor Kim did come to the meeting and understood what we are trying to do. All The bumps in the road over the last couple of years are over, and we are back to an understanding again.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked Dean if we could get this done this year? No, maybe possibly next spring in place. Commissioner Mazzotti replied that would be great and at least give us a little say.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked what is with respect to the dredging? Dean said it is still in the County Emergency Management Administrator's hands. Commissioner Mazzotti asked if they were on it. Dean said they are on it and need to get it drafted this summer to file it in the next funding cycle. Commissioner Mazzotti asked if they needed a push? Dean will be in touch with him.

***Grants**

Cristina said Tracey was sorry she could not make it today and wanted to discuss the CFA Grant for the Overlay District. The grant application is due at the end of July. If it fits, it will help administer the Overlay District. Commissioner Mazzotti asked Dean what he thought? Dean said yes if it fits. The Commissioners agreed to pursue what needed to be done to proceed.

Dean then mentioned the most recent property that has done work lakefront and has now become a marina (near Fitch Road) without proper permits. Commissioner Baker asked if the town could make him tear it down, and Dean replied yes. Commissioner Mazzotti said that would be good and asked if the towns would give us an amendment to the state statute for authority on things like this?

Commissioner Simmonds asked if DEC gave them a permit for a marina? No, They did not receive a DEC permit for one of the properties to repair the wall. A special use permit is from the town.

***Lake Level (Commissioner Carringi)**

Discussion: Lake level is 203.28

***RESOLUTIONS – None.**

New business – Commissioner Baker asked if Cristina or someone is attending the town meetings on projects of concern? Cristina said she can and has in the past or zoomed in. Commissioner Baker said he thinks it would be a good idea to attend in person, and Commissioner Mazzotti agreed. Cristina will attend the town of Malta South Shore development meetings. Commissioner Simmonds said we need to get plans on this soon. Cristina will forward the link from the town website.

***Old Business – None**

Motion to suspend the public meeting and enter Executive Session to discuss the District Administrator wage at 3:54 p.m.

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

Motion to close Executive Session and re-enter the public meeting at 4:07 p.m.

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

RESOLUTION #35-2022

Whereas the Commissioners agree to the Lake District Administrators' annual salary to be \$65,000 recognizing the Lake District Administrator is a full-time, year-round position.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED the Commissioners direct the action of the Lake District Administrators' salary effective immediately, retroactive to 1/1/22, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

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

Motion to end the public meeting at 4:09 p.m.

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

The SLPID June 2022 regular meeting will be held on June 16, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at the Malta Community Center.