



**SLPID Meeting Minutes  
Malta Community Center and Zoom  
July 21, 2022, at 3:00 p.m.**

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

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

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

**Public present:** Mark Hammond, Town of Malta Supervisor. Barbara Connors, Open Space, and Trails, Chair.

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Public Comment:** None.

**Secretary Report (SLPID Chair)**

**\*Present June 2022 minutes.**

No Comments.

**Motion to accept June 2022 minutes**

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

**Treasurer report (Commissioner Mazzotti)**

Commissioner Mazzotti reported the monthly financial report, and bills paid were emailed to the board. Net income of \$303,293.20 to date. Chair Simmonds questioned the \$6,000 under weed control. Cristina said that it was the thermistor project. There were no further questions from the board.

**Motion to accept the treasurer's report**

First: Simmonds      Second: Baker      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. There were no questions. The next meeting will be a Public Hearing to approve the budget.

Chair Simmonds motioned to set the Public Hearing for August 18, 3:00 P.M. at the Malta Town hall regarding the 2023 budget.

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

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

**Safety** – No accidents to report.

**Lake Steward Report** – The lake Steward program is steady. This year we have all younger lake stewards attending college, and not ideal as we will lose them in mid-August. Two past stewards may work weekends. Still unsure.

The coast guard safety check went very well for a busy Sunday. People did not get agitated, and most accepted the inspection. The Coast Guard will be offering inspections at random times for an hour or so over the rest of the summer.

Cristina is making headway with the city of Saratoga Springs and was given the ok to have the stewards at the City Waterfront Park and to do the tabling event on August 6. There are all new staff at city hall who were pushing for permits and a fee of \$750. Cristina said she explained a fee was never required in the past and what SLPID is, and the park is in the SLPID District. The request was then forwarded to the Risk and Safety Director, who said no permit was needed.

Municipality agreement – all towns agreed to the \$2,000 increase. The City of Saratoga Springs has requested a few amendments to the contract, yet, they have not forwarded what those changes are—giving them this week to get back to her. If not, Cristina will go to City hall again.

Cristina has been attending the Town of Malta board meetings on the South Shore development and has emailed summaries of the meetings to the SLPID board. She was invited to walk the hillside with the developers for public benefit ideas. It was mentioned publicly at all meetings that there will be a dock space for SLPID at the development if SLPID has a boat in the future. When it is developed, there will also be reserved dock spaces for Marine Patrol and emergency services.

Cristina mentioned the Town of Malta's idea of purchasing the Mangino property. Cristina noted the discussion has been going on for over a year. South Shore developers and the Town have SLPID in mind and have been very open and forthcoming, including SLPID with conversations and meetings. Next week is the Malta Planning Board meeting on the S. Shore development, and Cristina will attend that.

Cristina attended the Open Space and Trails meeting on behalf of SLPID.

There was not a County Water Quality meeting in July. The next one is August.

Cristina said she is happy to report that the buoy map is completed. Lonnie and the crew were able to adjust the buoys to the coordinates on the map. State Parks suggested a new buoy permit application since the old permit cannot be found. Cristina filled it out and is waiting for the Sheriff to sign off on it. Marine patrol will have a copy of the map on the boats and will be on the Sheriff's department website and the SLPID website.

Cristina will have to order new winter sticks, at least two that went missing and possibly more for the other buoys. They were purchased last year at \$65 each. Cristina will get an updated cost for approval at another meeting.

On July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cristina and Tracey did an active boat count. At first glance, it did not look like much of a change in activity. That Sunday happened to be quiet compared to other Sundays. Possibly the fireworks on that evening kept some boaters off the lake. Monday the fourth was mobbed. The ArcGIS data had a glitch and is fixed now. Cristina will pull the data from that weekend to be added to the boat count.

Cristina will begin the docked boat count in the next few weeks. After the hand pulling of water, chestnuts and the thermistor strings are placed.

She began trying out the GPS device – the problem is the alerts show the previous five minutes. In five minutes, the unit travels quickly and is hard to spot. It also flips over, and there is no satellite signal when that happens. Cristina took it out a few times and watched, then taped a couple of pieces of pool noodle across the top, and it seems to work on spotting it and keeping it from flipping over.

Cristina noted that there are not many weeds, and other lakes in conversation have been saying the same. However, the weather is now in a warm pattern, and the weeds typically do top out in August.

There are minimal water chestnuts scattered. Showing that the weedoo in the past couple of years has worked great. The weedoo is scheduled to come next week on Monday, and she gave them a heads up that we most likely will not need him for the four days. Dustin from County Water and Soil will do a flyover with his drone before and after.

Cristina said she continues to receive calls from other lakes and to share and compare information.

There is a new dam technician that reached out to Cristina. So far, the water levels have been perfectly within the summer level.

Next week Cristina will be taking the Town of Saratoga Assessor, Code enforcer, Planner, and Planning Chair out on her boat for a survey for the overlay discussion.

Cristina's had a monthly meeting with Supervisor Wood. The Supervisor said he is supportive of an overlay district and the Town of Saratoga plans to move forward with something even if the other Towns do not. Supervisor Wood said he had had numerous discussions on dock regulations with his board. The Supervisor asked Cristina to forward the SLPID draft dock and boat regulations along with the Lake George Park Commissions regulations and for her to reach out to the other Supervisors and Mayor on it for discussion at our next County overlay meeting.

Cristina has met and discussed this with the Stillwater and Malta Supervisors, who also favor moving forward with discussions on dock regulations and feel it is past time. At the September County overlay meeting, it will be on the agenda for discussion.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked about issuing permits and who would take care of them. Cristina said it is only the beginning of the discussion process, and SLPID would work that out with the municipalities in a mutual agreement. When the SLPID draft regulations were proposed, SLPID was going to help administer them.

Dean Long said similar to the overlay district is how many applications we would have and who would permit that, which wouldn't be a massive burden; in the original draft, SLPID was going to do the inventory.

Chair Simmonds asked if SLPID should spend the money now to hire EDP for a drone survey of the shoreline. Cristina advised not now since we have not had a meeting with the municipalities yet. The County may already have or be able to help with a survey. First, we need to discuss this with the County, and that meeting is in September. Cristina asked Dean his thoughts. Dean agreed to wait as we have not had discussions on it yet.

Cristina reported she spoke with Tracey about the CFA grant for the overlay district, which is not a good fit. Another is the Hudson River Valley Greenway grant which Tracey said would be a better fit. Tracey has agreed to apply for it on SLPID's behalf. The application is due on September 2.

Next month, Cristina will take the other Towns out on her boat to survey the shoreline.

Several property owners at Riley Cove asked for Cristina to assess the weeds in front of their properties. Cristina documented Chara, which was not there previously. She took photos and forwarded them to Larry Eichler for when he does his lake assessment.

No real complaints: All calls have been complimentary toward SLPID doing a good job. Property owners and boaters are saying the lake looks good this year.

Regarding the budget, Cristina did not add anything for cyber security. Cristina has a form from NYMIR to fill out for a quote. If the SLPID board decides to go with a cyber policy, the money could be voted to come out of contingency.

Cristina is almost finished uploading the BioBase logs from last year. They are very slow to upload and cannot use the computer for anything else when uploading. She has been uploading late at night to get it done. There are three left from last year, and Lonnie passed off a couple this year. She will renew the subscription again this year for \$1,400. The free subscription is 20 GB and what we have exceeds the limit. To figure out how to get the mapping done, the BioBase subscription was left in the 2023 budget. Dean suggested additional money for mapping, and possibly Rick can figure out the BioBase mapping in 2023. Once it is figured out, then we may not need all the storage.

**\*Weed Harvesting Report (Lonnie)**

To date, 164 loads of weeds have been removed. The fuel tank on H3 was leaking and is fixed. H1, the drive roller on the unloading end broke and was fixed. Today the front end on H2 is not running and is a minor fix. The spare roller for the front end and spare belting came in. Lonnie said he would look at fabricating all the rollers in-house rather than purchasing them.

Lonnie noted yes, the water chestnuts are relatively light and maybe can hand pull most of them with personnel. Commissioner Baker asked why Manning Cove is a no-cut zone. Dean said because it is an area where no one lives, we can allow the natural plant community to grow since they are all natives, which is okay.

Commissioner Baker asked if the weeds are in a great place right now, it must be from the treatments SLPID has done. Should we continue doing more treatments so they don't come back? Cristina said the weeds have not topped out yet, with the low water temperature. Typically, in early August, the weeds top out. Larry will do his assessment and recommendation in September. Also, if there are not enough invasives to treat, we cannot get a permit for herbicide treatment.

Lonnie mentioned three fire extinguishers were stolen, roughly \$150, and Cristina filed a police report. Chair Simmonds asked if we should set up a trail cam. Lonnie said SLPID does not own the property. If there is another incident, will have to ask the property owner for permission.

Commissioner Carrangi said we should be putting locks on vehicles for fuel. Lonnie replied the boats are diesel fuel and do have locks. The fuel locks can be pried off easily. However, we have never had a problem in the past with that, and the trucks go home with the employees.

**\*Water Quality Report (Dean Long)**

CSLAP sampling, as Crissy mentioned, hopefully, in the coming weeks, we will get the thermistors in place. Last year's CSLAP report was finally issued. Last year the lake was doing the same as what is happening this year. Everything goes smooth until the end of August and September, when the total phosphorous jumps up, and there is some minor mixing in early August and September even though the temperature profile did not show it. Clarity-wise, it has not changed; the phosphorous levels are the same. Surprisingly, everything seems stable, but we have moved into the pattern of late-season HABs that could be different from nitrogen and phosphorous mixing.

Dean noted like last year, harvesting is very slow. We will be looking at the coming weeks to see if the weeds start and how heavy they are. Then decide if we need to take any steps for a possible 2023 treatment.

Commissioner Baker asked where does phosphorous come from? Dean said runoff from properties, dust, dirt, etc., regenerates internally when the bottom of the lake turns over. The thermistor strings will help us better look at it and help with the discussion with the Towns and the run-off washing in from properties.

**\*Lake Level (Commissioner Carrangi)**

Discussion: Lake level is 203.46

**\*RESOLUTIONS**

Discussion: Chair Simmonds discussed how the SLPID board goes around and around on employee salaries. Capital CFO can do an independent salary analysis with job market comparison. Chair Simmonds would like at least five examples for each position to get a good ballpark along with years of experience. Chair Simmonds said \$375 sounds like money well spent versus the time we spend going around and around on this. All commissioners agreed it is a good idea.

**RESOLUTION #36-2022**

WhEReAS the commissioners agree to contract with Capital CFO+ for compensation analysis and living wage benchmarking regarding the positions of the Weed Harvesting department and the Lake District Administrator. The Capital CFO+ rate for this is \$75.00 per hour, not exceeding \$375.00. NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Commissioners direct the action of the Lake District Administrator to approve and sign the final contract with Capital CFO+, and this action be incorporated in the minutes of the District.

**First: Baker**

**Second: Mazzotti**

**All Commissioners present voted:**

New business – None.

**\*Old Business** – Commissioner Baker asked if we should be looking at the lake getting overwhelmed with new boats. Can we look at that? Chair Simmonds said we do a boat count every year. It is on our website; generally, it has been pretty stable.

Commissioner Baker is concerned with the marinas on the north end and asked if we look at those. Cristina said that she goes out early in the morning each summer to do a docked boat count, and this year, Supervisor Wood asked her to break it down by municipality.

Commissioner Baker asked if we have that authority. Cristina said SLPID does not have law enforcement authority. However, the towns do, and SLPID could help the towns oversee regulations as SLPID does have taxing authority.

Commissioner Baker said he understands private property owners have their boats, but these marinas are out of control, and mini marinas are popping up on private docks.

Supervisor Hammond asked in terms of trying to limit boats on the lake. Are you thinking of nonresident fees, as that is the first thing that popped into my head? Cristina said it was a minimal fee in the SLPID draft regulations.

Commissioner Carrangi said he sees the problem, and the most significant growth on the lake is kayaks all over the place; he has gone from nothing to 800 or 600, and they are all over the place. The boaters complain about kayaks, and we should limit them.

Commissioner Baker said he sees motorboats as the issue, with nonresidents adding extra boat traffic and mooring off at the end of private docks.

Cristina said boat regulations can be off-putting with a fee and may decrease the boat traffic. Her biggest concern would be to have something in place to stop the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS), which NY State holds the status of having the highest numbers just as the explosive growth of HABs. Maybe regulations would help with that. Cristina commented that a new DEC law is in effect for the Adirondack Park with a ten-mile line around it for mandatory boat inspections. Saratoga Lake always being the popular lake with boaters leaving and going to lake George and other Adirondack lakes is right on the blue line. It makes no sense to her why some did not want Saratoga Lake included at the time.

Dean said the other issue is dock lengths being too extreme and dock rentals. That was why the original regulations were drafted without registering other boats on the lake.

Commissioner Mazzotti asked what it would take to go about getting a change in the perimeter of the law. Cristina said the State legislature and the Adirondack council were behind it. Cristina did speak with Willie Janeway, the Executive Director of the Adirondack Council, asking for Saratoga Lake to be a part of it. At that time, not all SLPID Commissioners felt we should pursue it, and Saratoga lake was excluded. Commissioner Mazzotti and the other commissioners asked for Cristina to reach out to the State legislators and the Adirondack Council to see if we could get an amendment to the law. Cristina said she would also include the Town Supervisors and Mayor.

Motion to end the public meeting at 3:49 p.m.

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

**The SLPID July 2022 regular meeting will be held on August 18, 2022, at 3:00 p.m. at the Malta Town Hall.**