

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
July 14, 2021**

The meeting commenced at 8:01 PM on Zoom Conference Call (Meeting ID: 847 867 563; PW: 126054)

In attendance: Tommy Lee, District Chairman
Rich Carr, District Vice-Chairman
Brian Waterman, Member
Terry O'Coin, District Treasurer
Michele Cospers, District Clerk

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The previously distributed minutes of the June 10, 2021 meetings were offered for approval. A motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to accept the minutes.

Clerk's Report

See attached memorandum dated July 14, 2021 for Clerk's report of communications for the period of June 11, 2021 to July 14.

Treasurer's Report

A Treasurer's Report dated 7/14/21 showed that the District had \$778,920.26 on deposit at Cornerstone Bank. Of this amount, \$586,599.82 was deposited in the money market account containing betterment payments. The report shows three deposits: \$508.36 from betterment receipts, the other two are \$9852.74 and \$27058.12 from betterment payoffs. The report shows one interest payment of \$130.12. The general funds checking account contains \$160,450.29. The reports shows two deposits of \$418.38 and \$4,264.87 from tax receipts. The reports shows three payments of (1) \$1278.00 to Mirick O'Connell for legal fees, (2) \$144.00 for tax billing cost to the Town of Leicester, and (3) \$116.00 to the USPS for the post office box rental. The dam stabilization account contains \$30,702.27. The report shows one interest deposit of \$13.84 \$1,167.88 was in the stabilization account. Mr. O'Coin requested and was granted approval for Warrant 237.

FY2021 Tax Payment Update

92 proprietors pay tax to the District. 72 proprietors have paid in full (\$23,887.95 / 80 %), and 19 proprietors have paid half (\$4,384.12). 1 proprietor has not paid (502.97 / 2%). Therefore, ~94% of tax payments have been collected. Payments are due in February and May, so this collection profile is inline with past years.

FY2020 Betterments Update

Payments were due in the Fall of 2020. 93 proprietors were assessed betterments by the District. 13 proprietors opted to prepay; 24 betterments were paid off due to early payoff or home sale; and 1 proprietor completed all payments on schedule. Therefore, 55 proprietors are still making betterment payments. 59 proprietors have paid in full (\$82,120.39, 96.6%), and 1 proprietor has paid half (\$713.55). Therefore, 98.0 % of betterment payments have been collected. 2 proprietor has paid none, which reflects 2.0% of the betterment payments expected. This payment profile is better than past years.

Old Business

Lake Clarity & Level Management Update

The lake surface was cleared of ice in mid-March. The flash board was installed on 3/25. Water was allowed to flow through the dam to mimic Spring brook conditions. The water to be maintaining very high clarity. The temperature is 71 degrees F, and the height is 6 inches above the spillway on the day of this meeting.

Dam Maintenance

The dam crest has been mowed. Small shrub growth was also cleaned up by Mr. Lee and Mr. Waterman. The District will possibly look into finding a new landscaper to mow and trim around the dam for next year. Grass seed should also be planted in the Fall also.

The No Trespassing sign on the west side was vandalized, and the sign on the east side is completely removed and is missing.

A leak was heard and noted in early October 2020. After analysis by Lenard Engineering, it was concluded that the leak is confined to the cap, and it the same leak that we have noted previously. His suggestion is to the leave the leak alone for now since it not on the face of the dam. The leaking and dripping noise has also disappeared as the water was drawn down giving further evidence that the leak is from the top of the spillway. Since it is the concrete cap where the leak is located, the leak is not detrimental to the structure of the dam. The leak will needs to be addressed, but it is not an immediate concerns. Mr Lee will ask Lenard about remediation items to do to keep the dam in good condition; such as packing voids with dirt and planting grass in the Spring.

Annuity Investment

Mr. Carr is looking into annuities to gain additional interest on the money that the District has in saving accounts. Based on the District being a municipality, the annuities will not be a good investment for the District.

New Business

Weeding Map and Identification

Several proprietors have reported high volume of weeds in the water. After Mr. Carr and Mr. Waterman investigated the report areas, the District decided to have ESS Group make observations of the lake and identify the plants growing within the lake.

ESS Groups mapping event on Wednesday, June 30, 2021 was successful, and very informative. The map that Mr. Waterman provided was extremely helpful – especially given ESS Groups limited time on the water. They targeted the identified areas and will be incorporating data from Mr. Waterman's map into their plant coverage figure.

ESS Group has provided an official report, but a below is a brief summary of their findings:

- The dense patches of weeds observed around the periphery of the lake are almost entirely variable-leaf milfoil. Coverage of this species has significantly increased compared to last August, and current milfoil extent is greater than before the initial herbicide application at the lake in 2015.
- Dense beds of fanwort were observed in the two northern coves, and scattered stems were observed in multiple areas.
- No water chestnut plants were observed

ESS Group has made the following recommendations.

The Order of Conditions for the Lake allows for the use of the following chemical controls to address these nuisance weeds: Clipper (effective against variable leaf milfoil and fanwort), Reward (effective against variable

leaf milfoil), and Sonar (effective against fanwort, less effective against milfoil). Use of Sonar is not recommended at this time. Sonar is a systemic herbicide which requires whole-lake application early in the growing season, and is quite expensive. A treatment using Clipper and Reward is a more economical option. These are contact herbicides, which can be applied to targeted areas of dense weed growth. Clipper and Reward were last applied to 22.7 acres of Cedar Meadow Lake on June 17th, 2015 and were noted to provide effective control of the target species.

If the watershed district decides to apply chemical controls this year (to either all of the identified areas of milfoil and fanwort growth, or to a portion of these areas that are causing the greatest impediment to recreational use of the lake), application could occur as early as two weeks after an applicator is under contract (~ 2 weeks is required for the applicator to apply for and receive a license to apply from the state). ESS Group included a map showing the locations and approximate acreage of the milfoil and fanwort beds in their official report.

If treatment this year is not deemed to provide enough benefit due to timing, ESS Group recommends that a thorough mapping of the lake occur in early June of 2022, so that herbicide application can be initiated early in the growing season. A post-treatment mapping event to evaluate the effectiveness of the treatment would be recommended. They also recommend the addition of a new on-call budget to allow for rapid response to any unforeseen issues this year and next, as the current on call task will be closed after delivery of the letter report and figures resulting from Wednesday's mapping event.

Mr. Lee is going to contact ESS Group to schedule a meeting with the District to more thoroughly go over our options in terms of treatment.

Land Acquisition

The legal ads and the notices will be authorized to run in the Worcester T&G by Mr. Lee this week to move this process forward.

Executive Session

The meeting was not recessed to go into executive session.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, September, 8 2021 by Zoom Meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:38 P.M.

A True Copy Attest:

Michele M. Cospers, District Clerk

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Memorandum**

Date: July 14, 2021
Subject: District Communications
To: Management Committee
From: District Clerk

District Clerk Michele Cospers reported the following communications for the period of June 11, 2021 to July 14, 2021. This memorandum will be attached to the July 14, 2021 Management Committee Meeting minutes:

- 6/15 Email exchange regarding contract with ESS Group and scheduling a weed mapping
- 6/22 Email from Town of Leicester for costs of watershed billing
- 6/22 Notice of Intent to take land was given to Mr. Lee from the Mirick O'Connell
- 6/25 Brian identified "hot" spots of weed growth.
- 6/25 Mr Lee and Mr. Waterman plan to mow plan crest on July 3
- 6/30 ESS Group came to the lake to map and identify weeds
- 6/30 MA Dept of Treasury requested information regarding officers, audit info ect
- 7/1 Public Notice from Leicester ConCom regarding 57 Fairview Dr (driveway modification)
- 7/2 Initial Report from ESS Group
- 7/11 Official Report received from ESS Group
- 7/13 Public Notice from Leicester ConCom regarding 67 Lakeview Dr (shallow well replacement)
- 7/13 Public Notice from Leicester ConCom regarding 21 Lakeview Dr (septic repair)