

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
January 19, 2022**

The meeting commenced at 7:35 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 Cosper, District Clerk
Jillian Spratt, District Proprietor

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The previously distributed minutes of the January 17, 2021 meetings were offered for approval. A motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to accept the minutes with one minor correction.

Clerk's Report

See attached memorandum dated December 9, 2021 for Clerk's report of communications for the period of December 10, 2021 to January 19, 2022.

Treasurer's Report

A Treasurer's Report dated 1/19/22 showed that the District had \$738,678.16 on deposit at Cornerstone Bank. Of this amount, \$626,282.79 was deposited in the money market account containing betterment payments. The report shows one deposit of \$885,39 from betterment payments. The report shows one interest payment of \$130.42. The general funds checking account contains \$50,465.13. The reports shows one deposit from tax collections of \$186.08. The dam stabilization account contains \$60,756.16. The report shows one interest deposit of \$7.76. \$1,167.88 was in the stabilization account. Mr. O'Coin did not request approval for a warrant.

FY2021 Tax Payment Update

92 proprietors pay tax to the District. 0 proprietors have paid in full, 73 proprietors have paid half. 19 proprietors have not paid. Therefore, ~20% of tax payments have been collected.

FY2020 Betterments Update

Payments were due in the Fall of 2020. 93 proprietors were assessed betterments by the District. 13 proprietors opted to prepay; 27 betterments were paid off due to early payoff or home sale; and 1 proprietor completed all payments on schedule. Therefore, 52 proprietors are still making betterment payments. 9 proprietors have paid in full (\$11,464.19, 17.3%), and 41 proprietors have paid half. 2 proprietor have paid none. This payment profile is better than past years.

FY2021 Audit

Mr. O'Coin met with Dan Haynes to start the audit process.

Old Business

Lake Clarity & Level Management Update

Normal flow of water was observed over the dam on January 11 after 2-1/2 inches of rain collected on top of the ice/snow earlier in the month after the surface of the lake refroze. ESS Group was acquired by TRC, but that change should not affect our working relationship. TRC is a bigger company with potentially a bigger palate of service to offer.

Dam Maintenance

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. The District will be looking for someone to mow the dam crest next summer.

Weed Treatment & Water Quality Monitoring

The District needs to re-establish the on-call service with ESS Group. In addition to on-call service, ESS Group proposed a detailed mapping and subsequent targeted weed treatment in Spring 2022. The District needs to evaluate where the funds will be allotted in the FY2022 vs the FY2023 budget to address the weed mapping and treatment.

Land Acquisition

The District was able to acquire the two parcels by eminent domain.

New Business

Tree Cutting and Tree Removal on Land Behind the Dam

Several large trees fell into the stream behind the dam in October 2020. During high flow of water out of the lake, the trees in the stream prevent flow of the water through the stream. These trees should be removed and appear to be on National Grid's property. Eric George from the Forestry Department at Eversource evaluated the project. He thought there might be funds to move the trees from the stream. He also gave the District to fell and piece the trees on NEP property, which should save the District significant money and effort.

The survey plan was sent to the District by Mr. Waterman. He is drafting a proposal for the tree cutting and will have to the District prior to the next monthly meeting. He is working on drafts of permit applications for the tree cutting project as well. Currently, the area behind the dam has been staked and is well marked.

Refinancing the USDA loan

The Board discussed the possibility of paying down the note with the Department of Agriculture, in part, as many proprietors have paid their betterments early or due to property transfers. All agreed that further research into the terms of the note would be the next best step.

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, February 17, 2022 by Zoom Meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

A True Copy Attest:

Michele M. Cospers, District Clerk

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Memorandum**

Date: January 19, 2021
Subject: District Communications
To: Management Committee
From: District Clerk

District Clerk Michele Cospers reported the following communications for the period of December 10, 2021 to January 19, 2022. This memorandum will be attached to the January 19, 2022 Management Committee Meeting minutes:

12/13 District Treasurer sent email regarding FY22 budget

12/15 District Treasurer requested that the Management Committee and Clerk digitally sign the tax rate recap for FY22 at the MA DOR website.

12/17 - 12/21 Communications between Anna Chase at ESS Group and Tommy Lee regarding signed contract between ESS Group and the District.

12/20 After each member signed, Mr. O'Coin sent a message to MA DOR with additional documents.

12/21 Tax Rate was approved.

12/18 - 1/3 Email communications regarding staking property behind the dam, potential companies to cut trees and remove them from the property. It was also discussed about contact National Grid for permission to access their property to remove fallen trees blocking flow in the stream below the dam.