

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
May 12, 2022**

The meeting commenced at 7:36 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
Jillian Spratt, Proprietor

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The previously distributed minutes of the April 7, 2022 meetings were offered for approval. After a minor correction, a motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to accept the minutes as amended.

Clerk's Report

See attached memorandum dated May 12, 2022 for Clerk's report of communications for the period of April 8, 2022 - May 12, 2022.

Treasurer's Report

A Treasurer's Report dated 5/12/22 showed that the District had \$782,413.01 on deposit at Cornerstone Bank. Of this amount, \$670,726.31 was deposited in the money market account containing betterment payments. The report shows 1 deposit: \$1,946.46 from betterment collections. The report shows one interest payment of \$106.33. The general funds checking account contains \$49,726.75. The reports shows one deposit of \$208.90 from tax collections. The report shows 3 payments; (1) \$769.50 to Sunshine Landscaping for dam mowing, (2) \$109.03 for annual meeting postage and printing, and (3) \$942.30 to WDA Design Group for Charles St dam area surveying and plotting. The dam stabilization account contains \$60,785.79. The report shows one interest deposit of \$7.24. \$1,174.16 was in the stabilization account. Mr. O'Coin is requesting approval for warrant 243.

A motion was made to move \$200.00 from Reserve Account to the Administrative Account. The motion was seconded, and voted unanimously to move the funds.

Tax Payment Update

92 proprietors pay tax to the District. 0 proprietors have paid in full, 97 proprietors have partially paid. 3 proprietors have not paid. Therefore, ~47% of tax payments have been collected. No further update this month.

Betterment Payment Update

Payments were due in the Fall of 2021. 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. 49 proprietors have paid in full (\$60,880.20, 91%), and 3 proprietors have paid half. 2 proprietors have paid none. This payment profile is better than past years.

Old Business

Lake Clarity & Level Management Update

The level of the lake was -22 inches below the spillway when the dam was closed on March 24. Currently the lake is at full capacity. It took about 7-10 days to refill the lake. The refilling process was done in accordance with our OOC from the MA DEP.

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 is the same leak that we have noted previously. His suggestion is to leave the leak alone for now since it is 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 need to be addressed, but it is not an immediate concern. 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 re-established 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.

ESS Group has scheduled the survey for late May / early June to determine the appropriate actions to treat the lake in mid-June. ESS Group contracting to have the herbicide application conducted by The Pond and Lake Connection.

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 permission 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.

There are larger patches of wetlands on the western side of the dam along with a few small areas on the eastern side. The District is looking to get 2-3 quotes on cutting the trees. In the inspection report from Lenard Engineering to the DCR, it states the hazards of the trees falling on the dam and weakening the integrity of the dam, which will be needed for the NOI.

Elliott Tree was able to observe the area and provide the District proposal. Trees will be cabled to be sure the trees are fall away from the dam. The work would take about 4-5 days. The quote was just over \$11,000, which seemed quite competitive given the number of trees that must be taken down. The District would like to get a second quote from a local company. There were a couple companies that were not interested in this particular job or were scheduling out into 2023.

The Limoges are on-board will the District doing the tree work. They are very willing to assist, and they are working on signing an agreement with the District.

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. Mr. Carr is going to contact the USDA to determine the terms on the note. The USDA is allowing the District to pay down the principle on the loan. This will lower the amount of interest that the District owes to the UDSA significantly. Mr. Carr and Mr. O'Coin will continue discussions with the USDA to be assured that this pay-down of the principal makes sense to the District. The options to make a payment on the loan principal should be reviewed at the Annual Meeting in the Treasure's report as opposed to a separate warrant item.

Auditor, Dan Haynes, suggested that the District present making a one time payment on the loan to the District Proprietors at the Annual Meeting. Making the significant payment will save the District a substantial amount of money. The District Management Committee is in favor of bring this discussion to the Proprietors at the meeting. Mr. Rich Carr and Mr. O'Coin will work on making this presentation at the Annual Meeting.

Annual Meeting Preparation

The date for the annual meeting will be May 18, 2022. The Clerk sent the save-the-date / newsletter on March 24, 2022.

The warrant, proxy, and education materials were sent to the proprietors on May 1, 2022. All documents were review in preparation of the meeting next week.

Mowing of the Dam Crest

Sunshine Landscaping has a new population of employees and their costs are lowered. It was recommended that we accept Sunshine's proposal and the District has agreed to hire them for the season. The District signed the contract with Sunshine. A lock box will be installed at the dam to allow Sunshine's crew to access the dam crest for mowing.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Executive Session

The meeting was recessed to go into executive session at 8:24 pm

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, June 9, 2022 by Zoom Meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 P.M.

A True Copy Attest:

Michele M. Cospers, District Clerk