

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
August 13, 2020**

The meeting commenced at 8:05 PM on Zoom Conference Call (Meeting ID: 847 867 563; PW: 126054)

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

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The previously distributed minutes of the June 11, 2020 were offered for approval. A motion was made, seconded, and voted unanimously to accept the Minutes.

Clerk's Report

See attached memorandum dated August 13, 2020 for Clerk's report of communications for the period of June 12, 2020 to August 13, 2020.

Treasurer's Report

A Treasurer's Report dated 8/13/20 showed that the District had \$575,291.66 on deposit at Cornerstone Bank. Of this amount, \$448,097.46 was deposited in the money market account containing betterment payments. The report shows two interests payments of \$197.89 and \$132.80. The general funds checking account contains \$95,552.58. The reports shows three deposits of \$3,140.28, \$4,832.59 and \$272.34 from tax receipts. The report shows five payments: (1) \$77,524.75 for USDA loan payment 7 of 40, (2) \$750.00 to Aquatic Analysts for water testing, (3) \$120.00 for extra dam crest mowing, (4) \$114.00 for the post box rental, and (5) \$525.00 for the Treasurer's Bond. The dam stabilization account contains \$30,546.20. The report shows two interest deposits of \$46.21 and \$44.77. \$1,125.42 was in the stabilization account. Mr. O'Coin requested and was granted approval for Warrant 228.

FY2020 Tax Payment Update

92 proprietors pay tax to the District. 30 proprietors have paid in full (\$7,669.93 / 27 %), and 55 proprietors have paid half (\$9,939.88 / 68%). 7 proprietors have not paid (1,420.39 / 5%). Therefore, 62% 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 2019. 93 proprietors were assessed betterments by the District. 13 proprietors opted to prepay; 17 betterments were paid off due to early payoff or home sale; and 1 proprietor completed all payments on schedule. Therefore, 62 proprietors are still making betterment payments. 60 proprietors have paid in full (\$83,254.60 / 96.8 %), and 1 proprietors have paid half (\$4,240.06 / 1.6%). Therefore, 99.7 % of betterment payments have been collected. 1 proprietor has paid none, which reflects 0.3% of the betterment payments expected. This payment profile is better than past years.

Old Business

Lake Clarity & Level Management Update

The lake level is currently 4 inches below the spillway, which is typical for this time of year.

The District signed an agreement with ESS group to monitor the lake and give recommendations regarding plant populations and water quality. ESS group will also be on-call for any needed services. ESS group visited the lake on August 6 from 9am - 4pm. The lake was reported to be in overall "good" condition. Water samples were taken from various locations including "deep" water samples. Although the lake clarity has improved over the last several weeks, algae populations are still seen on the north side of the lake presumably due to the prevailing south winds.

The plant survey revealed one area of concern located in Dick's cove. Water Chestnut, an invasive species and grows in water less than 4 feet deep and spawns thorny branches, was discovered in this area. ESS groups removed the two small clusters in full and showed them to Mr. Lee. ESS group will be providing literature for the Management Committee to use to educate the Proprietors about identifying the weed, removing it properly and in full, and disposing of it properly. The hope is that the District as a whole can prevent this invasive species from taking root in our lake.

A second area of concern is the area north of the Rawson Street Bridge, which appears to be a nutrient-rich area. Interestingly, Burncoat Pond has been 4-5 feet below the spillway for the season because of structural problems with their dam that will need to be fixed. All other plants were recognized as native and are not a concern. No weed treatment will be recommended for this year. Currently, our OOC from the MADEP regarding plant and algae treatment do not include the treatment of water chestnut. When our OOC needs to be renewed, the treatment of water chestnut will be added to the application.

In summary, ESS group believes the lake is high in nutrients, likely to do many factors such as fertilizer usage and watershed runoff (as in waste water). A second education campaign will be needed to obtain the help of each Proprietor in lowering the nutrient level in the lake.

ESS group will be providing an official summary of their findings to the District.

Dam Repairs and Maintenance

The dam crest has been mowed, but the trimming needs to be done more completely. The District will possibly look into finding a new landscaper to mow and trim around the dam.

During the Fall 2019 draw down, it was discovered that our lower gate valve would not open properly. R.H. White was engaged to review the condition, and they believe a sheer pin may have broken off preventing the valve from mechanism from engaging the lever. We are in active discussions with R.H. White for repairs. To fix the sheer pin only, the estimate cost of repair is \$5,750. If the entire valve needs replacement, the estimated cost of repair is \$12,000. R.H. White is planning to do the work mid-August to mid-September.

Dam Inspection

The District has engaged with Lenard Engineering to conduct our State mandated dam inspection. The dam was inspected. A recommendation to fill near the cap stones will be made. Trees will need to be cut down with 20 feet of the dam. The concrete of the dam look to be in very good condition. The electronic report was issued. The District received 3,4,5 on all areas of the report, where 1 being the lowest score and 5 being the highest score). RH White will be contracted to work on the facade of the dam, fill small sink holes on the top of the dam, and repair several capstones R.H. White will be giving an estimate on these repairs.

Permitting Fireworks

Fireworks permits have been granted for other lakes in Leicester. The fire chief returned Rich's call with information regarding cost and feasibility. This could be a fun end of summer event for a lake celebration. Not worth pursuing during a pandemic. Very difficult to permit and expensive.

Although fireworks could be a great community event, the District believes that is probably better to plan this event outside of the Management Committee in a similar manner as the Paddle-and-Poker event.

Betterment Loan

Can we rewrite the note at the USDA to another lender at a lower interest rate? There is no option to refinance with the USDA, but banks might do it but for a similar interest rate. Rich and Terry are planning to meet to go over original loan documents.

New Business

Fall newsletter

The Fall newsletter will be drafted to discuss the following items

- ESS groups overall report on the state of the lake
- Educate proprietors on water chestnut identification, removal and disposal
- Educate proprietors on what each one can do to lower the nutrient level in the lake
- Approximate Fall Draw-Down date
- Phase I dam report findings with link to report on the District's website

The District is planning to mail everyone a copy of this letter with glossy leaflet on the Water Chestnut and nutrient lowering topics.

Executive Session

The meeting was recessed to go into executive session from 8:57 PM.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, September 10, 2020 by Zoom Meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 P.M.

A True Copy Attest:

Michele M. Cospers, District Clerk

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Memorandum**

Date: August 13, 2020
Subject: District Communications
To: Management Committee
From: District Clerk

District Clerk Michele Cosper reported the following communications for the period of June 12, 2020 to August 13, 2020. This memorandum will be attached to the August 13, 2020 Management Committee Meeting minutes:

6/23 Informal email discussion on fireworks done by a professional company on lake for end of season celebration. It would not be sponsored or endorsed by the District.

6/30 Discussion on getting particulates (suspect it is blue-green algae) tested in the lake. Discussion on notice to Proprietors.

6/30 Discussion on ordering "home" test kits for blue-green algae

6/30 - 7/8 Email exchange between Tommy Lee and Aquatic Analyst regarding collection and testing of lake water samples for presence and density of algae and other bacteria.

7/1 Email blast sent to Proprietors who have furnished email addresses to the District was sent regarding blue-green presence in the lake. The informational email was also posted to the District website and all social media accounts.

7/9 Water testing data received from Aquatic Analyst

7/9 Email regarding District action items based on results: will contact ESS group and sending summary to Proprietors.

7/1 Email blast sent to Proprietors who have furnished email addresses to the District was sent regarding testing results of lake water. The informational email was also posted to the District website and all social media accounts.

7/2 Jeremy Wooden asked for further information - Tommy responded that the District was arranging testing.

7/5 Jan Parke asked for more news about algae. Sent results in email blast just a few days later.

7/9 Email blast sent to Proprietors who have furnished email addresses to the District was sent regarding testing results of lake water. The informational email was also posted to the District website and all social media accounts.

7/9 Jeremy Wooden responded to blast with an thank you for speedy results and quick information transmission.

7/9 Water Testing results sent to ESS Group

- 7/9 - 7/10 Questions to Aquatic Analytics regarding water conditions and pet and humans swimming
- 7/10 Proprietor Kathy Pelley asked to be added to electronic mailing list
- 7/10 Water clarity and pictures sent from Mr. Waterman of his shoreline
- 7/13 Son-in-Law (Nicolas Schifferle) of Elena S (27 Rawson Dr) asked to be added to electronic email list
- 7/16 Notification from Town of Leicester Assessor's office that betterment for 67 Lakeview Dr (Barker) was paid in full.
- 7/20 Notification from Proprietor Mark Hobson about teenagers swimming at the dam.
- 7/21 Mr. Lee forwarded Dam Inspection Report - Phase I. Hard copies will need to be given file number and filed in permanent document storage.
- 7/21 Report on Water Clarity near his dock - from Mr. Waterman
- 7/29 Received proposal from ESS Group - Reviewed and turned signed on July 29
- 7/30 Update on water clarity from Mr. Carr & Mr. Waterman
- 8/7 Discussion regarding ESS Group's visit to the lake on August 7th
- 8/9 Warrant for 8/13 meeting sent by Mr. O'Coin
- 8/10 Agenda submitted to Town of Leicester and to do District Management Committee. Agenda was posted on 8/10 by Town Clerk