

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
March 22, 2023**

The meeting commenced at 7:36 PM on **Zoom Meeting** (Meeting ID: 850 5475 0138
Passcode: 832675)

In attendance: Richard Carr, Vice Chairman
 Brian Waterman, Committee Member
 Jillian Spratt, Clerk
 Terence O'Coin, Treasurer
 Tommy Lee, Chairman

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The previously distributed minutes of the February Monthly meeting (2/15/2023) were offered for approval. A motion was made by Mr. Waterman, and seconded by Mr. Carr and voted unanimously.

Clerk's Report

Clerk's report of communications for the period of February 16, 2023 - March 22, 2023.

- 2/28/2023, 3/12/2023 - Numerous email exchanges between Mr. O'Coin and the Town of Leicester Tax Collector regarding the outstanding taxes remaining on Parcel 28-A18 and Parcel 27-B5
- 3/5/2023, 3/6/2023 - Mr. O'Coin communicated with Caroline Studer, Loan Assistant, Southern New England, Rural Development USDA Office regarding Financial statements for FY 2022. Mr. O'Coin responded with proof of insurance and Treasurer's Bond.
- 3/19/2023, 3/20/2023 - Mark Hobson reached out to Mr. Lee regarding placement of the flash boards; Mr. Lee responded stating CMLWD was aiming for 4/8/2023
- 3/22/2023 - Mr. O'Coin reached out to the Town of Leicester Tax Collector regarding Tax and Betterment Revenue

Treasurer's Report

A Treasurer's Report dated 3/22/23 showed that the District had \$213, 669.94 on deposit. \$21, 547.66 was on deposit in the checking account. There was 1 deposit of \$4,495.79 from tax collections. The report shows 5 payments: (1) \$798.00 To Sunshine Landscape Company Inc., for the dam surface mowing for 2023; (2) \$2,500.00 to Scanlon & Associates for the FY 2022 Audit; (3) \$50.00 to Terence O'Coin for reimbursement for MA COLAP dues; (4) \$375.00 to Mirick O'Connell for legal services; and (5) \$353.93 to the Town of Leicester for taxes owed to Parcel 28-A18 at the time of eminent domain taking. Of this amount \$130,082.57 was deposited in the Money Market account containing betterment payments. The report shows 1 interest payment of \$4.28, and 1 Betterment Collections payment of \$ 18,515.62. The dam stabilization account contains \$60,862.03. The report shows 1 interest deposit in the amount of: \$7.00. \$1,177.68 was in the stabilization account. Mr. O'Coin is seeking approval for Warrant #250. A motion was made by Mr. Lee and voted unanimously.

Mr. O'Coin reported that the district would need to move \$375 from the Reserve Account to the Legal Account. A motion was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mr. Waterman and voted unanimously.

Mr. O'Coin reported that the district would need to move \$660 from the Reserve Account to the Administration account to cover bills. A motion was made by Mr. Lee and seconded by Mr. Waterman and voted unanimously.

Tax Payment & Betterment Payment Updates

92 proprietors pay tax to the District. Mr. O'Coin reported to date 83 proprietors paid partially 1 paid in full. The district has collected 27% of annual taxes to date. There have been no other betterment payoffs. 8 out of 49 have paid in full. The district has collected 57% of planned collections to date.

Old Business

Lake Clarity & Level Management Update

Mr. Lee reports lake level currently at winter level. Rain expected in the next 10 day forecast. Mr. Lee would like to get the flash boards in as close to April 1 as possible, aiming for 4/8. Typically there's no problem filling the lake in time for May.

Dam Maintenance and Dam Crest

Mr. Lee reported thoughts about filling and reseeding on Dam Crest, proposing contacting Sunshine Landscaping, Scott Crow regarding an estimate to complete this task.

Sunshine Landscaping has been contracted for the 2023 season for mowing.

Weed Treatment & Water Quality Monitoring

Mr. Lee reported on the TRC report made available for review and posted on the webpage. Report discussed in New business.

New Business

TRC Report Review

Mr. Lee summarized from the TRC Report (2022), highlighting the proposal from TRC across two fiscal years. Specifically, the fanwort and millfoil continue to be the largest concern. The treatment completed in Spring/Summer 2022 helped, but those two species continue to grow and populate in the lake at an aggressive rate. The treatment completed in the 2022 season was not comprehensive enough to combat the problem.

The district is permitted this year (2023) with the Leicester Conservation Commission for a herbicide treatment this year. Should the district proceed with a treatment, a pre-treatment survey, including plant monitoring and water quality survey mapping would be conducted in May 2023, followed by an initial herbicide application in late May/early

June. A booster application would be necessary in July 2023, followed by a post-treatment survey in the fall. Mr. Lee stated that with the application this year, weed management will be easier to control, however, it would not remediate it completely.

The Management Committee has some remaining questions about the impact of the herbicide treatment on native water foliage, fish and recreation, as the herbicide treatment is water column based, and not column based. There were further concerns and questions about the influence of our feeder pond (Burncoat) and the potential for Burncoat Pond to treat the water upstream. Burncoat Pond is full of invasive plants; however the priority for Burncoat is that it is a protected site for rare aquatic species. Thus, they would not be permitted to treat with any herbicide application. There would be further information available to the Management Committee and the public through the Massachusetts Division of Fish and Natural Heritage. It was discussed by the Management Committee that treatment north of the Rawson Street bridge and a feeder point into Cedar Meadow would assist in treatment. Mr. Waterman questioned whether a targeted treatment in this location would be the most effective.

Mr. Carr had questions specific to the volume/concentration of herbicide that would be used.

In reviewing the TRC report, the Management committee concluded that the full application of the herbicide treatment would be cost prohibitive for this fiscal year. The management committee will look into a five year plan and long term planning for this effort. From a cost perspective, Mr. Carr suggested getting another quote.

Annual Meeting Preparation

The Management Committee agreed to pursue a hybrid meeting for the Annual 2023 Meeting of the District. There are some logistics to work out with voting, specifically in person ballots vs. hand counts on Zoom. Mrs. Spratt will be looking into a meeting space. Mr. O'Coin will be seeking approval for Free Cash certification for the budget for the annual meeting.

Executive Session

The regular meeting of the management committee was not recessed for an executive session.

Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for 7:30 P.M. on Thursday, April 13, 2023 by Zoom Meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Lee, seconded by Mr. Waterman voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:58 P.M.

A True Copy Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jillian Spratt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jillian Spratt, District Clerk