

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District  
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting  
September 15, 2010**

The meeting commenced at 7:45 P.M. at 1 Maple Glen Lane, Leicester.

In attendance:           Paul Dufresne  
                              Tommy Lee  
                              Wayne Ridley  
                              Richard Johnston, Clerk  
                              Terence O'Coin , Treasurer

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Previously distributed Minutes of the Management Committee meetings on August 18, 2010 were offered for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to accept these Minutes as written.

Clerk's Report

Mr. Johnston reported the following correspondence and communications since the last Management Committee meeting:

- 8/24 letter from Clerk to John Prescott, Principal Assessor, to advise that Green Mountain Club had been exempted from District taxes
- 8/28 letter from Clerk to Green Mountain Club advising that Management Committee had voted to exempt Club from District taxes
- 8/28 e-mail from Clerk to DOR Department of Local Services regarding the future need for tax classification hearings
- 8/28 letter from Clerk to Jeremy Lloyd in response to his suggestion to hold ice fishing derbies to raise District funds
- 9/7 e-mail from Clerk to Management Committee providing update on tax collections and lake water elevations

Treasurer's Report

Mr. O'Coin presented a Treasurer's Report dated September 15, 2010 which showed that the District had \$17,571.04 on deposit at the Spencer Savings Bank and Commerce Bank. He also sought and received approval of Warrant Number 143.

The Town of Leicester Tax Collector provided several helpful reports. These included lists of paid and unpaid taxes due in February and May. One of the reports provided by the Tax Collector will allow Mr. O'Coin to close the FY10 books. The Tax Collector reported that most of the bugs associated with software changes had been corrected and that she expected to provide a payment of approximately \$4,400 by the end of the month. An additional amount of approximately \$3,000 representing very recent collections would come soon after. This last \$3,000 brought the amount of still unpaid FY10 taxes to approximately \$9,000.

Currently available, and soon to be received, funds will allow the District to reduce the outstanding balances of invoices from the expert trial witnesses. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to authorize Mr. O'Coin to pay approximately one-half of the balances owed to SEA Consultants and O'Connor Real Estate Associates.

The District is still seeking a line of credit in anticipation of tax revenue due on February and May of next year. The bank wants to see audited FY10 financial statements as a prerequisite to loan approval. These audited statements will not be available until December or January. Our contact at the Commerce Bank has been away on vacation. Mr. Johnston plans to meet with her and her manager during the week of September 20 to seek loan approval based on FY09 financials.

There was discussion about the ability to pay for dam repairs. It was agreed that such repairs would have to be limited this year to \$10,000, \$2,500 budgeted plus \$7,500 from the Reserve Account.

Mr. O'Coin also discussed the Massachusetts Local Officials directory and website. He added the names, phone numbers and e-mail addresses of all elected District officials to the listing.

### Old Business

#### Dam Leakage:

Mr. Johnston reported that, as a result of dam leakage and a dry and hot summer, water levels in the lake, as of 9/15/10, were 13 inches below the spillway elevation. Lower than normal water levels were experienced in most area lakes and ponds due to the summer weather conditions. Water levels remained a fairly constant 12 inches below the spillway in our lake for most of August and early September. Seepage through the dam in early September was only a small fraction of the seepage in early August.

Mr. Johnston also reported that John Kelley of R. H. White Construction consulted with a pressure grouting contractor that would be available in the Fall to work on the dam. This contractor would require that a number of small holes be drilled in the dam crest and that removable pipes be installed in these holes. Concrete under pressure could be pumped into these pipes to ensure that voids in the dam interior would be filled from the bottom up. Mr. Kelley recommended the use of a small drilling rig since the holes would only be about 20 feet deep. He estimated the total cost for two days work at approximately \$20,000. Mr. Johnston was directed to talk to Mr. Kelley about the need to limit work to one day and \$10,000.

#### Water Quality Monitoring:

Mr. Ridley reported the results of another round of water sampling and testing. These revealed a change in the PH levels in the lake and the lowest total phosphorus readings to date. He speculated that the low total phosphorus findings were attributable to the absence of rain, and the resultant absence of nutrient-full runoff from the surrounding watershed into the lake.

#### Weed Control Update:

Mr. Ridley shared some information he secured from MA Fisheries and Game concerning weeds. It appears that the weeds that are frequently seen floating on the lake surface and washing up on shore is Hydrilla. He also confirmed the presence of Cabomba. For some reason, the heavy weeds growing in the two coves at the north end of the lake had shrunk back under water and were not evident on the surface during late Summer. Mr. Ridley speculated that this was also attributable to the absence of nutrient-full runoff from the surrounding watershed.

#### Tax Classification Hearing:

Mr. Johnston had not, as yet, received a response from the DOR to the District's request to forgo Tax Classification hearings given that all taxable property in the District is residential. He will continue to pursue this matter. It will, likely, be necessary to hold a Tax Classification hearing prior to the next Management Committee meeting.

#### New Business

##### Draw Down Planning:

It was agreed that this year's draw down will commence at the end of the first full week in October.

##### Newsletter:

Mr. Johnston was instructed to draft a newsletter announcing the start of the annual draw down, and to include a section regarding the status of District tax collections.

##### Friends Program:

Mr. Johnston advised that he planned to send letters soliciting contributions from the Friends of Cedar Meadow Lake soliciting, non-abutters that enjoy using or observing the lake.

##### D & O Insurance:

The District has been unable to purchase Directors and Officers Insurance. Mr. Johnston has been in contact with Wheeler and Taylor Insurance, an insurance agency in Great Barrington that may have found a company to provide D&O insurance to the Center Pond Watershed District in Western Massachusetts.

#### Executive Session

The meeting was recessed to hold an executive session to discuss pending legal matters.

#### Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Management Committee will be held at 1 Maple Glen Lane at 7:30 P.M. on Wednesday October 13, 2010.

#### Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M..

A True Copy Attested:

Richard D. Johnston  
District Clerk