

**Cedar Meadow Lake Watershed District
Minutes of Management Committee Meeting
September 14, 2011**

The meeting commenced at 7:43 P.M. at 1 Maple Glen Lane, Leicester.

In attendance: Paul Dufresne
Wayne Ridley
Richard Johnston, Clerk
Terry O'Coin, Treasurer

Minutes of Previous Meetings

The previously distributed Minutes of the Management Committee meeting on August 10, 2011 were offered for approval. A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to accept the Minutes as written.

Clerk's Report

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

- 9/3 mailing of 125 newsletters to members and Friends of CML
- 9/10 letter from Clerk to new member Gregory Barker
- 9/10 receipt of tax check from Tax Collector's Office
- 9/10 letter from Clerk to Wheeler and Taylor Insurance

Treasurer's Report

Mr. O'Coin presented a Treasurer's Report dated 9/14/11 showing that the District had \$12,386.84 on deposit with the Commerce Bank. He reported receipt of a check in the amount of \$516.21 in tax revenue from the Tax Collector's Office and indicated that this check would likely be the last substantial tax check for Fiscal 2011. Mr. O'Coin discussed his plans to close the books for the fiscal year and to forward them to District Auditor Dan Haynes approximately two months earlier than usual thanks to the timely issue of tax checks by the Tax Collector's office. He sought and received approval for Warrant #152.

Old Business

Dam Maintenance:

In anticipation of heavy rain associated with Hurricane Irene, the low level outlet and spillway channel were opened on August 26 to increase the ability to move water through the dam and, in doing so, to minimize pressure on the dam. These efforts worked well. At the end of the heavy rain period on 8/28, the water level in the lake had risen to only three inches above the spillway elevation. Later, as the watershed drained into the lake, this level increased to six inches.

See the description of the sinkhole event on 8/28/11 under New Business below.

Dam Seepage:

Mr. Johnston reported that, the dam continues to leak following the temporary repair described under New Business as expected. The rate of flow appears to be slightly less, but this could be as a result of the leak exiting the structure over a wider area.

Officers and Directors Insurance:

Mr. Johnston reported renewing contact with Wheeler and Taylor Insurance of Great Barrington to secure Directors and Officers Insurance for the elected officials of the district. This agency recently went through a reorganization that diverted their attention from this matter. He shared a copy of a recently submitted application for this coverage. Scott Rote of Wheeler and Taylor will seek an insurance carrier willing to offer D&O coverage to watershed districts.

New Business

Sinkhole Discovery and Repair:

Mr. Johnston circulated a chronology depicting the events of 8/28/11 when a sinkhole was discovered on the dam crest following the heavy rains associated with Hurricane Irene. This chronology will become a part of District records. The sinkhole was discovered at approximately 1:30 PM and was repaired and made safe by 7:15 PM the same day thanks to the quick response of Fuss and O'Neill Engineering, the Office of Dam Safety and R. H. White Construction.

A leak in the dam caused an erosion of the soil within the dam structure. The heavy rain caused a sinkhole, approximately four feet by five feet by four feet deep, to fall into the dam crest. A temporary repair was made by R. H. White via the installation of a filtering material and "cobble" to fill the sinkhole under the direction of the Dan Beauvais of the Office of Dam Safety and Phil Moreschi of Fuss and O'Neill.

The Office of Dam Safety and Fuss and O'Neill agreed that these temporary repairs made the dam safe and that there would be no need to do an emergency draw down.

Seepage Repair Plans:

Fuss and O'Neill Engineering will develop a work plan to stop the seepage of water through the dam. This work will not be conducted until the lake is drawn down. After discussion, it was agreed that it would be wise to do some exploratory digging on the dam crest before the lake level is reduced to better direct repair work later. The primary effort will be directed at the leak that caused the sinkhole to find the path that water is taking through the dam. It is expected that this flow will stop when the water level drops about one foot below the spillway elevation. It was also agreed and to dig near the center of the crest to find a second leak just east of the spillway. Many efforts have been made to find and repair this leak previously. This leak has historically stopped when the lake level is dropped to three feet below the spillway elevation. Mr. Johnston will work with Fuss and O'Neill, the Office of Dam Safety and R. H. White to put a small rubber-tire backhoe on the dam as soon as possible. His primary contact at Fuss and O'Neill, Chris Cullen, was out of work with a bad case of the flu.

Second Heavy Rainfall Event:

More rain fell on 9/7 and 9/8 than during Hurricane Irene. No efforts were made to open the dam in anticipation of this rain because it came as a surprise. At 11:00 AM on 9/8, there was eight inches of water flowing over the spillway. By 5:00 PM on 9/8, the lake level rose to 10 inches over the spillway elevation. This high level slowly dropped over the next few days as the watershed continued to drain into the lake. There was no need to open the low level outlet because, during the next 24 hours, the water level dropped four inches to six inches above the spillway at 6:30 PM on 9/9. Under these high water conditions, it would be too dangerous to attempt to remove the flash boards in the emergency spillway channel. By 6:30 PM on 9/10, the water level dropped another 2.5 inches to 3.5 inches above the spillway. By 5:00 PM on 9/11, the water level had dropped to two inches above the spillway elevation.

Executive Session:

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

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Management Committee was scheduled for Wednesday, October 12, 2011 at 1 Maple Glen Lane, Leicester.

Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:07 P.M..

A True Copy Attest:

Richard D. Johnston
District Clerk