

Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association – Board of Directors Meeting

October 10, 2015

Present: Terry Allison, Al Buckland, Ron Dixon, Al Gerth, Gary Gray, Corinne Julian, Dene Karaus, Kevin Morris, Chuck Rybak, Joan Rybak, Patty Smith, Richard Stewart, Andy Strawhand, David Wallace

Absent: Kurt Bischoff, Cartha Conklin, Billy Croft, Sean Fitzpatrick, Heidi Gerth, Gordon Shafer, Ed Sharpe, Brian Smith, Carolee Thatcher, John Thatcher

Guests: Dennis Carlson, Dennis Fagan, Rick Game, Joyce Strawhand, Nancy Gabel, Jack Hall, Norm Theetge

Meeting called to order: 10:05 AM

Introductions: Welcome to LWLA and District meeting to discuss lake treatment for 2016 (details below).

Old Business:

1. Minutes from September 19th were approved unanimously as written.
2. Treasurer's Report: Terry/Kurt supplied a printed report with the following highlights:

Checking	\$18,055.89
Savings	<u>\$20,175.72</u>
Total current assets	\$38,231.61
Fixed assets	<u>\$ 7,363.58</u> (note: includes furniture and equipment)
Total assets	\$45,595.19

➔ **LWLA has about \$38k total current assets; therefore can donate \$30-35k to the district for 2016 treatment, this would wipeout most of the LWLA reserves.**
3. Terry has LWLA membership letters and envelopes. They are ready to be sent out in January

New Business:

1. 2016 Lake Treatment
 - A. The following is used to evaluate what needs to be treated:
 1. Bob Johnson Plant report – handed out at meeting
 2. Gordon did more evaluations, found more spots
 - a. Lamoka – Heavy North/South, Moderate Western side/Cove, Sparse East side
 - b. Waneta - Sparse North/South end
 3. Allied Biological to do evaluation on Oct 21.
 - B. Finances for 2016 Chemical treatment:
 1. Need about \$176k for chemical treatment – Lamoka 120 acres & Canal 20 acres.
 2. 2015 treatment cost \$160k; this wiped out district funds for both counties.
 3. Collect \$102,000 annually – 1200 units charged tax depending on lake frontage -\$60 access, \$90 for < 80 feet and \$120 for > 80 feet.
 4. 2016 District estimated costs: \$11,000 for plant studies, \$15,000 waste water management & \$76,000 budgeted for 2016 Chemical treatment.
 5. **Issue** - shortfall of about \$100k for 2016 treatment.
 - C. Proposals to resolve shortfall for 2016 treatment discussed:
 1. Increase LWLA Membership dues for 500+ members – Can't do this year because envelopes/membership letters are already prepared to be sent out – will consider increase for 2017 for future treatments.
 2. Raise district tax – cannot do in 2016 - not enough time to go through referendum process.
 - a. First have to introduce proposal

- b. If 5% of registered voters sign a petition then there must be a vote. Otherwise, tax increase automatically passes.
 - c. Tax has not been increased since implemented in 2003, at which time the county clerk sent out a letter asking for feedback on tax. At that time, 70% responded in favor. We propose taking the same approach for this tax increase.
 - 3. Look for another company other than Allied to do treatment – no company cheaper to date.
 - a. Every year send chemical treatment out for bid to 12 different companies in NY, NJ, PA and MA.
 - b. Allied always the cheapest. $\frac{3}{4}$ of cost for chemicals - $\frac{1}{4}$ of cost for actual chemical application.
 - 4. Allow individuals to treat their area – This is ILLEGAL
 - a. District suggest individuals become part of evaluation team if they want to ensure their area treated.
 - b. The need for treatment must be documented.
 - c. Contact Gordon if interested in being part of team.
 - 5. Mill Pond treatment – why not included? – Too expensive and do not feel it is contributing to weeds in lakes because of water flow - also chemical fatal to frogs; need place for frogs.
 - 6. Can we stop boats from entering Canal – No, Channel owned by state – also Milfoil is a seed producing plant can't prove coming in on boats. District proposing treating canal.
 - 7. Can we charge for launching boats – no because we do not own channel the state does.
 - a. Water owned by NY State, Land under water and dam owned by NYSEG.
 - b. Having the dam is what keeps the water in giving value to the property we own and use.
 - 8. Lake Aeration - Not enough funding for 2016 but have found \$150k NY grant
 - a. Grant can only be used for capital not the soft costs like the electricity required to run the aeration system.
 - b. Plus have to pay up front then get reimbursed if grant gets approved.
 - c. Continuing to work with Senator O'Mara for options for soft costs.
 - 9. Ask for donations for 2016 treatment – District can take donations but cannot solicit for donations.
 - a. LWLA has about \$30-35k available funds to donate but not enough. Concerns were raised about donating all the LWLA reserves.
 - b. LWLA can solicit for additional donations suggest LWLA send letter out asking for donations. There was concern about asking for donations then also asking for increase in tax. Letter would communicate the donation is to cover 2016 treatment shortfall and the tax increase is to cover future treatments.
 - c. Reviewed draft of letter which explained the history of lake treatments/current district tax, proposal of donations for 2016/tax increase for future years and recommended donation to LWLA along with the fact that the donations will go to district for 2016 lake treatment. Great letter only suggestion was to summarize up front purpose of letter to catch people's attention.
 - d. Concerns were raised that if tax not increased will not be able to treat next year. District is committed to moving forward in 2016 to increase tax for 2017. Will also check into building in an x% increase over time. Note: Need ability to raise \$150k from taxes for future lake treatments.
- D. District proposal:
 - 1. Continue with grant paperwork for aeration system for 2017 – District to work with Senator O'Mara for additional funding for soft costs.
 - 2. Use District funds plus LWLA donation to treat 70% of Lamoka and Channel in 2016.
 - 3. LWLA send letter to solicit donations for 2016 chemical treatment shortfall. Based on funds collected will determine how much more of suggested treatment can be completed in 2016
- E. LWLA Voting:
 - 1. Donate LWLA reserve funds of \$30-\$35k to district for 2016 treatment was unanimously agreed to.
 - 2. Send 2016 Lake Treatment Donation request letter was unanimously agreed to with the stipulation that Terry will do a final review before sent out.
 - 3. District tax increase starting 2017 was unanimously agreed to.
- F. District Voting:

1. District tax increase stating 2017 was unanimously agreed to.
2. OTHER:
 - A. Al apologized for missing last 2 meetings at Firehouse – Also mentioned that the Firehouse was not cleaned up after LWLA used it.
 - B. Lake level will be lowered to the winter lake level on Oct 15. Talked about leaving up for Duck hunters but DEC requires lowering to winter level.

Meeting adjourned at 11:38 AM

Next meeting(s): Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 AM Saturday, **April 16, 2016** at Tyrone Town Court.

Respectfully submitted,
Corinne Julian