

VALPARAISO LAKES AREA CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

MINUTES OF MEETING: January 16, 2013

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Kruse, Don Kareiva, Mickey Koehler
Nancy Satterlee, Rolando Chilian
Megan Summers, Bob Garmon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: none

CONSULTANT PRESENT: Dave Hollenbeck, Bob Minarich

Audience: Tom Banaszak, Bob Finley, Hope Cook, George Smolk, Cara Simaga, Walt Breitingner, Christian Anderson

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Garmon at 6:01 pm at the Valparaiso, Lakes Area Conservancy District's pole barn.

Don made a motion to approve the minutes. Rolando seconded it. Motion carried.

Financial committee report

Don reported that the General fund was at \$52,000 to the good and the sewage fund was also \$24,000 to the good and the water fund was \$5060 under for the year. The financial committee recommended to split the cost of the water meters between water and sewer. The liability insurance should also now be split three ways. Don then moved to allocate the 50/50 split on water meters between water and sewer funds. Mickey seconded it. Motion carried. Don then moved to split the cost of the liability insurance between all three funds. Megan seconded it. Motion carried. Dave brought up that we will need to visit the issue of how to handle the general fund portion since there is not a line item on that. Don asked for Dave's assistance on transferring surplus tax cash into the rainy day fund. Dave said we can appropriate 10% of the unexpended appropriation. Don then moved to transfer \$2700 into the rainy day fund. Rolando seconded it. Motion carried. Don moved to approve the claims. Megan seconded it. Motion carried. Rolando moved to accept the financial statements. Don seconded it. Motion carried.

Strategic Plan Reports

None

General Manager's Report

The Flamingo water main project plans were sent back to the engineers to alter some points and hopefully lower the overall costs.

Storm sewer on Sapphire Lane had a clean out added and then the line was jetted. A lot of mud did come out along with a root ball indicating a crack in the line. We will probably need to revisit this line again in the future or replace it.

No new homes under construction.

LARE grant sent out. \$23,000 was asked for.

No new beaver count.

Nothing new between NISWAG and NIRPC. We are working with Porter County Solid Waste on a rain barrel competition at the schools. Ming and I will man a booth at the Earth Day program where the voting on the best rain barrel will occur.

Doug Wolf mention that we need to educate our employees on soil erosion.

A new design for our water bills has come in and if we buy enough for a year the cost will be about the same. The meter module they had was not something we could use.

The Flint Lake outfall and the Burlington Beach project has been water down or scaled down. New information sent to us but Stu Summers has been forwarded to our engineers.

Matt's report given by Bob M.

The lift stations have had the antifreeze and oil replaced. The guys have been exercising valves. No leaks for the month. Water samples passed. The garage has been painted and cleaned for our committee meetings. 18 locates. 12 meter replacements and 15 delinquent shut offs.

Nothing for Laura's report.

Soil Erosion Committee

Mickey reported about the \$2500 waived fine for 1 year as the Aldred's appear to honestly wanting to improve the sites. Bob M. will monitor and report back to the committee on conditions. Mickey moved to approve the \$2500 waived fine. Rolando seconded it. Motion carried. A letter would be dropped off and the developer has 10 days to respond. Dave outlined the history of the reasons behind the fine and the time line. Plus what should be done if this reoccurs and how to handle it based on the severity of environmental damage.

Engineering Committee

The committee met and recommended several revisions for the Flamingo water main project.

Nancy presented photos of the existing signage at Flint and Long and asked that we develop something that could replace what is there and promote invasive species removal. Nancy also talked about a trash receptacle. DNR and Porter County Highway Department should also be contacted.

Attorney's report

Dave talked about a check for \$83983.57 and when added tot the check of \$113060.03 from June's draw we have a total of \$196955.30 for the year 2012. The shows a shortfall of \$5751.50 resulting from real estate tax appeals.

The 2013 budget rate is 9.94 cents per 100 dollars. The general fund comes in at \$177,200 and the CIF at \$28,059.

Dave also reported that there are 16 drawers of engineering material at the old Bonar's office and is planning on the week of Jan. 28th for the field employees to remove the documents to our office. The 4 filing cabinets are ours to keep.

The February Board meeting is also the annual meeting and Dave went through the election process. Candidates, balloting and counting processes.

There some discussion on the need for a new office(Bob's building) and where the funds would come from.

Miscellaneous Matters

George Smolk was on the agenda and was given time to discuss the use of chemicals to treat the lakes for invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil and the JFNew/Cardno report.

Citizen surveys were small, fish information was inadequate and other alternatives need to be looked at as well as chemicals. George recommended using a multi-method approach for controlling the exotics, beetles, moths, midges, hand harvesting and chemicals as a last resort. The chemicals currently used need more testing.

Being no further topics and no one else on the agenda,
Bob Garmon closed the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Attest:

Bob Minarich
General Manager
Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District