

# VALPARAISO LAKES AREA CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF MEETING: May 15, 2013

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Kareiva, Mickey Koehler  
Nancy Satterlee, Rolando Chilian  
Christian Anderson, Bob Garmon

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Kruse

CONSULTANT PRESENT: Dave Hollenbeck, Bob Minarich, Ryan Laughlin, Dale Brewer

Audience: Tom Banaszak, Hope Cook, Walt Breitinger, Bob Finley, Ed Schwuchow, Lloyd Samplawski

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Garmon at 5:59 pm at the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District's pole barn.

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

Due to a conflict with a School Board meeting Chairman Bob Garmon adjusted the agenda to allow Dave to give his report first.

### Attorney's Report

**Item 1**, legal notice to appropriate \$120,000 from the general fund for the Flamingo Road water main project. First need to open the meeting to the public for comments.

Bob then opened the meeting to the public.

Tom Banazcek questioned the storm sewer on Flamingo, and then easement rights.

There being no comments, Bob closed the hearing.

Dave then requested a motion to approve the appropriation from the General Fund of \$120,000. Motion by Don. Seconded by Rolando. Motion carried.

**Item #2** Dave just received the construction documents for the Flamingo Road project. Dave asked for a conditional approval of the document pending his further review and asked for the "Notice to Proceed" be granted. Christian moved to that effect, seconded by Rolando. Motion carried.

Chairman Bob mentioned a lack of response by the homeowner on the project in signing the easements in the yards to re-tie their service, Bob M. suggested that after hang tags and knocking on doors failed that when the equipment starts tearing up the front yards we will get a response, and if not when we start Smilax we will attempt again. After two efforts then the burden of tying on becomes theirs.

**Item #3** LGS recap. No news.

**Item #4** Kettle Lake Dave will put together some discovery requests to have a motion of summary judgement. The judge can then rule.

**Item #5** Two topics with Steve Poulos at the City Utility dept. One is Fox Case Farms where VLACD has done their feasibility study. \$1 million and \$1.6 million to extend the

line. This would double the owner's sewer bill. Tom sent out an email that this should be turned over to the engineering committee which Dave agrees is a good idea.

Currently the City of Chesterton, Damon Run Conservancy District and now Elmwood Mobile Home Park could all provide sewers to this area.

Rolando asked if there has been communication with Fox Chase and Elmwood Mobile Park and Dave unsure within the last 72 hours if there is. But the State Board of Health will approach the Park to see if there is any interest. Don asked about communication between us and Fox Chase and Dave replied that he has shared everything with Ethan Allen out his office and he is aware of the numbers in the study and that we are still interested. Dave stated that there is not much else we can do as a Board until we get firmer numbers from the engineer and where Valparaiso is.

Don moved that the matter of Fox Chase Farms be turned over to the Short and Long Range Committee. Rolando seconded it. Motion carried.

The second topic with Steve Poulos was the overture of Valparaiso Utilities taking over LAC lines including storm water. It was made clear that he was not taking about annexation. Steve thought the next step would be to hire Cender to provide some numbers in a shared study, however, the City make pick up the full cost of the study. Christian mentioned that in other case with a take over there was an agreement that there would not be substantial rate increase to which Dave suggested that our customers would be treated no different than those within the City. Mickey mentioned the cost of water going up if the City goes to Indiana American and Dave also suggested that even if the City stayed on wells there would possibly be increases due to upgrades and repairs. Mickey then mentioned about the uncertainty of the employees being absorbed by the utility and Dave stated that that should not be a deal breaker as the Board has a fiduciary duty to its customers.

Mickey finally mentioned that any annexation talks would be with the City Council which Dave volunteered to arrange.

Nancy asked who would be treating the lakes? Dave responded that that may be a duty left to the Conservancy district to stay together.

Rolando mentioned that this talk was merely to open lines of communication and nothing more and the report from Cender may answers some questions and would like the 3 members to meet again and hash out some detail.

Dave asked if the Board wanted him to contact Cender and get a cost estimate for the report. Rolando joked as long as it doesn't cost anything. Bob made the motion, Rolando seconded it. Motion carried.

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

#### Financial Report

Don stated that there was nothing unusual in the claims and made a motion to approve the financial reports, seconded by Rolando. Motion carried.

Don then made a motion to approve the claims, seconded by Rolando. Motion carried.

#### General Manager's report

This winter we did not have one single main break. This spring we have had two service line pinholes.

One pump has been repaired and installed at Island Road lift station. The second pump has been removed and is being rebuilt.

I have been working on the CCR reports to be mailed out before July 1.

A report came in from Wild Rose Subdivision about silt washing into their pond. We found a farmer's field with no cover crop that would discharge muddy water into the ditch that runs through Wild Rose. I alerted the County MS4 coordinator to the problem and notified Lisa Aldred of what I found and what I did.

The current milfoil report is ½ acre on Flint and maybe 10 acres on Long.

Nancy and I have been working on a customer Appreciation Day event. We have a flyer we will be including in our billing. 400 trees, 2 rain barrels and some exhibits. Hot dogs will also be given out for free.

Matt's report.

2 good samples. 29 locates and 6 meters replaced. 15 delinquents. The manhole on Claussen was raised with materials we had in the yard. Hughart Lane manhole was also raised.

Accounts Receivable

No report

Engineering

The plans for the outlet change at Flint Lake were reviewed by Chrissie Howe. Stop log system is not used anywhere in northern Indiana and probably will not be approved. She recommended that the channel be improved and possibly a detention area be built before altering the drainage structures that were installed back in 1984(?) without a permit.

Bob Garmon closed the meeting at 7:10 pm.

Attest:

Bob Minarich

General Manager

Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District