

Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District

Minutes of Board Meeting

April 19, 2023

Board Members Present: Mickey Koehler, Walt Breitingner, Christian Anderson, Connie Hughes, Kyle Hauber, and Richard Tegt

Board Members Absent: Michael Cantieri

Consultants Present: Alicia Barber, Dale Brewer, Dave Hollenbeck, and Brett Konarski (JPR)

Audience: Nancy Satterlee, Tom Banaszak, Kenneth Hill, Jane Berdovich, Eric Neagu (Antero), Chris Platipodis, Jan Westergren, and Jacob Ballah (BF&S)

Mickey called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Eric from Antero spoke about the Blackhawk Beach Project. He inquired about invoices 8,9, & 10. Some discussion followed regarding board approval on invoices and the expectation that Antero was to provide an itemized invoice.

Jacob from BF&S gave an update about the Stormwater Master Plan. They plan on having a draft to Alicia by the end of the month. The final copy is expected to be sent by the end of May.

Jane thanked the board for repairing the apron at Claussen Lane. She mentions VLACD are landowners on Claussen Lane. She mentions quotes she received to repair the road. She says they plan to repair their road themselves in May. She explains that they are asking all the landowners for \$200 for the road and because VLACD owns the most land in that area and won't be a part of the labor, she asked VLACD to contribute \$400 toward road repair. Dave explained that historically we have explained to the district that we are not in the road business but what makes this situation unique is that VLACD does own property in that area. Dave explained that VLACD being a landowner does not trigger any requirement to help maintain the road. Dave explains that previously the deed mentions the road must be maintained by the landowners but when VLACD bought the land that verbiage was not on the deed. Dave advised that if the board approves this that they make it clear this is a special circumstance. Richard agrees that because we are a landowner, he would agree on paying the same amount as the residents to repair the road because we use the road less.

Motion that we contribute \$250 towards this paving effort on Claussen and make it clear that it is an exception to the rule that we do not work on or maintain the roads in any way except this situation because we are landowners. Walt motioned and Christian seconded. Motion passed.

Mickey explained VLACD will need an invoice, or we cannot pay.

Tom talked about the culvert that goes across Calumet Ave. Tom mentions the seawall situation on Long Lake.

Jan talked about a letter she sent the board regarding Flint Lake. Mickey explained the board is waiting on the master plan to be created, after that, residents will hear plans. Mickey mentions the next meeting that will be concerning the master plan. Walt mentions a study done regarding Flint Lake.

Tom expressed concerns about stormwater draining into Flint Lake.

Motion to approve last months meeting minutes. Connie motioned and Christian seconded. Motion passed.

Motion to approve financial claims and statements. Christian motioned and Connie seconded. Motion passed.

Richard asked about the current state of the budgets

Personnel- Kyle mentions a situation with personnel that was handled in office.

Insurances- Nothing to report

Storm Water Management- Walt talked about the embankment at the Blackhawk Beach Project and how great the project turned out. Walt then talked about the railroad ties next to the storm drain outlet that are in bad shape. Alicia mentions talking to Nancy, Dan and Tim about the residents' plan to repair the wall at the beach. Mickey mentions taking silt socks from the top of the hill and placing them near the beach to stop dirt from entering the lake. Alicia talked about the seeding on the embankment and the paving on Waiola. Alicia mentions the sump pump at 1717 Waiola and needing the drain to be relocated to stop flooding. Christian handed out literature about vegetation for stormwater control.

Public Liaison- Nothing to report

Strategic Planning- Nothing to report

Engineering- Richard talked about an engineering committee meeting held April 11th. Richard expressed that by using the vac truck to clean out catch basins we could cut down on sediment going into the lake.

Motion to utilize the vac truck to clean catch basins throughout the district. Richard motioned and Mickey seconded. Motion passed.

Richard mentioned the 5-ton dump truck and trading it in for a 1-ton truck which is more suitable for our smaller roads. Richard talked about culverts in our district that are blocked and how our equipment could blow those out and add rip rap.

Motion to clean out culverts throughout the district. Richard motioned and Kyle seconded. Motion passed.

Examples of areas that could be cleaned out were given.

Finance- Nothing to report

General Managers Report- Alicia mentions she received her cyber security certificates. Alicia mentions a newsletter to be released with the bills periodically. Alicia mentions she will be attending Earth Day at the Porter County Expo Center. Alicia has found a 1-ton truck and discussed the funds we could use to buy it. Drinking water, conservancy and sanitary sewer were suggested to cover the \$36,000 truck. Alicia would trade in the 5 ton or sell it from the office. Mickey discussed appropriation requirements to purchase the 5-ton truck. Dave explained the legal notice requirements.

Motion to start procedure to add truck to line item, appropriation. Dave explained appropriations end on December 31st. Mickey suggested using the rainy-day fund which also requires appropriations. A meeting date to approve the funds was talked about, possibly May 10th. Mickey approved Dave to work on this issue.

Alicia gave an update on the Blackhawk Beach Project; project is 95% complete.

Alicia mentioned the dredging, socks were laid down in containment centers. A foot of sediment at a time is the goal currently.

Some discussion followed about the fund and process to use to purchase the truck.

Engineers Report- Brett discussed phase 3 of cardinal loop. Mickey requested an updated report from JPR concerning costs. Christian asked if there is a minimum dollar amount to require proposals to go out to bid. Dave explained that the minimum to bid is \$150,000.

Attorneys Report- Dave talked about the bad debt resolution made January 2021. Five accounts were discussed.

Motion to approve Resolution 23-01 Connie motioned and Christian seconded. Motion passed.

Dave mentioned obtaining easements for phase 3 cardinal loop.

Alicia discussed the LARE bids that we received. We sent out 68 requests and received 3.5 back. Alicia recommended Aquatic Control Inc for \$7604. Walt had questions about the process. Richard had questions about the last payout. Christian mentioned that some of the chemicals are temperature sensitive and applying too early would be a mistake and that holding off on paying might be for that reason. Walt wanted to make sure that the company we choose this year is not the same as two years ago.

Motion to use Aquatic Control to treat the lakes. Richard motioned and Christian seconded. Walt questioned if we are choosing them because of price only. Christian was pleased with aquatic controls work in the past. Discussion followed regarding wanting to make sure the company approved today was not a company members of the board were displeased with in years past. 1 Yes and 5 No. Motion died.

Dale requested taking the full amount of the truck out of the conservancy general fund.

Alicia verified Aquatic Control Inc was not the company the board was previously displeased with.

Motion to use Aquatic Control to treat the lakes. Richard motioned and Christian seconded. 4 Yes and 2 No. Motion passed.

Dave mentioned that the board needs to rescind the previous motion on the truck where they divided how it would be paid. By advice of the financial secretary the entire truck may be bought from the conservancy general fund.

Motion to rescind the previous motion regarding the truck funding. Connie motioned and Christian seconded. Motion passed.

Motion to use the conservancy general fund to pay for the truck. Richard motioned and Christian seconded. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Attested to by Alicia Barber

General Manager VLACD