

# VALPARAISO LAKES AREA CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF MEETING: March 17, 2010

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Garmon Dick Brychell Don Kareiva  
Tom Kruse Debbie Miller Megan Summers

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: John Steffen

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Dave Hollenbeck Bob Minarich Adam McAlpine

### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District was called to order at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 by Attorney Dave Hollenbeck.

Dave swore in new board members Robert Garmon and Don Kareiva. Mr. Garmon was sworn in for a 4 year term expiring in 2014 and Mr. Kareiva was sworn in for a 3 year term expiring in 2013.

Dave entertained nominations for Chairperson of the Board with Mr. Brychell being the only nominee. A motion carried to appoint Mr. Dick Brychell as the Chairperson of the board. Mr. Brychell then entertained nominations for Vice-Chairperson of the Board with Mr. Tom Kruse being the only nominee. A motion carried to appoint Mr. Tom Kruse as the Vice-Chairperson of the Board.

Mr. Kareiva thanked the voters and also Mr. Ken Hill. Mr. Kareiva shared that he has been in the lakes area for 40 years and is a semi-retired marketing and sales person for an industrial insulation company. Mr. Garmon introduced himself and gave his background as being a rental property owner in the district for 4-5 years and he works for Valparaiso City Utilities as a project coordinator.

The meeting was then opened to the public for comment or question. Mr. Tom Banaszak spoke regarding the wetland area adjoining his property and voiced his concern that the area is degraded and silted in.

Dave requested a copy of the 2009 minutes and financials be provided to the Circuit Court within 20 days of the annual meeting, which Ellen will supply to him.

Dave also spoke regarding changing the election process and recommended that we start thinking about this now as any changes will have to be submitted to the Circuit Court for approval before being enacted.

Newsletters to inform the public about the elections and the process were discussed and Dick will form a committee to address this. Mr. Banaszak asked about maps showing the areas in our district and who they are served by, which are already available at the VLACD office and

website. Another member of the public also requested that any newsletters also go to freeholders in the district who do not receive service.

A motion per each to approve a resolution of service for Ms. Susan Gustafson and Mr. Ken Hill was carried and both were commended and thanked for their dedicated service to the VLACD board.

A motion to close the annual meeting carried. The annual meeting was closed at 6:25 P.M.

#### MONTHLY MEETING

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District was called to order at 6:26 P.M. on March 17, 2010 by Chairman Brychell.

Prof. Jon Schoer spoke regarding the lake studies and reports that he has compiled with his students and provided a report for 2009. He is going to put together a study compiling the last 5 years data to be published. Prof. Schoer will not be taking students in 2010 but will do some limited work independently. He spoke regarding the conditions in several local lakes and also regarding phosphorus in the lakes. VLACD will put out a flyer for the third year to continue the no-phosphate use campaign. VLACD gave Prof. Schoer a \$1,000 grant last year and a motion was carried to approve the same \$1,000 grant this year. The monies will be used for new probes for the buoys and any excess will be held for future use.

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2010 meeting carried.

The conservancy budget and financials were reviewed. Adding beaver eradication as a line item was discussed and needs to be added to annual budget; this has been previously discussed and Ellen will look into the matter. Adam McAlpine from Haas & Assoc. noticed a discrepancy in the amount of the 2/10 LGS request to the SRF; Ellen will look into this and speak with Adam.

The Water financials were reviewed.

Bob gave the maintenance report for Joe. VLACD will help residents with grading and gravel issues on private roads, fire hydrants are being refurbished, and there were a few call-outs regarding sump pumps.

Bob then gave his manager's report. There is a new pager number for emergency call-outs; the new service is cheaper by about half. The Valpo Americans sewer project is installed and flowing well, road and grass clean-up will take place in spring. While work was slow, the maintenance crew repaired and painted the Ford truck. There was a sinkhole on Victoria that was a problem of VCU. The beaver count is up to 33. There will be a presentation next month on the flock-blocs.

The Sewer financials were reviewed and the claims were signed.

There will be a meeting for the new board members to bring them up to date on financial information before the next board meeting. Dick will assign committees at the next board

meeting.

David and Tracy from McCormick Engineering gave a presentation on a project regarding the outfall of Flint Lake. They are both registered engineers, and David is a Diplomat of Water Resource Engineering concerned with erosion control and stormwater. The project would be a multi-step process, requiring data gathering, and obtaining necessary permits and approvals from Federal, State and local government agencies. Only then would any physical project work begin. This would be a rather complicated project due to the interconnection and flow of the lakes. Data gathering could begin as a first step and then we would need to reassess the project.

Dave then gave his report. First Dave spoke about the Porter County public information session regarding drainage which he attended with Dick and Bob. Porter County is funding a \$1.5 million project to address drainage issues throughout the county. Phase one will use \$500,000 of this money to do a mapping of the county at 1 foot contours and to hire DLZ Engineering to run the project. Part of this will be a questionnaire to unincorporated Porter County residents regarding drainage which would include our district. The county plan is to have 4 public forums with the goal being to develop a comprehensive countywide stormwater management plan which prioritizes drainage and flooding problems. The first forum will be April 22 from 5-8 PM at the Porter County Expo Center. The mapping technology was demonstrated to Dave, Dick and Bob and they were extremely impressed with the detail and quality of the images. In the future, this mapping could be used to change the basis for revenue generation. The board agreed to review the proposal from McCormick Engineering and to coincide with information that becomes available from the county.

Dave also spoke about the rate increase and at this time is waiting on IURC approval as to whether the 2 year increase can be accepted, rather than submitting this year and next year.

Dave then recommended approval of the contract for accounting services from Cender & Co. in the amount of \$5,700. A motion to approve the contract was carried.

Dave then spoke regarding new laws for conservancy districts, with the only change being in submitting budget approvals. The budget approval will now have to be turned in the the Porter County Council by September, then adopted at the October board meeting to be submitted to the state by Nov.1.

Due to the rate increase, Kettle Lake and Valpo Americans Sewer projects, and the election, it is highly probably that Dave will exceed the amount budgeted for legal expenses and appropriations may have to be transferred at year end.

Adam gave his report next. He first reported that the Valpo American sewer line is on-line, and has been tested and televised. Haas & Associates will be issuing a certificate of substantial completion to LGS with a punch list of items still to be completed in spring. Haas recommends approval of payment requests 1 & 2 from LGS. Adam will get with Bob who will pass along information to the board regarding the amount for the final portion of the work done by LGS. The good news for us is that work is already mostly completed and so we can negotiate with LGS to reach a fair cost. Tom Kruse especially would like to be included in this. Adam then

reported on the Kettle Lake project which as has come in at a revised cost of \$167,000. This would be to put in pile supports and on the west end where soil is firmer to use light-weight pipe. Adam passed around a sample of the polymer treated timbers that the piles supporting the pipes would be constructed of. Chris Burke Engineering has responded to Haas regarding the Kettle Lake project and their recommendation is to move forward with this proposed plan. This project would still not prevent flooding of the area and would not be a permanent solution. The county would only provide \$25,000 of the necessary funding for this project. No decision will be made until the Porter County drainage study is done.

A motion to approve the payment requests 1 (\$91,777) & 2 (\$117,213) to LGS Plumbing was carried. Tom Kruse recommended not paying the retainage to LGS until the project is 100% complete.

Ellen then spoke regarding accounting and payroll software and will continue to research new options with the possibility of having a presentation from the best choice of vendors at a future meeting.

Mr. Brychell expressed his thanks for being re-elected as Chairperson and again welcomed the new board members and thanked the old board members.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen McMeans  
Financial Secretary