

# VALPARAISO LAKES AREA CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

## MINUTES OF MEETING: APRIL 21, 2010

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: None

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Dave Hollenbeck Bob Minarich Adam McAlpine

The meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District was called to order at 6:03 P.M. on April 21, 2010 by Chairman Brychell.

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

The conservancy budget and financials were reviewed. A motion to move \$4,000.00 from the line item autos & trucks to beaver "control" (rather than eradication) carried. Dave stated that 10% of the leftover budget from 2009 may be moved to the rainy day fund.

The LAC financials were reviewed. Dave reported that the rate increase was only approved for 2010, we will have to re-submit in 2011 for the second phase of the water rate increase. Dave has worked in a professional capacity to allow conservancies to be able to opt out of the IURC with no success thus far. When rate increase goes into effect for 2010, we cannot retroactively bill customers; will only be able to increase as of the effective date.

Joe then gave his maintenance report. The Cardinal Lift Station had a major power surge, which resulted in purchasing a new circuit board at a cost of \$260.00. The labor provided by Gasvoda was covered under warranty. The warmer weather has led to numerous water leaks. Hydrant flushing will begin on May 3. The water samples were good.

Bob next presented his manager's report. There is a new beaver problem on 70E that is not in our district but is within the watershed. We have opened up the dam and expect that the homeowner will attend a future meeting if he has further concerns. The backhoe is now paid off. Bob next discussed new meters, that are have more features than the current meters we are using in meter change outs. The new meters cost \$200.00 each and there are 408 meters in the system that still need to be changed. Dick asked that we think about this and revisit the subject at a future meeting after more research has been done on how much more usage would be captured by the new meters. Resource Utility Supply company has closed and the next closest place for parts is in Schererville, so we will possibly stock up on more parts to have on hand in case of emergencies. The computer server crashed and was unreparable; a new server was purchased and installed and is running well with no problems. The copier is also not working well and the cost to fix it would be almost as much as a new copier. Tina and Ellen will research new copiers.

A customer Mr. Kenneth Braggs submitted a letter requesting a refund on excessive water usage due to a malfunctioning water softener. A motion denying his request carried. A sewer rate increase was discussed and a motion carried to get data to Cender & Co. so that they may begin work on this. The Valpo Americans project was discussed. A motion to approve payment of \$10237.00 to LGS through the SRF carried. A motion to approve payment of \$16,116.00 to Hass & Associates carried.

Next there was a presentation by Pat Powell from EJP regarding floc-logs and information was distributed to board members.

The sewer financials were reviewed and the claims were signed.

Ellen spoke about having 5/3 Bank give a presentation and the board is not interested in this. Ellen also spoke about new software programs for accounting and payroll and the board asked for a recommendation after more information is gathered.

Dick assigned the committees for 2010. A listing of the 2010 committees follows these minutes.

Resident Tom Banascik had questions regarding the McCormick presentation. Resident Elsie Taylor spoke about errors in her billing this year. Bob will get with Tina and contact Ms. Taylor after reviewing her account.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen McMeans  
Financial Secretary