

VALPARAISO LAKES AREA CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
OCTOBER 21, 2009 MEETINGS

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Sue Gustafson Dick Brychell Ken Hill
Tom Kruse Megan Summers

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT : Debbie Miller Jack Steffen

CONSULTANTS PRESENT: Dave Hollenbeck Bob Minarich Adam McAlpine

MINUTES OF AQUATIC VEGETATIVE MAINTENANCE MEETING

The Meeting of the Aquatic Vegetative Maintenance of the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District was called to order at 6:01 P.M. on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 by Chairman Brychell. The meeting was held at the Valparaiso Fire Department.

Brendan Hastie and Steve Lee were present for Aquatic Control. Brendan distributed a five page handout regarding invasive vegetative species treated at Long Lake with before and after treatment photos. Lot owners can treat 625 sq ft of lake frontage without a permit if the owner does the work himself. Aquatic Control recommends that VLACD continues to educate home owners about the importance of vegetative control. Brendan also believes that Flint Lake needs a grant for \$10,000 for invasive vegetative species treatment.

MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING FOR VALPARAISO AMERICAN
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

The public meeting for the additional appropriation for the Valparaiso American sewer project was called to order at 6:37 pm. A motion was passed to appropriate \$40,000 from the Cumulative Improvement Fund (CIF) for the Valpo American project.

MINUTES OF GENERAL PUBLIC MEETING FOR VLACD

The Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Valparaiso Lakes Area Conservancy District was called to order at 6:41 P.M. on Wednesday, October 21, 2009 by Chairman Brychell. The minutes were approved as written.

First we reviewed Conservancy District Analysis, Cumulative Improvement Fund and Rainy Day funds. Tax money was received from the county for the General Tax Fund and the CIF fund. We will transfer \$30,000 from the General Tax Fund to the Rainy Day Fund now that the General Tax Fund has improved liquidity.

Next, the Water Fund was reviewed. A separate checking account was created for Meter Deposits based on the accounts receivable records.

The Maintenance and Operation Report and Water improvement Projects were reviewed. Hydrant flushing is complete. The maintenance crew scrubbed sewers at the same time. Beaver season is from 11/15/09 to 3/15/10. A motion was made and carried to retain Mr. Dobbins to trap beaver. There are four new homes being built in the District. Fire hydrant refurbishing is not yet complete.

The Sewer fund was reviewed. Line of credit payments for the Cardinal Lift station are \$3,516.46 each month.

The claim forms were signed.

Dave Hollenbeck discussed the revamping of the VLACD Personnel Policy since it is nine years old. He recommended that the Personnel Committee start working on it and use the City of Valparaiso website for guidance.

Alexis Rubin asked for Christina Max to attend software training in Cincinnati for \$1,300-\$1,400. The motion was passed.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:

VLACD residents Fred and Normal Holtz from Long View Drive wanted information about lily pad removal. They were satisfied with the information provided by Brendan Hastie from Aquatic Control.

Brian Mitol from the Hoosier River Watch is concerned about the methodology used for the invasive vegetative species control. He noted that there are no frogs, tad poles or invertibrates in Long Lake and wondered if excessive chemical were being used. VLACD's response was that we are using state approved chemicals administered by Aquatic Control.

Walt Breitenber was concerned about the run-off from the ditch behind Cumberland Crossing. He asked that VLACD please keep working on lake management.

Tom Baniczak was concerned about the two wetlands adjoining Flint Lake. The wetlands are dead due to black silt and muck. The city of Valparaiso needs to clean it out. It was suggested that Tom bring this matter to the city's attention.

Adam McAlpine spoke about the change orders to the Cardinal lift project result in LGS Plumbing owing LAC Utilities \$825. Alexis Rubin will deduct that amount from the final retainage payment.

Adam also spoke about a change order for the Valpo American project involving the helical piers. Due to a Haas & Associates oversight, there is a \$7,475 increase to complete the project. The excessive payment will come from the contingency money (\$12,000). Adam will coordinate with the SRF program to insure that the change order is noted. A motion was made and passed to approve the change order.

Dave Hollenbeck brought up the final Cardinal Lift project retainage payment. A motion was passed to pay LGS the claim less \$825 on the condition that LGS sign the Claim Form (claim #3).

A resolution to transfer \$30,000 from the Rainy Day Fund to the General Fund 09-02 was approved. Another resolution to transfer \$200 from the Sewer Fund to the Cumulative Improvement Fund 09-03 was approved

Dave spoke again about Kettle Lake. Mr. Ciavash from the Water Resource Dept. determined that the soil at Kettle Lake may be unsuitable for the interim solution. VLACD may need to support pipe joints if the soil is unstable. A geotechnical report for soil testing would cost \$6,105 more than the interim solution for approximately \$50,000. Dave will approach Dave Burris and see if the commissioners will pay half of the cost for the geotechnical report.

Dave reported that the 2007 property taxes payable in 2008 have been completed. Taxes for 2008 payable in 2009 will be mailed to residents on November 13, 2009 and be due in full on November 30, 2009. The tax office believes that the taxes will be compiled by December 31, 2009.

It is election time at VLACD for Board Members. Debbie Miller and Ken Hill need to obtain five free hold signatures and submit their paperwork by November 30, 2009.

The county may reimburse interest on money borrowed between timely disbursements of tax dollars. The reimbursement will be paid out of interest earned on the sale of Porter Hospital.

Stu and Megan Summers BZA win is now being appealed. Dave apologized for the over-site that the Summers and the defendant were both represented by Blachy, Tabor, Bozik and Hartman.

The matter of Mark Wilkins employment at LAC Utilities was brought to the table. His suspension was automatic upon his DUI arrest on October 2, 2009 since his driver's license was suspended. On October 2nd Mark was suspended without pay. He has applied for unemployment. This is his fourth DUI. In the future, VLACD should investigate new applicants with a background check. Indiana BMV will not give any information about Mark. It was suggested that VLACD leave the option to re-apply for employment if his driver's license becomes current. Since Mark was picked-up five hours before work, he would have arrived to work legally drink. Therefore, a motion to terminate Mark Wilkins immediately was passed.

Dave closed by reporting that Alexis Rubin's employment contract was signed and approved.

Finally, Megan brought up the matter of Phyllis Joseph and her water bill. Dick promised that he would call her and try to straighten-out the situation

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexis Rubin
Financial Secretary