

# LAKE WAPOGASSET & BEAR TRAP LAKE SANITARY DISTRICT

## MEETING MINUTES—June 5, 2017

The June meeting of the LWBT Sanitary District was called to order by President Dave Erspamer at 7:00 in the District Office.

Commissioners present: Dave Erspamer, Commissioner-President; Mark Tryggestad, Commissioner-Treasurer; Paul Elbing, Commissioner-Secretary; Dennis Badman, Commissioner.

Employees present: Chad Ruff, Neil Pickard and Heidi Erspamer

Guests present: Adam Honl, Ryan Hanson, Dennis Gille

Minutes of the May meeting were approved as distributed.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Income for the month of May was \$1,931. Expenses were \$22,700. Net Income Year-to-Date is \$114,675.

### **OPERATIONS REPORT: Maintenance**

We purchased a new pump for Lift Station #1. We went with the one Les Mateffy recommended. It will have a longer run time and will likely use less power. The cost is around \$10,000. We also should have new parts for the blower within the next week.

### **OPERATIONS REPORT: Office**

Heidi asked for input from the commissioners on an amendment to our Ordinance regarding charging a fee for obtaining a variance from the Sanitary District. The Board advised that she should use wording to reflect that the non-refundable fee is to be paid upon application for a variance and not at the time the variance is granted.

We now have \$12,208 available for our fireworks display! Final numbers are due to PC Pyrotechnics on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

Harvesting. Neil reported that we are roughly half way through the harvesting season. So far, we have run 65 loads and removed 260 lbs. of curly leaf pond weed from our lakes. The YMCA landing has worked out quite well this year. We are moving back into Bear Trap tomorrow (have already taken 9-10 loads from Bear Trap). After Bear Trap, we will return to Sunrise Beach.

The heavy rain has been a factor for us, as we have been unable to unload weeds in the wet farm fields. On these days we have not been able to operate the harvester.

Dave reinforced that objective behind CLP harvesting is to remove as much phosphorus as possible from our lakes. We harvest based on locations allowed by the DNR in our permit and running the harvester on any given day is weather dependent.

As for staffing, we started with the idea that we would run two shifts, understanding that the afternoon shift might be cancelled due to the wind (which wouldn't be fair to employees assigned to this shift). We have been moving toward having employees work one extra-long shift; and we may structure the job this way (and staff accordingly) for the 2018 harvesting season. The idea being that employees would pick one or two long days each week to work. Also related to staffing, Neil noted that someone is needed to take on the job of coordinating the harvesting. The commissioners agreed that this is a valid point for the future. Perhaps someone currently on the harvesting staff would be willing to take on this role.

Having the Waterside landing available to us and adding the YMCA off-loading site, along with the improvements we made to the machine itself, has improved our efficiency this year. Something we may want to consider for the future would be having the harvester off-load to a barge instead of having the machine move to the landings.

We are still on a learning curve and both Mark and Neil commented that next year--and beyond--we will continue to get better at this.

Conservancy Update. The Conservancy met on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Tim Ritten from Polk County Land and Water attended the meeting and reported that he is exploring the possibility of a land trade by the District which would give us a buffer zone along South Shore Drive. Tim is going to arrange for a survey of our test well locations to see if this trade would be feasible for us. It is important that our wells maintain some distance from farmed acreage. Mark volunteered to call the DNR and Pheasants Forever to look into options/grants available for planting a buffer zone.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Audit Report. Adam Honl from Carson Highland presented our 2015-2016 Audit report to the Board. He said that overall our revenues and expenses remain petty consistent from year to year. A motion to accept the audit report was made by Mark, seconded by Denny and passed.

Gregg Property Sewer Hook-up. Dennis Gille came before the board to request that a "Y" connection be used to allow the Gregg's to connect to the sewer by sharing their neighbor's (Ryan Hanson) service connection. Commissioner Erspamer summarized that this situation involves two recently purchased adjacent lots with only one of the lots having a sewer connection stub. Prior to this meeting, the District solicited the opinion of our engineer and his response was that we should not allow two houses to use one service unit because if there is a clog, one house can actually flood the other with sewage. Mark expressed concern that if we allow two houses to be on one line against the recommendation of our engineer, that might give us some liability if the system became plugged and there was an overflow. He also noted concern about the District's insurability in the event of another back-up. Although our ordinance allows for second building (i.e., garage) on a homeowner's property to be connected to the sewer through one service unit, the District's policy has been one house per service connection. Dave moved to reject the request by Dennis Gille for the Gregg's to have two homeowners connect to one stub. Seconded by Mark and passed, with Paul Elbing abstaining.

The next Sanitary District meeting was scheduled for August 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the District Office. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55.

Respectfully Submitted, Heidi Erspamer, Recording Secretary

