



Bass Lake Conservancy District Meeting April 8, 2024

AGENDA:

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Minutes
- Financial Report (budget & audit discussion)
- Bills
- Baker Tilly Letter
- Stellar Pathways
- E-coli Testing
- Fish Hatchery
- 5695 S CR 210
- Plant Manager’s Report
- Comments from Attorney
- Comments from Office Coordinator
- Comments from the Board
- Questions or Comments from the Audience

Chairman Gene Novello called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Gene Novello	Director Melissa Long
Vice Chairman Larry Collura	Plant Manager Tom Jordan
Director Jerry Broadstreet	Attorney Christian Bartholomew-via phone

ABSENT: Director Russ Blais	District Office Coordinator Tabitha Dillner
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Minutes – The reading of the minutes from the meeting was waived and Director Broadstreet made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2024 meeting, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried.

Financials – Chairman Gene Novello presented the March financial report. The fund balances exceed the minimum reserve requirements by \$2,536,021 and the total receipts have exceeded the total expenditures to date by \$54,459. Unmetered collections are over budget by \$12,885. Total operating expenditures are under budget by \$79,774. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the financial report from March 2024, Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid:

NIPSCO	\$ 294.40	Monthly plant
NIPSCO	\$ 873.71	Monthly lift stations
NIPSCO	\$ 1,835.93	Monthly lake pump
Brightspeed	\$ 196.51	Monthly phone
HWC	\$ 258.00	Monthly computer fee
PrimePay-Payroll*	\$ 6,156.57	Bi-weekly payroll – 3/2/2024 – 3/15/2024

PrimePay-Payroll	\$ 5,957.54	Bi-weekly payroll – 3/16/2024 – 3/29/2024
Baker Tilly	\$ 1,950.00	Monthly accounting fee-November 2023
Baker Tilly	\$ 4,170.00	Monthly accounting fee-Feb & March 2024
BBC	\$ 2,012.50	Monthly attorney fee
BLPOA	\$ 315.00	Annual garbage fee
Anna Zoltek	\$ 513.92	Overpaid-wanted refund
*\$100 Director Long (included in payroll 3/2/2024)		

Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the bills as presented noting each payee, the dollar amounts, and purpose were read into the April 8, 2024 minutes, Director Long seconded. Motion carried.

Baker Tilly Letter—Chairman Novello presented a letter that was received from Baker Tilly that needed to be signed to acknowledge the changes to the contract from the merge between Baker Tilly and the law firm, H&F Waterloo Holdings. Chairman Novello and Attorney Bartholomew had reviewed it and saw no reason not to sign it.

Stellar Pathways—Starke County Parks & Recreation Board member, Tom Busch, requested from the Board a letter of intent to show support for the Stellar Pathways for community improvement programs. After some discussion between the Board and Attorney Bartholomew it was decided to would be under Board advisement since they are not aware of what the programs are and if they would conflict with the BLCD’s mission.

Prorated Hookup Fees—Tabled until next meeting.

E-coli Testing—Plant Manager Jordan will do the e-coli testing once a month from May through September.

Fish Hatchery—Plant Manager Jordan met with a representative from Purdue. They would like to be charged a base rate of \$34.10 a month. They would discharge into our manhole using a Trash Pump that has a flow meter and if/when they discharge, they will pay so much per gallon. Before any discharging happened, they would contact Plant Manager Jordan for testing of the discharge. After some discussion it was agreed to table it so Plant Manager Jordan and Attorney Bartholomew have time to research this.

5695 S CR 210—Property owner, Patrick Botica, requested from the Board that his residence be labeled as a single-family home instead of a duplex and the monthly rate to reflect this since he is not renting it out. He would also like a refund from since he has been living there in 2020. After some discussion it was decided to lower his rate but not give a refund. Director Broadstreet made a motion to drop the rate to \$34.10 for a single-family home, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried.

Plant Manager’s Report—Plant Manager Jordan reported that there was 2.94 inches of precipitation for March, the lake pump pumped 36.0 million gallons into the lake and the lake is one inch from going over the top of the dam. The lake pump has been turned off. Plant Manager Jordan requested approval from the Board for the Boa Shore porta pot for May through September. Director Broadstreet made a motion to approve the Boa Shores porta pot for the time requested, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried. Plant Manager Jordan stated that the plant discharged 18.5 million gallons.

District Office Coordinator’s Comments—Office Coordinator Dillner was absent.

Attorney’s Comments— Attorney Bartholomew stated that he will get the election legals published in the next couple of weeks for District 2.

Comments from the Board—Director Broadstreet stated that he collects the lake temperature weekly and currently it is 45 degrees. This is to monitor for when the lake can be treated for the weeds, which needs to be at 55 degrees. Vice Chairman Collura asked Director Broadstreet about the cat tails at the dam. Director Broadstreet stated that DNR will treat the weeds but that cat tails are not invasive, so they won't clean that up as often. But this year it has been requested to be taken care of and he will keep the Board informed of future action. Vice Chairman Collura stated that he has been working with Office Coordinator Dillner and BLPOA Board on getting the information out on keeping the sewer safe with a do not flush flyer. Vice Chairman Collura also stated that he has been trying to coordinate a date with HWC to work on cameras to be located at the lake pump and at J liftstation.

Comments from the Audience—Homeowner questioned when the rate change letter will go out. Attorney Bartholomew stated that he sent the letter to Office Coordinator Dillner, and they would be going out soon along with the rate ordinance and rate structure. The letter is a general explanation of what changes have taken place. The rate change for some will take some research by Plant Manager Jordan and Office Coordinator Dillner.

Director Broadstreet made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting will be May 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the BLPOA building for the regularly scheduled meeting.