



# Bass Lake Conservancy District Meeting May 13, 2024

**AGENDA:**

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Roll Call
- Minutes
- Financial Report (budget & audit discussion)
- Bills
- 3854 S. Boa Dr
- Pole Barn Inspection Letter
- Prorated Hookup Fees
- 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  
 Vice Chairman Larry Collura  
 Director Jerry Broadstreet  
 Director Russ Blais  
 Bob Aoli– Territorial Engineer Rep

Director Melissa Long  
 Plant Manager Tom Jordan  
 District Office Coordinator Tabitha Dillner  
 Attorney Christian Bartholomew

ABSENT:

**Minutes** – The reading of the minutes from the meeting was waived and Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2024 meeting, Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried.

**Financials** – Chairman Gene Novello presented the April financial report. The fund balances exceed the minimum reserve requirements by \$2,571,974 and the total receipts have exceeded the total expenditures to date by \$64,418. Unmetered collections are over budget by \$10,591. Total operating expenditures are under budget by \$104,628. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the financial report from April 2024, Director Long seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid:

NIPSCO	\$ 276.58	Monthly plant
NIPSCO	\$ 967.89	Monthly lift stations
NIPSCO	\$ 1,388.21	Monthly lake pump
Brightspeed	\$ 196.17	Monthly phone-april
Brightspeed	\$ 195.81	Monthly phone-may
HWC	\$ 258.00	Monthly computer fee
Indiana 811	\$ 32.30	Monthly locates-march
Indiana 811	\$ 49.40	Monthly locates-april

Everwise	\$ 3,564.60	Monthly credit card-march
Everwise	\$ 1,977.96	Monthly credit card-april
Everwise	\$ 126.70	Monthly bank fees-march
Everwise	\$ 126.85	Monthly bank fees-april
PrimePay*	\$ 5,701.27	Bi-weekly payroll – 3/30/2024 – 4/12/2024
PrimePay	\$ 5,638.84	Bi-weekly payroll – 4/13/2024 – 4/26/2024
PrimePay	\$ 252.35	Monthly service charges-march
PrimePay	\$ 252.35	Monthly service charges-april
Baker Tilly	\$ 2,085.00	Monthly accounting fee
BBC	\$ 1,212.50	Monthly attorney fee
Northern Indiana Wildlife	\$ 300.00	Monthly trapper fee
Flowtech	\$ 502.54	K liftstation alarm antenna
Sensaphone	\$ 5,089.80	Annual liftstation alarm
Accident Fund	\$ 2,182.00	Annual insurance
Brett Byer	\$ 4,000.00	Regrade & level lagoon drives
Tabitha Dillner	\$ 40.20	April mileage
Smith Farm Store	\$ 70.59	Plant supplies
Travelers Insurance	\$ 18,891.00	Annual insurance

\*\$100 Director Long (included in payroll 3/30/2024)

Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the bills as presented noting each payee, the dollar amounts, and purpose were read into the May 13, 2024 minutes, Director Blais seconded. Motion carried.

**3854 S. Boa Dr.**—Plant Manager Jordan mentioned that homeowner has paid for the hookup fee for the pole barn.

**Pole Barn Inspection Letter**—Attorney Bartholomew presented the Board with a letter to go out to homeowners when a building on their property needs to be inspected for any facilities tied to our sewer system. The Board asked for time to review the letter.

**Prorated Hookup Fees**— Attorney Bartholomew stated that the best thing to do is to address each case by case to ones who have hooked up to the system that was discovered after the fact.

**Plant Manager’s Report**—Plant Manager Jordan reported that there was 7.71 inches of precipitation for April, the lake pump pumped 8.0 million gallons into the lake. The lake pump has been turned April 8<sup>th</sup> off since the lake is going over the dam. Plant Manager Jordan requested approval from the Board to purchase a new pump for liftstation ‘I’ to be installed before Memorial Day weekend for the cost of \$6,500 for the pump only. The older one will be repaired and kept as a backup. Director Blais made a motion to approve the purchase, Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried.

**District Office Coordinator’s Comments**—Office Coordinator Dillner stated that 20 liens had been filed in April for the total of \$3,216.28. Office Coordinator Dillner told the Board that 300 rate change letters have gone out so far and the rest will go out in the next few weeks. Office Coordinator Dillner mentioned that the audit from the State Board of Accounts should be done at the end of May or beginning of June, and it would be passed along as soon as it comes.

**Attorney’s Comments**— Attorney Bartholomew stated that he published the election notice, and the next annual meeting and elections would be held on June 29<sup>th</sup> at 9am CST and he will have that published as well.

**Comments from the Board**—Director Broadstreet stated that Aquatic Control surveyed the lake last week and mapped 18.93 acres of invasive vegetation. The total cost to treat will be \$7,288.05 but the

grant of \$5,000 leaves the cost to BLCD of \$2,288.05. Aquatic Control will let us know when they plan on treating. The request to DNR to treat the cattails by the boat launch was denied because they are native vegetation.

**Comments from the Audience**—Homeowner, William Oliver, asked the Board if they would be interested in maintaining the second pump if he deeded some of his land for it to be placed on. After some discussion it was agreed that the Conservancy would only consider if the pump was on property that is owned by Starke County. A few homeowners came to voice their opinion about the new rate changes that affect the short-term rentals.

Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting will be June 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the BLPOA building for the regularly scheduled meeting.