## BASS LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT MEETING AUGUST 17, 2015

PRESENT: President Gene Novello Director Jerry Broadstreet Director Dennis Kraftor Office Assistant Mariann Gappa Engineer Lee Nagai Vice President Larry Collura Director Russ Blais Attorney Ethan Lowe Plant Manager Tom Jordan

ABSENT: CPA Firm, Umbaugh & Associates Jeff Rowe (not required to attend)

President Novello called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M., followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Engineer Lee Nagai stated the property at Lift Station J had been staked out and he would talk to Plant Manager Tom Jordan and the equipment rep to decide the best location for the generator pad. Plant Manager Jordan had pictures of the Lift Station for the Directors to view and he suggested putting the pad to face North and South.

The reading of the minutes was waived and Director Broadstreet made a motion to approve the minutes, Vice President Collura seconded and the motion carried.

Vice President Collura introduced Brad Baldwin and David Nance from the IDNR who gave a presentation on the water outlet structure (commonly known as the Dam or Weir) at Bass Lake. Mr. Baldwin stated that they represent the construction and regulatory division so they have to apply for permits and conform to all regulations. They also inspect the structures and have ownership of those on DNR property such as Bass Lake. Mr. Baldwin showed several pictures of the structure and stated the problems that are now facing the structure. The main problem is a deflection of the structure from the original. The steel used is heavy gauge and that's good but the deflection is not good. At 31½ feet, the deflection is 4 inches per foot so it is really leaning. Once the water goes over the weir, it goes through a box culvert and that could present a problem because of a utility conduit going across the culvert. Debris could get caught on the conduit and that could be a big problem.

The easiest thing to do is to repair the structure as it is and not make any changes. To rebuild, the steel structure would be used, but cut lower and then a concrete cast would be put over it to bring the elevation up to the original level. The original level is the Court established normal level at sea level elevation 713.65 as indicated on the monument near the overflow structure. The structure would be more stable than the current one. There were several questions from homeowners about the structure and how changes could affect Bass Lake. If all goes as planned, they hope to have a contractor bidding on the project or a contractor working on the project next year at this time. The funding comes from a preventive maintenance fund of the DNR. There were several e-mail questions that were also answered.

President Novello gave the financial report. The account balances are over the minimum required. The next bond payment is due on 1/1/2016. The receipts are greater than budget

because of many homeowners paying their fees ahead of schedule. The operating receipts are \$40,000 ahead of budget. Vice President Collura made a motion to approve the financial report and Director Blais seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid:	
NIPSCO	\$514.44(Bldg. Pump)
NIPSCO	\$826.64(Lift Stations)
NIPSCO	\$12.56(Pump)
Century Link	\$46.69
Century Link	\$187.68
GIS	\$300.00(Bond)
Element	\$135.00(Testing-July)
Prime Pay	\$160.03(July Services)
Prime Pay	\$3259.55(07/24/2015
Prime Pay	\$3330.79(08/07/2015)
HML, Inc.	\$150.00(7/9,7/20,7/23,7/30,8/6
TCU	\$436.68(Credit Card)
TCU	\$52.40(ACH Fees-July)
Umbaugh	\$1,665.00(July, 2015)
Greenmark	\$270.75(Mower)
Greenmark	\$69.26(CREDIT)
Greenmark	\$103.25(Battery)
Greenmark	\$37.23(Tire)
NAPA	\$31.64(UPS)
Smith's Farm Store	\$248.42(Misc. Supplies)
BL Anderson	\$386.10(Plant Flow Meter)
Indiana 811	\$57.60(Quarterly Ticket)
Aquatic Control	\$42,969.10(Weed Control)
Aquatic Control	\$3308.02(Lagoons)
Boyce/Keystone	\$2,275.00(Yearly Charge)
Busse Electric	\$4101.63(Irrigation Repair)
Quill	\$171.99(LaserJet)
Blachly, Tabor, Bozik	\$1618.23(Legal)
Shoemaker Welding Co.	\$5360.00(Snow Plow)

Director Kraftor asked about the Century Link bill and Plant Manager Jordan explained the 2 bills. Director Kraftor then made a motion to approve the bills as presented and Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried.

**User Fees** – Plant Manager Jordan showed pictures of the 2 homes that are paying trailer fees even though they are modular. Attorney Lowe stated he would like to discuss with Plant Manager Jordan the situation before making a recommendation to the Board.

Website Update – Vice President Collura presented a basic mock-up of the BLCD website. The color scheme is changed from green to light blue and a few other changes were made. The website will be dynamic and easy to edit. Vice President Collura stated he could use some help on getting some pictures of Bass Lake to post on the new website. If everything goes as planned he hopes to have the website working by October 1<sup>st</sup>. The ordinances can be scanned and the Page | 2 MINUTES APPROVED SEPTEMBER 21, 2015

email address will change. Attorney Lowe suggested that he and Vice President Collura confer when it gets closer to the new website starting.

**Employee Review** – Vice President Collura recommended Office Assistant Gappa be given a raise in salary as she has been an employee for one year and has not received a raise. He commented that she is very well organized, there is a visitor's log and phone log in place so the Directors know what is happening at the office, and her work load has increased. Vice President Collura made a motion to increase her salary to \$15.00 per hour starting Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> and Director Blais seconded. Motion carried.

**Tom Jordan's Report** – Plant Manager Jordan stated the IDEM permit is finalized and good for 5 more years. The tractor scythe broke again and was replaced at no cost. The old truck is now ready to sell. Kelly Blue Book put the value of it at \$9,350. Attorney Lowe stated that a legal notice has to be published twice and at least a week before the sealed bids are due. A Director can bid on the truck, but would have to recuse himself from making a decision and the highest bidder would get the truck. He also stated that a check for a certain percentage (to be determined) would have to accompany the bid and the winning bidder would have to submit the full amount within 3 days after the bid was accepted. Vice President Collura made a motion to put the truck out for bids with a price of \$9,350.00. Director Blais seconded. Motion carried with 3 ayes. Plant Manager Jordan called ADT about the yearly increase in the security bill and was told that ADT would drop the increase in this year's bill and remove taxes charged. The lake pump is still not running and water is trickling over the dam. The pump would have to run for 10 days to check the water pressure and it was decided not to do this now. If the Board decides to place the generator at Lift Station J, then a 6x9 pad would be needed and this would cost approximately \$800.00. Plant Manager Jordan referred to the picture he had copied for the Directors to point out where the pad would be located. It was decided that he would continue to work on the project and consult with Attorney Lowe when needed. Rainfall was 6.02 inches in July with a year-to-date rainfall of 27.13 inches. The property at 5055 SR 10 is now hooked up.

Attorney's Comments – Attorney Lowe stated that he had filed an annual report with the Starke County Circuit Court in July that was comprised of the monthly meeting minutes and the financial reports as required by law.

**Office Assistant's Comments** – Office Assistant Gappa stated there were 2 new homeowners since the last meeting and she has talked with realtors and homeowners about 3 more closings in September. A new tap-on was discovered by Tom. It is now livable and being billed. She also corresponded with another person who is seriously considering buying a property that has been tapped off so she provided the necessary information and costs involved in tapping into this property. The Aquatic Control has been paid for all the weed control done in the spring. There is a request for a tap-off from a homeowner where the house is no longer standing and a pole barn will be constructed with no water or toilets. This request was granted by the Directors. There is a Chamber of Commerce meeting at Ancilla College in Sept. and the Directors were told to let her know if they are interested in attending and she will handle the registration. She also asked about the "canned letter" that was brought up in the last meeting. She will submit the letter to the Directors for their review at the next meeting.

**Board Members Comments** – Director Broadstreet commented that the total grant for the weed control at Bass Lake was \$18,800.00 with \$4,800.00 being received earlier this year for weed inspection.

Vice President Collura asked Plant Manager Jordan to take the next e-coli sampling at 5055 S. SR 10 because a trailer is on the property and has not appeared to have moved in months.

**Audience Comments** – A homeowner asked if the Board had a 5 year budget plan. President Novello answered that the Board has a 5 year strategic plan. The homeowner also commented on selling the old truck on the internet or e-bay. Another homeowner asked if the 5 year plan includes budgeting after the bond is paid off. President Novello replied that the 5 year plan includes a study of what the user fees will be at that point but the process has not been started yet. The BLCD accounting firm has a copy of the 5 year plan and they deal with many conservancy districts throughout the state so they are familiar with the process. Mr. Grajewski (6027 S. SR 10) asked Plant Manager Jordan if a tap-on fee has been paid for the property located next to his property and Plant Manager Jordan replied that a fee has not been paid yet. Another homeowner asked about 2 trailers that are located near her home. Plant Manager Jordan replied that they are not hooked up to the BLCD system and he has turned them into the County Inspector.

Director Blais made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Collura seconded, motion carried. The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, September 21, 2015.