

**BASS LAKE CONSERVANCY  
DISTRICT MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**

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

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

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

Aquatic Control representative Nate Long gave a presentation on the Lake & River Enhancement (LARE) program and how it affects Bass Lake. LARE only funds invasive plants. He explained that milfoil is the main target at Bass Lake. He gave a history of the treatment of milfoil for the last several years and the sonar treatment. DNR has to approve the treatment of milfoil and they allow most of the lake to be treated except for a small portion where an endangered and rare plant is located. DNR does not allow treatment of native vegetation either. This year 152.9 acres of milfoil was treated compared to only 5 acres last year. Because the cost was more than the LARE grant, the Conservancy District covered the remaining cost. The treatment used was a 2-4-D based product that only kills milfoil. He also explained the grant and bidding process for 2016 and what BLCD needs to do for this. Vice President Collura asked about the sonar treatment and he was told the cost is 3-4 times more than the 2-4-D treatment and isn't needed unless more than 200 acres of milfoil is discovered on the lake. Director Broadstreet stated that a survey is done every year and the cost is \$6000.00 which is mostly covered by a grant and BLCD only pays \$1200.00. Mr. Long also mentioned that Aquatic Control can do mapping of the lake if BLCD is interested in this.

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

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 operating receipts are \$21,000 ahead of budget. The operating expenditures are over budget by \$15,000. The lien payments are under budget by \$22,000 but that will change when the county sends a check in December. Director Blais made a motion to approve the financial report and Vice President Collura seconded. Motion carried.

Director Kraftor made a motion to try out the Umbaugh presentation of Bill.com to deal with the monthly payables as presented at the special meeting. Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid:  
              NIPSCO   \$261.49(Bldg. Pump)

NIPSCO	\$616.19(Lift Stations)
NIPSCO	\$12.22(Pump)
NIPSCO	\$181.80(Pump)
Century Link	\$46.64
Century Link	\$189.76
Element	\$57.00(Testing)
Prime Pay	\$106.25(August)
Prime Pay	\$106.25(September)
Prime Pay	\$3248.32(08/21/2015)
Prime Pay	\$3188.74(09/04/2015)
Prime Pay	\$3267.32(09/18/15)
D.S.& S.	\$600.00(Rodded Drain Lines)
Umbaugh	\$1665.00(August, 2015)
TCU	\$436.68(Credit Card—approved but not paid last month)
TCU	\$1539.74(Credit Card)
HML	\$150.11(8/3,8/28,9/3,9/10,9/17)
BLPOA	\$28.48(Thermostat Cover Repair)
NAPA	\$23.60(UPS)
Smith's Farm Store	\$510.21(Misc. Supplies)
Quill	\$251.66(Misc. Supplies)
Webb Printing	\$170.00(Envelopes)
Antibus	\$188.00(Inspection of Scales)
Larry Collura	\$300.00
Gene Novello	\$500.00

Vice President Collura made a motion to approve the bills as presented, Director KRAFTOR seconded. Motion carried.

President Novello asked the Board members to consider the map of the lake and the depth chart that Aquatic Control can provide to BLCD. The cost would be \$3700 and he thought it had been several years since such a map was done and the lake depth has changed over the years. The Board will discuss it at the Oct. Meeting.

**User Fees** – Attorney Lowe stated that he and Plant Manager Jordan have been reviewing 2 homes that are being billed at the trailer rate when they appear to be modular homes and should be billed at the single family home rate. Plant Manager Jordan checked with the county to determine what they consider a mobile home and he found out that if the home is still sitting on what it was brought in on, then it is considered a mobile home. Attorney Lowe stated a letter needs to be sent to the homeowners telling them when an adjustment would take place. President Novello suggested the adjustment should begin in 2016. Attorney Lowe explained the reasoning for the adjustments that were made earlier this year and that there is a list of more homes to be considered. Attorney Lowe will confer with Plant Manager Jordan and review the homes to be considered and then prepare a letter.

**Website Update** –Vice President Collura stated that the new website should be available to be run on a back-up server in the next day or 2 and then he can go in and check the pages and if all looks good, then he will give them permission to move forward with the new website. The new e-mail address (BLCD-IND.ORG) should be ready to go in November.

**Water Testing**—Vice President Collura stated that the water testing is done for this year as the last testing was Sept. 16<sup>th</sup>. The testing is done to check for e-coli and the highest MPN (Most Probable Number) this summer was 38. The danger zone is 230MPN and the average at Bass Lake this year was 9.78MPN/100ml. so Bass Lake is in good shape as far as e-coli is concerned. The testing results are posted on the website.

**Tom Jordan's Report** –Plant Manager Jordan met with the county and found out that BLCD needs a permit to place the generator at Lift Station J. A 6x9 thick pad is needed and the county mentioned that a drip pan would be a good idea. Director Broadstreet stated that the money would be well spent to provide a drip pan especially since it would be so close to the lake. Plant Manager Jordan will get a price for the drip pan for the Board to review and he wants to have the generator installed before winter if the Board approves. Attorney Lowe will send a letter to the neighbors to inform them of the Board's plans. Plant Manager Jordan stated that the generator will run about 20 minutes a week. The old truck is ready for sale.

The property at 5065 S SR 10 is being billed for 1 house but there are 2 houses being used. The owner disconnected 1 house in 2007 and has since reconnected but failed to inform BLCD so he only pays for 1 house now. Plant Manager Jordan discovered this in August and asked about charging a penalty as outlined in the ordinance manual. After much discussion about charging a penalty or a tap-on fee or both, it was decided that Attorney Lowe would send a letter outlining the BLCD requirements and invite the owner to attend the next meeting and discuss the situation.

Director Kraftor asked about the flow of the pump and Plant Manager Jordan replied that the plan is to wait until next spring. The Directors discussed the pros and cons of running the pump now and it was decided to wait until spring.

**Attorney's Comments** – Attorney Lowe stated that the notices for the sale of the old truck were being published and bids are due by 4:30p.m. on October 19, 2015. Office Assistant Gappa will stay at the office until 4:30 to collect any bids. The best bid will probably be awarded in Nov.

**Office Assistant's Comments** – Office Assistant Gappa stated there were 7 new homeowners since the last meeting and she has sent out 55 pre-lien letters. She mentioned that the “canned letter” that was discussed at the last meeting is included in the Directors packets for their review. A homeowner that had a lien on his property has paid his taxes for Nov. and the lien and now requests a release of the lien so he can sell the property. Normally, releases are not given until the county pays BLCD from the tax payments. Attorney Lowe stated the release could be authorized as long as the county acknowledges the payments were made. The homeowner lost the house in April when it burned and has not made a payment since so he owes \$280.00. It was decided the homeowner needs to pay the \$280.00 or inform the potential buyer of the consequences before he can build on the lot. Director Kraftor will look into the situation since it is in his district.

**Audience Comments**—Mr. Grajewski stated that the property at 6047 S SR 10 is still being advertised as having a sewer connection even though the owner said she would put in her own sewer line. He questioned whether he should have his attorney get involved if she sells the property without putting in a sewer line. Plant Manager Jordan stated that the agreement with the realtor is that a new sewer would be put in before the property changes hands. Attorney Lowe advised Mr. Grajewski to have his own attorney look into the matter.

Director Blais made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Director Kraftor seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 19, 2015.