## BASS LAKE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT MEETING AUGUST 15, 2016

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

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

Chairman Gene Novello called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes** – The reading of the minutes was waived and Director Blais made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 18, 2016 meeting, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried.

**Financials** – Chairman Novello presented the financial report. The fund balances exceed the minimum reserve requirements by \$1,095,019 and the receipts have exceeded expenditures by \$61,466. Operating expenditures are under budget by \$52,446. The next principal and interest on the bond is due Jan 1, 2017. Director Kraftor made a motion to approve the financial statement, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried

Bills to be paid:	
NIPSCO	\$551.03 (Lift Stations)
NIPSCO	\$153.37 (Plant Pump)
NIPSCO	\$1,506.98 (Pump)
Century Link	\$53.80
Century Link	\$
Prime Pay	\$115.59 (July)
Prime Pay	\$3351.78 (7/22/2016)
Prime Pay	\$3434.75 (8/5/2016)
Umbaugh	\$1695.00 (July)
TCU	\$55.55 (July)
TCU	\$593.73 (Plant Manager Credit Card)
Aquatic Control	\$4800.00 (Phragmites Treatment)
NĀPA	\$12.69 (UPS)
HML	\$150.00 (Testing)
Gasvoda & Associates\$2,218	.00 (Annual J Lift Station Maintenance)
GIS	\$300.00 (Bond Renewal)
GIS	\$9,404.00 (Insurance)
Boyce-Keystone	\$2,380.00 (Software 9/2016-9/2017)
Element	\$127.00 (Testing)
Indiana 811	\$99.75 (Quarterly Ticket Fee)
Goetz Irrigation Systems	\$685.31 (Replaced Gearbox, Testing)
Antibus Scales	\$188.00 (Inspection)

Apheus Brite Electric \$90.00 (Printer)
\$2719.12 (J Lift Station—Electric)

Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the bills and Director Blais seconded. Motion carried.

**Outlet Structure** -- Vice Chairman Collura reported that the repair of the outlet structure is going ahead as planned. The work will start shortly and take approximately 2 weeks depending on the weather. The information is posted on the BLCD website. An audience member asked about taking boats out of the water and he was told that homeowners could continue to do that while the work is being performed.

**6047 S SR 10** – Attorney Lowe stated that the owner of the property had previously said she would install a new sewer line but after looking into the matter again, she has declined to do so. Mrs. Grajewski asked how the sewer line into their crawl space from the 6047 property could be disconnected in case there are problems at the 6047 property. Attorney Lowe suggested Mrs. Grajewski talk to her attorney about disconnecting as that is not a BLCD issue. He stated that at one time both properties were owned by the same person and permission was granted by BLCD to install one sewer line. Now that the properties are owned by 2 parties, it is a private property issue if there are legal problems. Mrs. Grajewski asked what would happen if they disconnected the 6047 sewer line and Attorney Lowe again stated she should talk to her attorney about the legal issues. Attorney Lowe remarked that if she does disconnect the line, he and Plant Manager Jordan should be notified so they can handle the BLCD approval.

**Fish Hatchery** – Engineer Nagai stated that he had sent an e-mail to the Directors explaining the method of charging the Fish Hatchery. He remarked that if the Directors are comfortable with this approach, then Attorney Lowe could draft the appropriate amending language to the rate ordinance. He also sent an e-mail to Purdue outlining the approximate yearly cost and the tap-on fee.

Internal Control Rules -Attorney Lowe explained that the district needs to be in compliance with the state law passed last year and he has prepared an ordinance for the district to be adopted tonight. The Indiana General Assembly has decided that there is a need for additional safeguards to be in place to protect the loss and theft of public funds and property. Through the State Board of Accounts, they have established the Internal Control Standards which requires training for employees by the end of 2016. He also suggested the Board go through the training so they understand the Internal Control Standards. The training is a webinar that has been prepared by the State Board of Accounts. Vice Chairman Collura asked if contractors should also go through the training. Attorney Lowe responded that contracted employees and the Board should do the training. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1-2016 by the Board of Directors of the BLCD to comply with the internal control standards as prescribed by the Indiana Political Subdivision in accordance with the Indiana code 5-11-1-27, Director Blais seconded. Motion carried. Vice Chairman Collura made another motion that the Board unanimously adopt Ordinance 1-2016 by the Board of Directors of the BLCD in accordance with the internal control standards as prescribed by the Indiana Political Subdivision for Indiana code 5-11-1-27, Director Kraftor seconded. Motion unanimously carried. All Directors signed the Ordinance 1-2016.

**Ordinance Amendment** – Chairman Novello and Vice Chairman Collura will serve on a committee to consider rate changes for buildings that have plumbing facilities but are not being charged for them. Many new garages and pole barns are being built with plumbing facilities.

**Phragmites Treatment** — Director Broadstreet reported that the phragmites treatment had been completed. The bill for the treatment is \$4800.00. 6.4 acres were sprayed the first time. This is the first year that the state has issued a permit for BLCD to spray phragmites. He also stated that overall the amount of spraying goes down every year as the weeds are being controlled better.

**Tom Jordan's Report** –Plant Manager Jordan presented a proposal from GAI for a new pump for Lift Station J and for repairs to the current pump. The new pump would cost less than repairs to the present pump and would take less time to install than repairs to the current pump could be completed. Director Kraftor made a motion to purchase and install a new pump for J Lift Station, Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried.

Plant Manager Jordan has received calls about trailers being stationed at a home around the lake. He will check them out next week-end to see if they are in violation.

Plant Manager Jordan also stated that the phone service for the lift stations needs to be upgraded and he is getting quotes from different companies.

Director Broadstreet asked about the pump at Lift Station J since it is only 12 years old. Plant Manager Jordan replied that the pump is the only 3-phase one for BLCD and all the other lift stations go into Lift Station J so it gets the most use. Director Broadstreet asked about the other pumps being in the 5-year plan as some are originals from 1998. Chairman Novello replied that the pumps are in the 5-year plan.

Attorney's Comments – Attorney Lowe stated that a report had been filed with the Starke County Circuit Court after the annual meeting in July. The report consists of all the meeting minutes and financial reports from the previous fiscal year.

**Office Assistant's Comments** – Office Assistant Gappa stated that 3 new accounts had been set up since the last meeting and 1 new tap-on fee paid. A homeowner had sold property but not paid the last bill—she was told to waive the charge. She also stated a property was sold through a Sheriff's sale and asked how to find the new owner. Attorney Lowe advised her to call the Sheriff's department.

Comments from the Board - Vice Chairman Collura stated a homeowner had concerns about the lake area by his property being slimy and slick. Since the homeowner is a neighbor of Director Broadstreet, Vice Chairman Collura asked Director Broadstreet to talk to the homeowner about the problem. He also stated Kathy Carrier had inquired about the LARE grant program and wondered if BLCD was aware of it. He stated BLCD had been participating in the LARE program for many years and Director Broadstreet was the person to contact about more information about LARE. The organization chart has been updated to reflect the title change from President and Vice President to Chairman and Vice Chairman. An info link will be added to the BLCD website to accommodate the bathymetric map. In the future, BLCD will be able to add maps showing where weed spraying will be taking place. Director Blais asked about the ditch clearance at the weir outlet. Vice Chairman Collura replied that DNR will only clear 10 feet west of the dam into the ditch and that maybe BLCD should get a contractor to clear the rest of the area of foliage and tree branches, etc. An audience member asked about a ditch near his home that needs to be cleaned out. Plant Manager Jordan told him to call the county surveyor's office. Director Kraftor asked if BLCD should be cleaning out the ditch or should BLPOA be responsible for it. After discussion it was decided that BLCD should maintain the area by the weir. Director Broadstreet explained that BLCD is only eligible for the grants that deal with milfoil.

**Comments from the Audience** – Audience member Jim O'Hara asked when the bond would be paid off and the amount owed. Chairman Novello replied that the bond would be finished in July of 2017 and \$529,840 is still owed. He also explained that a rate study would be done by Umbaugh (financial firm) and the 5-Year Plan will help determine the needs of BLCD which will be 20 years old then. A rate adjustment will be made depending on the future needs of the district.

Shirley Grajewski asked Attorney Lowe to clarify that if their attorney feels they have the legal right to disconnect the other sewer from their lines, Attorney Lowe does not believe BLCD has to approve the decision. They only have to contact Plant Manager Jordan so he is aware of the disconnection. Vice Chairman Collura inquired about the clean-out which is located in the Grajewski crawl space of their home. Mrs. Grajewski stated that is the only clean-out and the other property owner has no access to it should a problem occur. Dennis Estok said he is the new potential buyer of the property and he had hoped the problem would be solved at the meeting tonight. Attorney Lowe stated this is a private property issue between the owners of the properties and he feels the Board should take a neutral position until the owners solve the problem. It was asked if there is an ordinance that covers the problem and Attorney Lowe was not aware of such an ordinance. It was asked if only 1 tap-on fee was paid. Plant Manager Jordan replied that he would investigate to see what the permit allowed. Mr. Estok asked if the tap-on fee could be waived as the current owner had been paying the sewer bill for many years. Attorney Lowe stated that was an issue that the Board could consider. Mr. Estok also asked if a tap-on could be put into the riser on the other side of the property. Attorney Lowe replied that if a proposal could be brought before the Board at the next meeting, then the Board would consider allowing it.

Scott Pelke stated he had 2 houses on the property at 4072 S Cr 210 and is currently being charged for both houses. He said the kitchen sink in the  $2^{nd}$  house is not even connected to the sewer system. Plant Manager Jordan will check out the situation.

Director Blais made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting is at 6:00p.m. on September 19, 2016 at the BLPOA building.