

**BASS LAKE CONSERVANCY
DISTRICT MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2017**

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

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.

Aquatic Control Report—Nate Long reported that Bass Lake Conservancy District was awarded a LARE grant this year to take care of the invasive plants in Bass Lake. The DNR administers the grant. He also brought along plant reference charts for the audience members and Directors. In 1984 Aquatic Control did a survey and found between 400 and 600 acres of milfoil in Bass Lake. In 1985 the BLPOA had the lake treated. No treatment was done again until the 90's when Aquatic Control started treating every other year. The LARE grants were started in 2005 to help BLCD with the cost of the treatment. In 2016 the DNR approved treatment of the phragmites. Selective herbicides are used to control the weeds. \$21,600 is the LARE grant for this year. 150 acres of milfoil was treated 2 years ago and only 11 acres treated last year. This year the estimate is for 75 acres. Bids have to be received from 3 contractors and Aquatic Control was awarded this year's treatment. Mr. Long explained the procedures, the checking for weeds, and what his company does to help Bass Lake. He also suggested a diagnostic study of Bass Lake as the last one was done in 2002. He estimated it would cost between \$40,000 and \$50,000, but a grant would lower the cost to \$5,000 to \$10,000. There was much discussion from the Directors and audience members about the weeds in the lake, the lack of fish this year, the height of the lake water, and other topics. The ownership of the land in the pocket area was also discussed. Some Directors also expressed approval for a diagnostic study of the lake.

Minutes – The reading of the annual meeting minutes was waived and Director Blais made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2017 annual meeting, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried. The reading of the minutes from the July meeting was waived and Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2017 meeting, Director Krafter seconded. Motion carried.

Financials – Chairman Novello gave the financial report. The fund balances exceed the minimum reserve requirements by \$1,457,355 and the expenditures have exceeded the total receipts to date by \$41,170. Operating expenditures are under budget by \$43,079. Director Blais made a motion to close the Debt Service Account, Director Krafter seconded. Motion carried. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to move the proceeds from the Debt Service Account into

the Money Market Account, Director Kraftor seconded. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the financial report with the changes, Director Blais seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid:

NIPSCO	\$150.50 (Plant-June)
NIPSCO	\$12.78 (Lake Pump-June)
NIPSCO	\$590.99 (Lift Stations-June)
Century Link	\$188.92 (June)
Century Link	\$24.45 (June)
Prime Pay	\$126.29 (July Charge)
Prime Pay	\$3477.29 (7/16/2017)
Prime Pay	\$3490.44 (7/30/2017)
Prime Pay	\$3639.59 (8/13/2017)
TCU	\$59.90 (July)
TCU	\$1176.61 (T's Credit Card)
TCU	\$1671.88 (M's Credit Card)
G&T Services	\$1000.00 (Pond Bank Treatment & Fence)
Umbaugh	\$1735.00 (July)
Apheus	\$12.95 (Computer)
HML	\$182.00 (6 Weeks Testing)
Indiana 811	\$84.55 (Quarterly Fee)
Quill	\$339.94 (Misc. Supplies-Office)
Blachy, Tabor, Bozik	\$930.28 (Attorney Fees)
BBC Pump & Equipment	\$2360.72 (K Lift Station-Storm Damage)
Lindo	\$251.43 (Repair-Truck Crane)
USA Blue Book	\$167.51 (Equipment-Lab)
Antibus	\$191.00 (Scale Calibration)
J&K Excavating	\$400.00 (Lime Stone)
D.S.&S.	\$1125.00 (Cleaned Lift Stations—C,D,F,I,J,)
D.S.&S.	\$125.00 (Cleaned Lift Station-Plant)
Aquatic Control	\$517.00 (Milfoil)
Aquatic Control	\$1520.00 (Phragmites)
ADT	\$781.80 (Plant-Security)
Flow Technics	\$4800.00 (Pump-O Lift Station)
NIPSCO	\$214.14 (Plant-July)
NIPSCO	\$583.91 (Lift Stations-July)
NIPSCO	\$3191.84 (lake Pump-2 Months)
Century Link	\$188.90 (July)
Prime Pay	\$123.86 (August Charge)

Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the bills as presented for the August 21, 2017 meeting and Director Kraftor seconded. Motion carried.

Sewer Rate Update—Vice Chairman Collura remarked that the maintenance fee formerly allowed for homes or lots that were not being used should not be included in the new rate structure. Attorney Lowe said a maintenance fee was not included in the new structure so owners would have to pay the regular fee of \$34.10 if they did not want to disconnect from the system. Office Assistant Gappa stated that businesses are allowed 3 employees and several businesses have part time employees. She asked if they should be the same charge (\$8.28) as full time employees. Chairman Novello said 2 part time employees should equal 1 full time

employee. Office Assistant Gappa also asked about a company that has a lot more employees than they were originally billed for. Their rates would go up quite a bit. Chairman Novello stated that the company has grown quite a bit and they need to pay for all their employees.

Rate Increase for Part-Time Employees—Vice Chairman Collura stated that in June of 2008 the Board approved paying a part time employee \$8.00 an hour to help around the plant. He made a motion to approve a rate increase to \$15.00 an hour to pay Plant Manager Jordan's helper for mowing and work around the plant and to make it retroactive to May 11, 2017. Director Blais seconded. Motion carried.

Tom Jordan's Report – Plant Manager Jordan reported that a recent storm affected K Lift Station. The repairs were turned into the insurance company and paid. The new lid at O Lift Station is on and heavier than expected so damage was done to the cable on the crane. There is a new pump in O Lift Station. The lake pump is surging so the well head needs to be cleaned. He suggested BLCD may be wiser to wait until Spring to have it cleaned. He will check with the contractor about the best time to clean it. He asked the Directors about installing stone around J Lift Station to eliminate the weeds around the fence. The Directors thought this was a good idea. Less than an inch of rain has been recorded this month.

Attorney's Comments – Attorney Lowe stated that the annual report has been filed with the Starke County Circuit Court following the annual meeting in July.

Office Assistant's Comments – Office Assistant Gappa stated that 11 new accounts had been set up since last month and 2 more are pending. The state auditor has been at the plant recently and did an audit for the years 2012 to 2016. The results are not known yet. She mentioned to Attorney Lowe that she has not heard from Purdue yet about the bill sent to them dated July 7, 2017. Attorney Lowe stated he would check with Purdue again.

Comments from the Board – Vice Chairman Collura complimented Office Assistant Gappa on the work done for the rate change. Director Kraftor mentioned that he would like the BLPOA to warn the homeowners about the purple loosestrife in their newsletter before it gets out of hand. Vice Chairman Collura asked who cuts the trees between the weir and the area that the County takes care of. Plant Manager Jordan replied to contact the DNR about the foliage. Director Broadstreet replied that trees in the water cannot be cut down. Plant Manager Jordan will check with the DNR. Vice Chairman Collura also asked about hiring a part time person to back up Office Assistant Gappa as no one else knows her job and she cannot travel or take time off for any length of time. He suggested 8-12 hours per week. Chairman Novello replied that he thought it was a good idea but some job structure needs to be done before anyone is hired.

Comments from the Audience – An audience member asked if BLCD was going to be doing an assessment of the lake. Director Broadstreet replied that he was looking into it and we could possibly get a grant to help out with the cost. He stated that a percentage of the property owners would have to agree to having it done.

Director Kraftor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Director Blais seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting will be September 18, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the BLPOA Building.