

**BASS LAKE CONSERVANCY  
DISTRICT MEETING  
MAY 15, 2017**

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

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 Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 17, 2017 meeting, Director Kraftor seconded. Motion carried.

**Financials** – Mr. Jeff Rowe from Umbaugh presented the financial report. The fund balances exceed the minimum reserve requirements by \$1,355,330 and the receipts have exceeded expenditures by \$121,426. Operating expenditures are under budget by \$38,870. The last bond payment is due July 1<sup>st</sup> and then BLCD will be debt free. BLCD has a balance of \$1,819,728.08 in the bank. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the financial statement dated 4/30/2017, Director Kraftor seconded. Motion carried.

**Bills to be paid:**

NIPSCO	\$476.54 (Plant)
NIPSCO	\$661.26 (Lift Stations)
NIPSCO	\$139.48 (Lake Pump)
Prime Pay	\$120.15
Prime Pay	\$4402.39 (4/23/2017)
Prime Pay	\$3442.66 (5/7/2017)
TCU	\$59.15 (April)
TCU	\$2060.62 (T's Credit Card)
TCU	\$1126.15 (M's Credit Card)
Umbaugh	\$1735.00 (April)
Apheus	\$12.95 (Computer)
NAPA	\$13.36 (UPS)
Kevin's Carpet Cleaning	\$150.00 (Office Floor)
Element	\$109.00 (Testing)
ADT	\$1084.92 (Annual Alarm System)
Indiana 811	\$67.45 (Quarterly Ticket Fee)
Goetz	\$85,000.00 (Pivot Irrigation)
Element	\$179.00 (Testing)
Blachy, Tabor, Bozik	\$756.25 (February Supplies)
Gasvoda	\$545.00 (J Lift Station Repair)
USA BlueBook	\$4301.00 (Spectrophotomer)

Cummins	\$325.70 (Service Call)
Electrical Installations	\$165.00 (Service Call)
Electrical Installations	\$150.00 (Service Call)
Goetz	\$9965.68 (Pivot Irrigation)
Goetz	\$3940.70 (Cement Work)

Director Kraftor made a motion to approve the bills as presented for the May 15, 2017 meeting and Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried.

**Rate Study** – Chairman Novello gave an update on what has been done in the last 24 months to plan for the rate study and what BLCD will need in the future to maintain the current system. He thanked the Directors for their work on the project. Mr. Rowe stated after reviewing all the data connected with BLCD and the financial information and the needs of the District in the future, a reduction in the basic fee of \$58.65 has been proposed. The new rate as proposed is \$34.10. Attorney Lowe stated the legal technicalities involved in changing the rate structure. A legal notice has been published, the first amendment was approved at the April meeting, and the public hearing is being held now. Audience member Denise Evans asked about the length of the new rate structure and Attorney Lowe replied that it would be in effect until BLCD needed to increase or lower rates again. Audience member Jerry Taylor asked about the minimum balance required. \$464,398 is the amount needed for that requirement and BLCD has \$1,819,728. Mr. Rowe stated the reserve requirement will no longer be in force after the bond is paid off in July, 2017. Director Kraftor inquired about the equivalent factor for campsites and Attorney Lowe responded that .2 was approved at the April meeting. Audience member Ken McCormick asked Vice Chairman Collura about his comments at the last meeting concerning voting on a motion he did not understand. Vice Chairman Collura responded he now understood the motion and would vote. The Board discussed when the rate change would go into effect. Office Assistant Gappa replied that Keystone needs 4-6 weeks to set up the new program. She also mentioned that the billing is done on the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month for the current month. It was decided to start the new rates on the August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 billing cycle. Audience member Jerry Taylor asked if the changes would affect the sewer readings of the new ordinance as prescribed by the state and Attorney Lowe stated it would not. Director Kraftor made a motion to amend Ordinance 1-2017 to have the effective date for the rate change to August 10, 2017 and the equivalent factor for the aquatic control center to 8.0 and the campsites to .2 equivalent factor, Director Blais seconded. Motion carried. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to adopt Ordinance 1-2017 amending the rates and charges for the use and services rendered by the sewer works system of the Bass Lake Conservancy District and this is the second and final reading, Director Kraftor seconded. Motion carried.

**Insurance Proposal** – Vice Chairman Collura gave a report on his research into the current BLCD insurance and the BLCD insurance needs. He contacted a risk manager to assess the current policies and advise on what was needed. The risk manager found that BLCD was lacking in important coverages and he recommended additions and changes to the policies. After contacting some agencies, Vice Chairman Collura recommended the TCU insurance coverage of \$11,986. He also mentioned that Chairman Novello has recused himself from BLCD’s insurance decisions. Vice Chairman Collura plans on starting next years insurance coverage needs research in January of 2018. Director Kraftor made a motion to accept TCU as the insurance agent for BLCD, Director Blais seconded. Motion carried with Chairman Novello recusing himself from voting.

**Pivot Irrigation Update** – Director Broadstreet stated the new pivot irrigation is now working. The warranty is for 20 years on most of it with a 10 year warranty on the major parts. An extra 20 acres is now being irrigated because of the pivot irrigation so the land is more valuable to farmers.

**LARE Grant Update** – Director Broadstreet stated that a grant for \$27,500 has been given to BLCD for milfoil spraying. \$4000.00 was deposited recently for weed spraying and that is 80% of the Aquatic Control bill. Aquatic Control will be coming out soon to survey for the weeds that need to be sprayed. The grant is only for spraying milfoil. Vice Chairman Collura stated the dates for spraying would be posted on the BLCD website.

**Purdue Update** – Attorney Lowe stated he had made additional revisions to the Purdue agreement since the April meeting. There are 2 ponds that Purdue will be using and if they add additional ponds, then approval from BLCD will be needed. As per state rules, anyone representing BLCD (contractors or personnel) must comply with the state sex offender registry statutes. He talked with Purdue this morning and everything is agreeable. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion for BLCD to move forward with the contractual agreement with Purdue University for waste water treatment with the changes that were provided by Attorney Lowe, Director Blais seconded. Motion carried.

**7170 S SR 10** -The property owner, Carmen Stefanelli, stated he had owned the property for 30 years. BLCD does not provide a tie-in to the sewer system for his property. There are 5 lots and the only one with a tie-in is at the North end of the lots on Grant St. He is requesting a sewer line to be run along SR 10 so the other lots can be connected. He wants 2 laterals on SR 10. Engineer Nagai stated that it is the responsibility of the developer to install the infrastructure. He has to get permission from BLCD and then does what is necessary to put in the line. Attorney Lowe stated that the property owner is responsible for the cost of extending the sewer line. After much discussion it was decided that BLCD would not be paying for the extension of the sewer line.

**Tom Jordan's Report** – Plant Manager Jordan reported that H Lift was corrected today. Pump 2 on J Lift Station needs to be repaired. O Lift Station needs a new pump. Director Blais made a motion to approve the cost of the new pump at O Lift Station at a cost of \$4800.00, Director Kraftor seconded. Motion carried. IDEM inspector was at plant today and everything is good. The lift alarms will be installed starting May 23, 2017. Rainfall is 4.35 inches for the month and 12.3 for the year.

**Attorney's Comments** – Attorney Lowe stated the annual election for Districts 3 and 4 will be held on July 8<sup>th</sup> and he will publish the legal notices. Nominating petitions must be delivered to the office or postmarked no later than May 31, 2017.

**Office Assistant's Comments** – Office Assistant Gappa stated that 3 new accounts had been set up since the last meeting. She asked that the Century Link bill be put on Plant Manager Jordan's credit card to avoid the late charges that are added most months even though the bills are paid when they arrive.

**Comments from the Board** – Director Blais thanked Vice Chairman Collura for his work on the insurance and Chairman Novello for his work on the rate study. Vice Chairman Collura stated that he had responded to a homeowner with many questions about BLCD and all the Directors have copies of the comments in their folders.

**Comments from the Audience** – Audience member Guy Tardi asked about paving on the lift station covers. Plant Manager Jordan responded that when the county does chip and seal then there is no raising of the covers. There is one lift station that was paved over and there are problems getting it up to grade. The county hopes to pave CR210 in the next 5 years so BLCD will be prepared for that. He also stated that he may purchase riser rings and install them himself to bring the stations up to grade. Audience member Joann Burgner asked about the murkiness of the lake and how it affects the fishing. Chairman Novello responded that fishing is not good when the water is high and the water is very high right now. Audience Marian ( ?) asked about the weeds and if they were being overkilled. Chairman Novello explained that only 8 acres were treated last year. Mary Topelian explained that Cedar Creek (near the boat launch) needed to be cleaned out. She stated that the Surveyor mentioned that the county was out of money for cleaning and a petition needed to be signed by the property owners and farmers so an assessment can be added to the tax bills to provide money for cleaning. She stated the ditch had never been cleaned. It would add about \$5.00 to the tax bills. Director Blais stated that property owners can go out 625 feet to treat weeds in front of their property. Audience member Carol Agnos thanked the Board for all the work they do in keeping the lake as nice as it is.

Director Blais made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Director Krafter seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting is at 6:00 p.m. on June 19, 2017 at the BLPOA building.