



Bass Lake Conservancy District Meeting February 19, 2018

PRESENT: Chairman Gene Novello
Director Jerry Broadstreet
Office Assistant Mariann Gappa
Plant Manager Tom Jordan
Office Assistant Tabitha Dillner

Vice Chairman Larry Collura
Director Russ Blais
Attorney Ethan Lowe
Engineer Lee Nagai

ABSENT:

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 from the meeting was waived and Director Russ Blais made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 15, 2018 meeting with the change of taking Dennis Kraftor off the list of names, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried.

Financials – Chairman Novello presented the financial report. The fund balances exceed the minimum reserve requirements by \$1,575,127 and the total receipts have exceeded the total expenditures to date by \$24,806. Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the financial report from January 2018, Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried.

Bills to be paid:

NIPSCO	\$267.15 (Plant)
NIPSCO	\$516.82 (Lift Stations)
NIPSCO	\$76.77 (Lake Pump)
NIPSCO	\$163.27 (Plant)
Century Link	\$303.24 (Phone Service)
Century Link	\$278.04 (Phone Service)
Prime Pay	\$10,568.87 (1/14/2018)
Prime Pay	\$3,487.72 (1/28/2018)
Prime Pay	\$3,535.66 (2/11/2018)
Prime Pay	\$239.11 (January Charge)
Prime Pay	\$123.86 (February Charge)
TCU	\$63.50 (January Charge)
TCU	\$918.63 (T's Credit Card)
TCU	\$856.75 (M's Credit Card)
Umbaugh	\$1,735.00 (January Charge)
Blachy, Tabor, Bozik	\$1,075.00 (Attorney Fees)
Apheus	\$124.95 (Computer Annual Services)
Apheus	\$12.95 (Computer)
IDEM	\$2,400.00 (Discharge Permits)

Mariann Gappa	\$5.00 (DNR-Permit Fee)
Quill	\$344.93 (Misc. Supplies)
Quill	\$57.69 (Misc. Supplies)
Pilot News	\$29.22 (Legal Notices)
Indiana 811	\$51.30 (Quarterly Fee)
D.S.&S.	\$400.00 (Back Pump Staging)

Vice Chairman Collura made a motion to approve the bills as presented and read into the February 19, 2018 minutes, Director Blais seconded. Motion carried.

Budget – Chairman Novello presented the estimated BLCD 2018 Budget. The numbers will look different than last years since they are bringing in 30-40% less revenue because of the rate reduction. Paying the extra office help will change the numbers too. The district is in good financial situation. The board will go over the budget and discuss at the March 2018 BLCD meeting.

E-Coli Testing – Plant Manager Jordan stated that after some research, he found that Bass Lake Beach and Rannell’s Park did their own e-coli testing, but Boa Shores does not. The question is does BLCD continue with the e-coli testing. Discussion came up to change the testing frequency as there has not been any problems with e-coli. Vice Chairman Collura suggested doing the testing once a month from May until September and then addressing the issue again at the end of the Summer. Chairman Novello mentioned that if we have access to the test results of the Bass Lake Beach and Rannell’s Park, he has no issue doing the test once a month. Plant Manager Jordan is going to talk to the Starke County Health Department and see if he can get a copy of that. Discussion on what happens to the test on the State level if there is a high reading. Director Broadstreet mentioned that he had been involved with Koonz Lake when there was a contamination issue with the lake. He stated that the State told the conservancy district to contact the people and to put up signs on the lake letting people know.

Insurance for 2018 – Vice Chairman Collura stated that he reached out to three insurance companies for coverage in 2018; Anderson Insurance from Valparaiso, Morrow Insurance from Plymouth, and Holland Insurance from South Bend. The current contract ends May 15, 2018. He would like to have a two-year contract instead of doing this every year but that will be for the Board to determine. He is waiting on the quotes and will bring them to the next meeting.

Resolution 18-01—Attendance Requirements – Director Blais stated he would like to change the verbiage about the meeting requirements. To take out “or more” and add “consecutive” to the section about the number of meetings misses. Director Broadstreet asked Attorney Lowe if you change the date of a meeting if that counts as missing a ‘regularly scheduled meeting’. Attorney Lowe mentioned that it did count as missed since it was just moving the date with enough notice. It was not a special or additional meeting. Attorney Lowe will make the changes and email to Office Assistant Gappa to print and the board will come in and sign it. Director Blais made a motion to accept the resolution with the changes, Director Broadstreet seconded. Motion carried.

Part Time Office Employment – Chairman Novello stated that the BLCD office needed back up help for current office assistant Gappa. Tabitha Dillner has been hired to do this. She will come in on an as needed basis and take minutes at the BLCD meetings. The rate of pay will be \$15 an hour.

Jordan’s Report – Plant Manager Jordan reported that C-Lift Station equipment is ordered. Jordan mentioned he had an issue with the property owner whose property bumps up to the BLCD’s forest main on 300 E. They want to put a gate up that would go across the easement due

to hunters coming onto their property. Jordan would like to know if they allow it or not. Jordan explained to the owner that he goes down there once a week to maintain the ditch banks. The owners mentioned that they would produce Jordan with a key to the gate. The easement is not the property of BLCD. Discussion was that they saw it as a good thing to help keep people out if BLCD has a key to get in. Attorney Lowe would need to see a copy of the easement documents to make a call on it. Jordan will produce a copy of the easement to Attorney Lowe at March 2018 meeting. January precipitation was 1 3/10 inch. He gave his annual report of the plant.

Attorney's Comments – Attorney Lowe stated that election season is approaching. District One and the At Large positions will be open. Elections are in July.

Office Assistant's Comments – Office Assistant Gappa stated that three new accounts were set up since the last meeting. A refund needs to be sent to the county auditor. Someone had paid a lean to the BLCD and the auditor. Since the BLCD was paid twice, they need to send a refund of \$769.44 to the county. Chairman Novello made a motion pay the amount, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried.

Comments from the Board – Director Broadstreet stated that BLCD did get the permit for the vegetation control for 2018. A grant was applied for and will know the end of February/beginning of March if it will be granted. Director Broadstreet also mentioned he talked to DNR District Fishers Biologist, Tom Bacula. He stated that he cut a hole in the ice and when down three feet and it was clear all the way down and the clearest he has seen it in many years. Director Blais mentioned his neighbor did the same thing but went four feet down and could see. Chairman Novello mentioned that Umbaugh is still working on the lakes five-year plan.

Comments from the Audience – Dennis Kraftor mentioned that he knew he was not on the board anymore but if he could sit in the seat until it is filled. Attorney Lowe stated that the only way he could do that is if he was reappointed. Discussion will continue later. Rick Anderson mentioned that the extra water test was only \$40 and BLPOA did mind covering the cost of the extra tests. Chairman Novello thought it would be wise to put together a schedule of what test and who was paying for it.

Director Blais made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vice Chairman Collura seconded. Motion carried. The next meeting will be March 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the BLPOA Building.