

LAKE AUTHORITY BOARD – SUGAR SPRINGS
Meeting Minutes
March 31, 2023

Meeting called to order by Terry Walters at 10:30a.m.

Pledge Allegiance led by Terry Walters

Present: Mike Visnaw, David Harris, Terry Walters

Also Present: Stacy Hissong Fahey Schultz Burzych Rhodes, Kyle O'Meara FSBR, Warren Miller Spicer Group.

Absent: Dan Gonzales

Correspondence: none

NEW BUSINESS:

Introductions of the board were made.

Motion to approve the agenda by Mike Visnaw and 2nd by David Harris. All in favor, motion carried. Stacy Hissong presented a power point of understanding the purpose of the Lake Level board and appointing a fifth member and the election of Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Discuss the proposed maintenance project and discuss next steps for the maintenance project.

Stacy explained the Part 307 Inland Lake Level Act. She continues to explain the court orders and lake levels that are set by the court orders. Stacy also explains the special assessment district boundaries and the process it goes through. Stacy goes on to say that the delegated authority is usually the Drain Commissioner, but the Board of Commissioner's decided to have a Lake Level board as the delegated authority. Stacy states that dam (water control structures) inspections happen every 3 years. That has happened and there have been some notes regarding improvements that are necessary.

Warren Miller from Spicer Group continues with his power point. He explains what the project will be and what the repairs will be. He also explains the large cold water exchange pipe and what is proposed. He also explains the 2 structures that control the water that flows from Lake Lancelot to Lake Lancer and what the recommendation is for those repairs.

Stacy states that the county board has jurisdiction, and they delegate some of the administrative duties to this board. There are certain things they need to approve. One being if there are expenditures over \$10,000.00. The county board needs to approve that. If the engineering review recommends that we need to make a revision to the 70 and 79 court order, we will need a county board resolution to do that as well. Stacy gives a better explanation of this. She talks about the district boundary in the court order and who has been assessed in the past. They don't match and will need to be addressed. She continues to explain. Stacy states she is here to help navigate us through the county board and court process and Warren is here to navigate us through the permitting and engineering process.

David Harris asked Warren if we are at the right lake level. Warren stated that Stacy mentioned the datum conversion. The datum conversion and lake level are off and need to match the court order.

Excepting question from the public:

Dan Griffin has a place in Sugar Springs and is also the President of the POA for Willow Bay. 18 parcels that are at the bottom of the lake that are not represented by the Sugar Springs POA.

1. Do we have any danger of a dam failure in the time period to navigate through the lake level and permitting process? Warren answered no not at this time.
2. Can we put a sleeve and recap it? Warren explains that will be expensive and that he is exploring options and waiting to see what EGLE will want.
3. Will there be a drawdown during construction? Warren answered that there will likely be a drawdown and he would try to complete this during the winter to take advantage of the lower lake level or use a coffered dam with a system to maintain the lake level. That cost money to, so we are weighing alternatives.

Susie Ruppert: Are you talking about an assessment for construction for several years and will not be part of the Lake Level assessment put on by the Drain Commissioner? Stacy answered that it is a Lake Level assessment put on by the Drain Commissioner. It will be a line item on the winter tax bill. Stacy explained the assessment and how it works.

Nominations for 5th member. David Harris made a motion to nominate Tom Hug as the 5th member of the board. No one 2nd so the motion died. Mike Visnaw made a motion to nominate Dan Griffin to be the 5th member of the board 2nd by Terry Walters. There was discussion on who should represent the property owners. Roll call vote Terry – yes, Mike Visnaw – yes, David Harris – abstain. Motion carried.

Mike Visnaw made a motion to nominates Terry Walters the Drain Commissioner as Chair on the board 2nd by David Harris. All in favor, motion carried.

Terry Walters made a motion to combine Secretary/Treasurer and nominate Dan Griffin 2nd by Mike Visnaw. Roll call vote Terry – yes, Mike Visnaw – yes, David Harris – yes, Dan Griffin – yes. All in favor motion carried.

Financial ledger received and filed.

Mike Visnaw made a motion to approve the current invoice to be paid 2nd by David Harris. All in favor, motion carried.

David Harris made a motion to approve the 2 resolutions that's before the board, 2nd by Mike Visnaw. Discussion to make resolution 1 Lake Lancer Lake level and resolution 2 Lake Lancelot Lake level. Roll call vote Mike Visnaw – yes, Terry Walters – yes, David Harris – yes, Dan Griffin – yes. Motion carried.

David Harris made a motion to pay current invoice presented to the board 2nd by Mike Visnaw. All in favor, motion carried.

There was discussion on paying invoices as they come in and set a limit. Stacy did let the board know that if we have to go to circuit court that will be over \$10,000.00. So, setting a limit is up to the board. David Harris said he would make a motion to approve paying invoices not exceeding \$2,500.00 without board approval. Dan Griffin stated that just mowing exceeded \$2,500 and felt the limit should be raised to \$4,500.00 to have commissioner to pay the bills and then bring them to the board. The discussions started to focus on board meeting and the motion died. There was discussion on how often the board should meet. Stacy stated it would depend on how often the board wants to meet. Mike Visnaw asked if we needed monthly meetings or would quarterly meetings work. Terry Walters stated that every other month. Stacy thinks it's going to be a milestone for this board. There was more discussion on board meetings.

Stacy stated that they will get to a point where they are ready to go to circuit court. We will know what our district boundary is and the revisions to the lake level. She feels they can do that quickly. So, when they are ready to do that, they will need the board's approval to do a webinar. Does the board want to meet before the webinar or after the webinar or meet before and after the webinar? David Harris asked what the time frame is to get to circuit court? We will need your permission before she files the petition. It will depend on the court schedule, and we will need 45 days from the date the board approves the petition. Stacy said we need to have a webinar in June and file and have the court date in early fall.

Stacy wanted to set the meetings for June. It was decided to meet before the webinar and after the webinar. Get mailing out the first week and have the webinar the 3rd week in June. The dates are as follows:

Monday June 5th 10am meeting before webinar

Thursday June 22nd 6pm Webinar – Zoom

Wednesday June 28th 4pm. Meeting after webinar

Terry explains this was in the works before with the previous drain commissioner and when he left everything went downhill. We are picking up and moving forward.

Public Comment:

Someone asked if the webinar is public. Stacy explains yes and how they will be notified. He also asked how far out before construction. Stacy feels it won't happen in 2023 or at least they will not be assessed for it in 2023. Warren thinks construction will happen in 2024. Tom Hug feels that there are going to be a lot of worried people. Everyone will feel they are going to lose their lake and it will be expensive. Stacy explains the steps that will need to take place. Tom Hug wants to make sure there is enough information for the property owners. Mike Visnaw said that the meetings are public, and we will have ways to get information out to the public.

Susie Ruppert had some questions about the board which Terry Walters answered. She also asked about the lake and the cold-water exchange. Warren explained that these are the required improvements that need to be addressed before there is a bigger issue. Alayna feels there are going to be kick back because of the milage and taxes are going up. More discussion on the board and the lake.

Tom Hug is worried about all the money that is being talked about on the Secord Dam, Smallwood Dam, Edenville Dam and Stanford Dam. People of Sugar Springs will think it will be that much too. Tom asked about grants. Stacy explained that the Four Lakes Task Force received a special grant just for those 4 dams. Lake Lancer and Lake Lancelot would not have qualified for the other grant that was out there. Stacy explained they are looking for grants for dam projects. They are currently none, but they will keep looking.

Wanted to know if we are keeping an eye on the lake level. Terry told them that we do keep an eye on it.

OLD BUSINESS:

COMMENTS:

A Motion to adjourn was made by Mike Visnaw, supported by Dan Griffin.

All in favor: motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40a.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Dan Griffin, Secretary