

Minutes from the April 18th, 2023 Crystal Lake District Board Meeting

Al called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Board members present were Al Deming, Michele Doolan, Pat Brumm, Mike Ramaker, and Chris Garber.

Agenda Items:

Ganser Property Status:

Al has seen a possible settlement from the county to the Lake District – about \$19,000. Not finalized yet, however. He will meet again with the county in May. Their funding will end when and if we pay off the loans, raising the question whether it makes financial sense to keep the loans active.

Assessment Plan:

Al recommended that we maintain the same assessment for one more year and then re-evaluate. If we are given permits/permission to proceed with some drainage plan towards the river, we may need the money. If not, we will have a surplus and will need to reduce/eliminate the assessment.

Dave Padley asked about loan balances. Pat's response:

- \$16,284 for Fish Lake
- \$20,543 for Crystal Lake
- Account balance is \$120,601

Dave suggested we reduce the assessment, since we could pay off the loans right now. Discussion involved the difficulty in restarting assessments if we cancel/reduce them now. Chris moved and Michele seconded to leave the assessment formula as is for one more year. Motion passed.

Gravity Flow Option:

Mike Ramaker had contacted Chuck Bogard as requested, but Chuck is retired and declined involvement. He then contacted Lucasz Lyzwa from General Engineering (<https://www.generalengineering.net/our-team/>), who worked on the Crystal Lake Pump project and has several other lake pumping/drainage projects in the works. He outlined a rough plan for this project if approved:

- Dig a ditch 5-7 feet deep; this could include a pond if desired. This could become "Artificial Wetlands" however, possibly mandating onerous DNR testing requirements.

- Should be an easy project compared to getting the permits/permissions.
- He thinks we could qualify for FEMA or NCRS grants.
- He suggested that we should talk to Dane County about a grant for phosphorus reduction (Personal comment – Wouldn't this alarm FLOW?).
- If connected to Fish/Mud lakes, the ditch would run until the desired lake level is reached, and then would be dry until we had heavy rain/snow melt events.
- Probably should be some form of gate at the lake connection to moderate or prevent water flow if needed.

Discussion:

Filipe asked how the ditch would be protected from erosion during high flow periods. Lucasz's response:

- The Lake District would have an easement to cross all lands and could do repairs or lay preventative rip rap in sensitive areas.
- Velocity of water flow would need to be studied further after getting accurate elevations. Too fast will erode and too slow will silt in.
- Appropriate plants would be added to stabilize the banks.

Dave asked what happens if one landowner says "No"?

- We would need to pave the way personally, outlining the benefits to all. Eminent Domain is a possible last resort, if local government is behind the effort.

Trudy asked what would be done to protect the Fish Lake fishery?

- The outlet from the lake could be covered in screens (which would have to be periodically cleaned) or some sort of lagoon.

She then asked if any grants are possible.

- Michele thinks yes, if requests are phrased properly. Army Corps of Engineers is a possibility.

Filipe stated that we are done if Dane County objects to the project in general. All agreed.

Other discussion:

- Dave is reapplying for the Water Quality permit, which expires in September. There will be a DNR site visit in May. TSS and BOD numbers have run 50% higher this whole winter, as compared to previous years.
- There was some question about how our ditch would interact with roads.
- Al stated that Steve at the campground is OK with leaving the Crystal Lake level as it is. Chris responded that a 1-foot lowering would eliminate a 100-foot mud flat on his property, which he would be strongly in favor of.
- There were also were questions about who decides what the “Normal” high water mark will be. Some concerns that the DNR or County could just change it to what we have now.
- The next step is to plan an exact route and determine elevations and start to work with landowners. General Engineering has a drone that could do this. Mike moved and Michelle seconded that the district authorize \$1,000 for Lucasz to perform this.

Other points:

Apparently there are plans to improve the Lussier Park boat launch, which include placement of a dumpster for trash.

Last meeting we discussed the Town of West Point’s plans to build up Schoepp Road by 3 feet and add two 12” diameter culverts. We still have concerns that this small cross section would not handle the flow rate of a melt event like March 2019. Consequences could include flooding out the remaining assessment base on Crystal Lake. Al agreed to talk to Ashley at West Point in an effort to get an opportunity to view the final plans before they begin.

Mike moved and Michele seconded to reimburse Chris \$116.03 for the two fire extinguishers that the insurance company required us to install at the pump house. Motion passed.

Next meeting will be May 16th at 5:30 PM.