

Lake Mason Management District

Board Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 4, 2016

Chairman Charlie Newling called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Mr. Newling stated they were in compliance of Open Meeting Laws (agendas were posted the preceding Tuesday on the Bulletin Boards of the New Haven Town Hall, the Briggsville Post Office, and Mason Station). Roll Call of Officers - Present: Chairman Charlie Newling, Commissioner Bob Krause, Commissioner Rocco Terranova, and Adams Co. Rep. Mark Hamburg. Also present was non-voting Town of Douglas Rep. Jim Brancel. Absent: Treasurer Bob Demmert. Bob Krause made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Mark Hamburg seconded the motion and was passed without discussion. Charlie Newling stated that the minutes of the December 21, 2015 Board Meeting were yet unavailable and their approval was tabled. Though out of town, Treasurer Bob Demmert emailed a report to Chairman Newling who presented the report including distributing copies of the LMMD Treasurer's 2015 Year-End Spreadsheet and the LMMD Treasurer's 2015 Year-End Summary. A motion by Mr. Hamburg to accept the Treasurer's Report was seconded by Mr. Terranova passed unanimously. A motion by Mr. Hamburg and seconded by Mr. Terranova to pay three outstanding bills (from Town of Douglas for dam safety stop log/sliding gate structure, for legal services, and for printing charges) passed unanimously.

Old Business

1. Review of responses to LMMD letter to membership.

Chairman Newling reported on the results of the Member Questionnaire mailed on January 2, 2016. We have received 102 responses from 157 questionnaires a **response rate of 65%**. Some respondents chose not to answer all three of the questions so the following numbers do not total 102 for each question.

Regarding question #1, Should the LMMD Board agree to the annual sharing of maintenance costs of the Lake Mason dam at the requested rates of Town of Douglas 25%, Town of New Haven 25%, LMMD 50% with the Town of Douglas retaining ownership of the dam and liability for its operation?

Yes—64, 68%; No—30, 32%.

Regarding question #2, As a Lake Mason Management District member, do you favor efforts by the LMMD to obtain ownership of the dam thus securing control of its operation but also responsibility for its maintenance and associated liability? (The LMMD could pay maintenance costs at their current levels without increasing tax assessments but costs might increase in the future.)

Yes—38, 42%; No—53, 58%.

Regarding question #3, Current LMMD By-laws call for election of members of the Board of Directors by the general membership. Subsequently, the elected Board members annually vote among themselves for the Chairperson and other officers. Would you favor amending the By-laws such that the membership not only elects Board members to their current rotating terms, but

also have the membership elect the officers (i.e. Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, etc.) from within that group?

Yes—57, 63%; No—34, 37%.

Chairman Newling said he tried to be as careful as possible in tallying the responses. He said his count might be off by a vote or two but not enough to change the percentage in the totals more than plus or minus one point. He brought in all the received questionnaires and asked if anybody wanted review them and check his tally of the responses. No one was interested in so doing but he said he'd keep the returned questionnaires and make them available to anyone who'd like to see them. He noted that a few respondents wrote questions or ideas that he thought the other Board members also should review at some juncture.

Bob Krause suggested that these results be posted on our website. There was general agreement that such a posting would be a good idea. Chairman Newling said that if any more responses trickle in he would add them to the tally. However, with the strong response already in hand, he noted that one or two votes will not change the final percentages. If all the approximately 55 unreturned questionnaires are returned with everyone voting identically, that could change the results. Realistically, however, he didn't see that happening. He kept a running tally, accumulating results as the questionnaires were returned over the last month. The percentages noted above remained fairly consistent throughout the process. He noted that we, the Board, asked the membership for their opinions, and we got them.

2. LMMD response to Towns of Douglas and New Haven on cost sharing of current dam expenses.

After discussion and based on LMMD Member response to the questionnaire, consensus was reached to review the annual itemized invoice for 50% of the maintenance expenses for the dam at the time it's received and pay it. Consensus also was reached that at present there was no need to propose and vote this payment approach as a written policy of the LMMD. If necessary, that issue can be addressed in the future.

New Business

1. Discussion of Pending Bills before State Legislature and informing the LMMD general membership.

Chairman Newling noted that there were several Bills before the Wisconsin Legislature with potential interest for LMMD Members. The Bills include:

- a. AB 640/SB 493 re: allowing discharges from aquaculture/fish farms to wetlands and waters.
- b. SB 459/AB 600 re: reducing regulations on activities in navigable waters and wetlands.
- c. AB 823 re: allowing dredging of small volumes from streams without a permit.

There was discussion on how to alert LMMD Members in a timely manner about pertinent issues like pending legislation. Although the LMMD has a website, there seemed to be consensus that email would be more effective than USPS on very short fuse items. It was agreed that an effort would be made to obtain current email addresses from interested LMMD Members. It was agreed that this should be addressed at the Memorial Day meeting if not sooner.

Open Comments

Chairman Newling noted that he had received a stack of hard copy documents on "shoreland resources" from Ryan Haney, researcher from U.W. Stevens Point who is working on the Lake Mason watershed.

He also provided a CD onto which all the hard copy reports had been scanned. Mr. Haney requested that these documents be made available to LMMD Members.

Mr. Krause said that he had received a phone call from a representative of Central Sands, a conservation organization, requesting our support and participation. He request written documentation explaining more about the organization, its intended purpose, and its needs. Mr. Krause said he would share the information with the Board when he received it.

Mr. Brancel informed the Board that in addition to the invoice for a 50% share of the payment for the safety improvements of the dam (e.g. stop log/sliding gate structure), the Town of Douglas sent copies of the Wisconsin DNR 10/9/15 dam inspection report, copies of invoices for the various aspects for the safety work (e.g. stop log/sliding gate structure construction) from which the aforementioned amount billed to the LMMD was developed, and a copy of the Town of Douglas application for a Wisconsin DNR grant through the Municipal Dam Grant Program in hopes of recouping some of the cost of the safety work. Mr. Brancel explained that if the grant is successful and the State pays for part of the cost, the LMMD will be reimbursed by the Town of Douglas in proportion to the LMMD percentage of the cost.

It should also be noted that throughout the meeting, new Commissioner Rocco Terranova asked a number of pertinent questions in an effort familiarize himself with past history and LMMD Board procedures. Each question was answered by one or several other Board Members.

Motion to Adjourn

Mark Hamburg made a motion to adjourn. It was seconded by Mr. Terranova and passed. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Submitted by

Charles J. Newling, Acting Secretary