



## December 7, 2006 Meeting

Time: 7:00PM

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Marty called the meeting to order at 7:02PM.

**Board Members Present:**

Marty Portner – President

Herb Hill – Secretary

Bill Piper – Treasurer

Betty Lou Finn – Member-at-Large

**Board Members Absent:**

Dan Dummett – Vice President

- II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

- III. **Moment of Silence** – in observance of those who gave their lives on this day 65 years ago at Pearl Harbor

- IV. **Welcome Newest Board Member – Betty Lou Finn** – Marty thanked Betty Lou for applying and accepting a position on the board. Betty Lou said she was looking forward to serving on the board and she felt that it was a very important group.

- V. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Marty motioned to add Motion to Approve Certification of Petition to Modify Tax Levy % as item B under New Business. Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [12-06-01]

- VI. **Motion to Approve the November 2, 2006 Minutes** – Herb motioned to approve the November 2, 2006 minutes. Bill seconded the motion. Motion passed with Herb, Bill, and Marty approving the minutes while Betty Lou Finn abstained from the vote. [12-06-02]

- VII. **Treasurer's Report** - Total Income for the month of November - \$9, 698.14, total expenses – \$2,269.84. \$314.20 was spent for buoys, anchors, and hardware for the LMC to use in marking their sites for the VLMP testing. \$300 was spent on Per Diem. The rest of the expenditures were normal operating expenses of utilities, wages, and supplies. Marty asked if the LLUD Loan was put under income because they don't show liabilities on the report and Bill said yes. Marty asked if they were charging interest on the loan and Bill said yes, there is a 5% interest and he suggested calculating it on an annual basis. \$939.50 was paid to Nye in December for fees associated with the certification of petition the he drew up and so will show up in next month's report. Betty Lou motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Herb seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [12-06-03]

- VIII. **Old Business**

A. **Marty**

1. **LCC PA System** – The PA system is not working so Marty is going to look at it. He obtained quotes at around \$3,000 to replace the whole system. Senior Focus is having a speaker on Wednesday so Marty has arranged to have a temporary system rented that day from an outfit out of Dixon. He is working with the same company to look at replacing the entire unit, including the cabinet. This was to be a joint venture between the two POA's and the RCD, however, Marty suggested that it would be easier to do the negotiations with the company themselves and then just split the cost with the POA's once the deal is finalized. He would need approval from the board to spend the \$3,000 upfront and get reimbursement from the POA's afterward – he has verbal commitments from both POA's that he can bill them for their portion. Herb asked what kind of system and speakers that they would be getting and Marty listed the following:

- use existing speakers, replace only those that need it(he thinks just one needs replacing)

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- new amplifier that has 8 microphone inputs on it (will be starting with just 6 microphones)
- CDR recorder to record the proceedings

Herb asked why they were going with corded microphones and Marty said because they were a lot cheaper (by \$1,000-1,200) Bill asked if the system could be upgraded to a cordless system in the future and Marty said yes Sue Hill said that she could bring her lapel mike to Marty for when the man comes out to look at the system to see if it is compatible with it because the lapel mikes work well when a person is trying to give a demonstration and need use of their hands. Herb motioned to let Marty pursue the purchase of a new speaker system for the LCC. Betty Lou seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [12-06-04]

**2. Security** – The two POA's hired two people, David Glessner and Jack Skrogstat, to serve as security for the POA's and, eventually, for the RCD. One individual is Lee County detective and a Lee County corrections officer. Once the beach and campground seasons open again, they will be checking those areas on a regular basis. Becky asked Marty if he wanted her to give the security personnel each a key to the campground and Marty said not at this time, but definitely in the spring and that he may even have them open and inspect the campgrounds for the campers. Bill asked if the security personnel were available for homeowners to hire privately to check on their homes when they are out of town and Marty said yes. He also added that the RCD has given them the authority to engage anyone who they think may be participating in nuisance behavior, although they don't have any power to enforce anything or write citations. If the individuals do something of a criminal nature, then they can call it in to the Ogle County Sheriff's department. Betty Lou asked whether they would be checking the RCD properties areas for boats that are not properly stickered and Marty said yes, they would also check the racks periodically for up to date stickers. Herb asked if they will be in uniform and Marty said no, however, they will be in cars that have magnetic stickers saying that they are Lost Lake Security. In the future, they will probably be given some type of pay as you go cell phone and business cards w/ their contact numbers for people to call if they need them. Right now people should call the POA's to get in touch with the security. They will be working about 70 hours a month for a 6-month period, after which they will be evaluated. Marty and the two board presidents will be meeting with the security officers in about 3 weeks to see how things are going.

## **IX. New Business**

**A. Discussion of Budget Based on Referendum to Reduce Property Taxes Withheld from .75% to .083% of the Value** – Bill will generate a report in January. He said it will not be a pleasant report because when you take 90% of a budget out you are basically eliminating most line-items like fish stocking, rip-rap, maintaining the LCC, employing Becky, mowing, etc. By going from approximately \$140,000 to \$15,000 at year, there won't be enough money to do business. The things that will have to be done in the future like lake monitoring and e-coli testing at the beaches and control of sediment in the lake will have to be taken over by the POA's, who in turn will have to raise dues and assessments. Marty asked about the idea that is being purported that the RCD can rely on grants to fund the things that they are doing and Bill said that they won't be able to get grants to fund the operational costs (like insurance or maintaining the LCC) and for things like shoreline stabilization or something related to the dam, they would have to pay for the project up front and hope for reimbursement in two –three years if they are lucky, and it may not even happen.

Marty asked the LLUD president, Joe Olliges his experience in getting grants for the utility district Joe said that there were no grants that they qualified for from the USDA or anyone because of the median income of \$52,000 of the area. They have certain grants for certain projects, like bank stabilization for a watershed that pays 10-50%, that you would have to apply for and hope for approval. All the grant money that is available gets thrown into one pot for whoever gets it. Marty asked what the overlap was of the LLUD and the RCD districts (so that the median income might be changed) and Joe said that the RCD district is larger. Marty is worried that if they lose the income stream from the taxes that they will lose the ability to obtain loans for big projects (like dredging) that they have done in the past. Marty asked Bill how much they have in cash reserves and Bill said that that would depend on what they decide to do – he suggests that they put a stop

on all projects from now until they find out about the referendum. Joe Olliges said that he thinks they should spend their money while they can. Bill said that he didn't agree with a use it or lose spending policy. Marty said that there are so many Lake Management projects that they are starting to pursue that are building up momentum now that the tax referendum comes at a really bad time. Bill said that if this comes to pass that momentum would cease. Herb said that they have to allow money in the budget for decommissioning if it comes to the point that the RCD can no longer afford to operate. Bill said that they would need \$45,000 right up front to pay off the debt that is owed. Herb added that all the property that the RCD owns would then have to go back on the tax roll and whoever takes over them (like the POA's) would have to pay those. Tabled until January, when Bill will present a budget report based on the referendum requested tax cut to .083% of the value.

**B. Letter from Attorney Re: Certification of Filing of Petitions – a referendum has been turned in** to the RCD office as to whether the tax levy should be dropped from .75 per \$100 of property value to .083 per \$100. The RCD took the referendum to attorney Nye and he created and sent a certification of filing of petitions to the RCD to sign at their December meeting. The letter is as follows:

"Dear Marty:

Enclosed please find Certification of Filing of Petitions to be adopted at your December 7, 2005 meeting by roll call vote. The Certifications can be executed by Dan Dummett, Carl Piper, and Betty Lou Finn at the bottom following the approval by the Board.

The Certification, when completed, should have the original Petitions consisting of eleven pages attached thereto. It should then be filed with Becky Huntley in Oregon and a receipt should be sent to Mr. Charles Jolicoeur for his Information."

Bill motioned to authorize the certification of filing of petitions for the tax levy referendum. Herb seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [12-06-05]

**C. Sue Hill – Request for LCC Usage Variance** – Senior Focus is having two speakers come to their meeting who would like to be able to sell their wares when they come to speak. One gentleman is doing a talk on how to clean and take care of gourds and the other person is a member of the American Guild of Paper Cutting. The people doing the presentation are mainly there to show how each technique is done and Senior Focus would like them to be allowed to sell some of their wares if they were to bring samples of their work. The board members indicated that they didn't have a problem with allowing the selling of wares on a one-time basis by the two speakers during the Senior Focus meetings. It was noted that in the past, the RCD normally does not allow the selling of wares on RCD property except by the social committee as a fundraising device or on a case-by-case basis such as this. The last time it was allowed was by the art group when they wanted to be able to sell their paintings during their art show. Marty motioned to grant a variance to Sue Hill on behalf of the Senior Focus to allow their speakers to sell some of their wares during their December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Herb seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [12-06-06]

**D. Thank you letter from RCD to Fishing Club** – The RCD presented a thank you letter to Don Finn, the fishing club vice president that reads as follows:

"Dear Fishing Club Members,

We commend the Lost Lake Fishing Club for their continued efforts to help with the RCD's pursuit of lake and watershed management. The ongoing commitment that many of your members have demonstrated in performing the LMC and VLMP duties is most laudable.

We especially appreciate your contribution of \$300 to stock the lake with 400 hybrid bass this October. Once again, thank you for your willingness to stay involved with these and other efforts that are so vital to the RCD and the entire Lake Community.“

**A. Employee / Committee Report**

**A. LMC – Jerry Sellers** – Jerry met with Bill Kleiman of the Nature Conservancy. They have turned 52 acres of land from corn and row crops into 19 acres of wetland and 33 acres of prairie grasses. It may not seem like a lot until you realize that they have to harvest every seed that they plant by hand. They also discussed the creeks w/ respect to meandering vs. straight. Lost Lake lies at the end of Clear Creek and so they are looking at the advantages of calling it the Clear Creek Watershed rather than the Lost Lake Watershed. For one thing, the local farmers and other inhabitants can identify with Clear Creek much more than Lost Lake and second, it gets away from the fact that it is Lost Nation and New Landing’s Watershed because really it is Clear Creek’s watershed.

The Nature Conservancy is working with the IDNR and NIU’s biology department gathering stream data and monitoring themselves and will be sharing that data with the RCD. The RCD in turn will share all data that they obtain through their studies of the lake.

**Reports on Test Results Due in January** – Herb asked whether there has been any information on the readings that have been taken in the lake so far and Jerry said yes, that although the data from the lab is a little slow in getting back to us, the data is forthcoming. Joe Rush is looking at the current data that they have and making cursory examinations of it and they will probably have two or three different reports in January. One report would be a water column report from the state, the second would be from study from Integrated Lake Management of the lake that will tell them how much sediment is in the lake and where it is located, and a third would be the shocking results from the IDNR.

**Testing the Ice for Ice Fishing** – Herb asked if anyone has checked the ice for ice fishing and Jerry said no, Bill Hulbert used to do that and he left. Joe Olliges said that Ron Hoebbel has been looking at it and he would probably be the one to take over that.

**Future Plans Based on Test Results** – Marty asked what the next step once they get the data and Joe Rush has had a chance to review it and produce a report. Joe said that the Integrated Lake Management report would be the basis for them to put together a short-term and long-term dredging program. The shocking report from the IDNR is critical for their fish stocking decisions. The water column results from the samples the VLMP took will give them some insight into the phosphorous, nitrates, and nitrogen levels that they have which will give them some clue as to what to do to increase the clarity of the lake and the quality of the water while decreasing the turbidity of the water, perhaps by added an aeration program to the lake. It will look at the quality of the lake and whether it is highly eutrophic due to runoff and excessive lack of bank stabilization because if the levels are extremely high, than it is not provided by nature, rather e-coli present at both incoming streams could be from upstream cattle operations and how often they are in the streams. There are certain chemicals that you can add to the lake to change the properties of the water column such as lowering high nitrogen levels. They also will take a look at the success of the pond plants that were planted along the LCC shoreline. If they are successful, perhaps other lake front property owners may want to do something similar to their shorelines.

Marty said that they are starting an outreach program to lakefront property owners to educate them and get them interested in the steps that they can take to improve the ecological and aesthetic properties of their shorelines.

Marty said that there are so many things that they are implementing that are in their early stages, thanks to all the help from volunteers such as Jerry Sellers, Jim Proper, Ron Berger, and Gerry Skyles. There are so many people stepping up now and he would hate to see that go away for whatever reason.

**B. Fee Structures Review Committee** – Marty has one person who has volunteered for the Fee Structures Review Committee. He wants to get it going, however, all of his time has been taken up with the petition and the certification process, which is more complicated than they thought it was. He will definitely have it resolved by the end of the fiscal year, rather than the end of the calendar year, as he had hoped. He said that he needed two more volunteers for the committee and Dan Nicolini and Harold Stromberger volunteered. Sharene Bruckner is the other volunteer.

**XI. Guests:**

**Joe Olliges** -suggested that they make the PA stationary so that the cords are out of the way. Marty also said that a permanent station with the speakers attached to it. Bill liked the idea of a portable one.

Joe asked whether the board was looking into producing a referendum that would counter the current referendum. Marty said he didn't know if the RCD can do it themselves and Joe agreed, saying that someone from the community would probably have to implement it. Marty said that the people have to understand that it is much more than just about lowering your property taxes by a couple hundred dollars – there is a lot more ramifications to it than just that and, in his opinion, the price that they are paying for decreasing their tax bills is huge. Joe said that if the POAs have to take over the facilities that the RCD owns than they would have to raise their dues and Bill agreed stating that they aren't tax deductible like the money that comes from the RCD tax levy.

The board discussed grants and Joe said that there aren't many that our area qualifies for. Marty said that USDA grants, for example have a 6-9 month approval process, so you probably have to have the money to spend up front and you also have to hire someone (who may have connections in the industry) to shepherd the grant process from start to finish.

**XII. Adjourn** – Herb motioned to adjourn the December 7, 2006 meeting at 8:22PM. Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [12-06-07]

**Next Meeting: January 4, 2006**

**December 7, 2006 Motion List**

1. Marty motioned to add Motion to Approve Certification of Petition to Modify Tax Levy % as item B of New Business, Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [12-06-01]
2. Herb motioned to approve the November 2, 2006 minutes. Bill seconded the motion. Motion passed with Herb, Bill, and Marty approving the minutes while Betty Lou Finn abstained from the vote. [12-06-02]
3. Betty Lou motioned to approve the treasurer's report. Herb seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [12-06-03]
4. Herb motioned to let Marty pursue the purchase of a new speaker system for the LCC. Betty Lou seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [12-06-04]
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