

LNNLRCD Special Meeting Monday, July 27, 2015, 6:00PM

I. Call to Order & Roll Call – Marty called the meeting to order at 6:04PM.

Board Members Present – Mary Portner – President
Jim Brown – Member at Large

Glenn Baldwin – Vice President Tim Spelde – Member at Large

Board Members Absent – Mike Swartz - Secretary

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Grant Proposal Presentation - Marty introduced Rebecca Olson, principal of Olson Ecological Solutions and the RCD's contracted grant manager and Joe Rush, principal of JadEco and the RCD's contracted aguatic manager. Rebecca explained what they did with the Upper Babbling Brook project that they just finished. The Upper Babbling Brook work on Ed Bettner's property was covered under the 3191305 grant and Ed's neighbors, Dewayne and Donna Fellows (Donna founded Pegasus) saw it and said that they were interested in doing something on their property. There are 6' high vertical cliffs that are badly eroded that they want to address and they want to reduce flashy flooding. Fellows is the last property on Babbling Brook that needs to be addressed. Joe Rush said that Ed Bettner visually witnessed the flashy flooding on his property - the little creek rises up to 7' when it's raining heavily and Marty suggested that they could document the flood causing rain events through the use of wildlife cameras and video what happens before, during and after a rain event at that site. Rebecca said that you can see visual evidence of how high the water gets from the debris line that is left behind. He suggested that they could do it before and after the Fellows project to give them visual proof of the reduction of water flow that the update would create. Joe agreed that they could do that and added that the Bettners reported a significant reduction in the water speed coming through their property after the Upper Babbling Brook project was completed. Joe said that the CCWP wants to do a tour of the Bettner property for the watershed property owners so that they can see the work that has been done. Marty said that they could use a drone to capture footage of the project. Joe asked Marty if he knew someone with a drone and Marty said he did, he would just have to see if they would run it or he could run it. Rebecca said that if they could get a volunteer to run the drone; that work could be used toward the grant like all volunteer time is. Glenn asked if they would have to hold off on dredging to stay within their budget if they were going to pursue this grant. Joe Rush said that anything that you do before your dredge is good; however, because of the amount of silt that is in the lake now, they shouldn't wait too much longer to dredge. The stabilization and re-meandering that they did upstream of the lake will have a 10 year return of their \$600,000 investment - they won't have to dredge as much because of the measures that they took to remediate the soil erosion upstream.

Rebecca said that they met with Dewayne Fellows and that the Fellows' have pledged \$40,000 to the project and they have been working with the Nature Conservancy and hiring people to help with creating a grasslands on their property. Rebecca also talked to the Fellows' about the potential for the RCD to administer the grant as they did with the Upper Babbling Brook project on Ed Bettner's property. Marty asked if that would be the RCD's contribution to the project and if they could take Becky's hours and apply it to the grant as match. Rebecca said yes and that they budgeted \$4,000 for Becky's time on the Upper Babbling Brook grant and they went slightly over. Rebecca said that one thing that the RCD should consider is that in the past they have always covered the initial cost of the grant project and then Becky has applied for reimbursement from the EPA for the expenses for 60% of the expenses and match that they incurred and that they should make sure that they have the cash flow to cover those costs. Joe Rush said that they could ask the Fellows for an escrow check up front to cover those expenses if the RCD didn't have that money in their budget. Marty asked when they need to have an idea of how much to budget for the grant and Rebecca said that they should try to figure out what they are going to budget by tonight or at least by the time she submits the grant application on July 31st. Glenn asked what Rebecca's feeling was on whether they would get the grant and Rebecca said that she felt that the grant had some strong points to it such as it is the last piece of property

on Babbling Brook that needs to be stabilized and the Fellows want to do it and are willing to put up cash to do it. Rebecca asked the board to consider whether to arrange the budget around the Fellows' contribution only or if they want to add more to the budget and make it a bigger project. Marty said that he thinks that they would want to volunteer Becky's time of \$4,000 on the project and Rebecca said that if they did that, it would increase the project budget from \$100,000 to \$110,000. Marty said that they want to accomplish both dredging and upstream remediation in this and next year's budget and, wanting to ensure enough cash flow, he asked Becky how often they can file for reimbursement and how soon they usually get it. Becky said that as soon as she pays out an invoice or receives a statement for match, she can submit a request for payment right away, as often as once a month, and it usually takes up to a month for reimbursement. Joe again brought up securing an escrow from Fellows if they needed the cash right away. Joe said that he and Rebecca feel that the grant would run most smoothly with Becky administering it since she has the experience of managing two different grants previously and he doesn't know that Fellows would want to take on managing the grant. Glenn said that they could manage a \$40,000 or \$50,000 cash flow. Jim said that he has a dual interest in the project both from the RCD and the CCWP with walking up and down with Joe and he asked if he should be documenting his time and Rebecca said not yet – that would come once the grant is approved.

Glenn said that the beaches were closed a lot this year and Shawn Parish told him about a 300 head cattle farm on Clear Creek that has a huge pile of manure that is piled up that washes into the creek during heavy rain events. Shawn talked about what he saw and showed Rebecca some video footage that he had taken of it. Joe said that that could have an impact on water quality, the question would be whether he is regulated or not – if he is not regulated then they may want to approach it as a good neighbor and what they could do to help him come up with a method to mitigate it. The board discussed potentially talking to the NRCS/SWCD or the Health Dept. about possible mitigation of it. Joe said that there have been several beach closings all over the state and they attribute it to the excessive rain in Tampa. Marty said that they would first have to look at their records and see if there has really been an increase in beach closings or if it's just a perceived increase. The board also talked about taking samples above and below the area and at the entrance of each tributary (Babbling Brook and Clear Creek) to determine if it is causing a spike in pollutant readings. Glenn thanked Rebecca and Joe for their help in maintaining the lake and said he was grateful for Joe recommending that they test for the Blue Green Algae last year and Joe said that it was good that the testing on the algae came back good and that they should continue to monitor it. Marty asked if they could add mounting a camera into the grant and Rebecca said that if it was for education then yes but if it was for monitoring then no. Marty said that Mike Swartz is involved with monitoring RCD property through cameras in lieu of security and one idea that they had was to take one of the cameras and mount it on the dam so that if they had a significant rain event they would have footage of it. Joe suggested that they contact Deb Stagno at Lake Carroll for information on using cameras for that purpose. Joe said that they were a member of IALC and Marty asked about the cost of membership and how often they have meetings as relationships with people in that type of group can prove invaluable – he added that they ought to look into renewing their membership. Marty asked if the amount of the grant could be expanded if they had extra money a year from now to spend. Rebecca said that a year from now if they wanted to expand on the project they could request any leftover funds from other grants. Marty asked Rebecca and Joe what their role in the grant process would be if it is approved and Rebecca said that if they do what they've done in the past then she supports Becky in the grant budget administration, vegetation coordinator, and she writes the quarterly and final reports to the EPA for the grant and Joe has been the construction facilitator, working with the contractors on the ground. The RCD pays them for the work that they do and then the EPA reimburses part of that amount through the grant. They also have both donated some of their time to stay within the grant budget. Glenn asked if the writing of the grant counts toward it and Rebecca said no. Rebecca asked Marty if he wanted to work with her to add something to the grant request that would include an educational and outreach component using the cameras and Marty said yes.

IV. Long Term Dredging Plan – Marty said that Tim wrote a dredging plan based on the sediment in the lake. Glenn said that there is about 117,000 cubic yards of silt in the lake that could cost up to \$2,000,000 to remove the majority of. Marty asked Joe what he thought them instead of looking at it as one big project that they could do it piecemeal, taking smaller amounts out of the high priority areas first and Joe said that would be a good thing, they would just have to decide what they can afford and whether they would do mechanical or hydraulic dredging and if they have a place to haul the silt to. Joe asked if the 117,000 was the whole lake and Glenn said yes, it was Tim that calculated those silt readings. Tim said that he took the 2009 silt survey that was done and replicated the measuring sites. For example, Schings Park had a water depth of 7-8 ft. in 2009 that is now silted in. Tim said that they are looking at a 5 year plan to lower the lake each year in the fall to mechanically dredge what they can to keep costs low. Glenn asked

if they could use the money that they have set aside right now to dredge the silt at Schings Park and near the entrance of Clear Creek this year. Tim said he didn't know if they could dredge the entire Schings Park – you can't even get a pontoon up near Clarey's point. When they lost the bridge, a lot of the material ended up in the lake just past the bridge so there is a lot of harder material there. Along the eastern bank, where the velocity of the water slows down, much of the silt has also settled. Glenn said if they hired someone to dredge the silt at a time and material rate with the funds that they have available now and then they could figure out an estimated cost to removing the silt. Tim said that they probably have some historical data on when they created the coffer dam in 2003 and dredged Schings Park. Tim said that his thought was to go in this year, drop the lake and dredge Schings Park and then next year they could dredge over by Lakeside Park. Joe Rush asked what dollar amount they are estimating for the cost per cubic yard to remove the silt and Tim said \$15. Jerry Sellers asked where they would put the silt to dry and Tim said that they would have to put it on Schings Park to dry with silt fence covering it. Joe suggested that they could take the dry dirt out that is on the shore at Schings Park now and then replace it with the silt material. Jerry Sellers said that that was something he had talked with Wendler about before. Tim suggested that they could narrow the basin area at Schings Park so that they could do more maintenance on it; however, Becky questioned whether that would make the velocity faster and Joe agreed, stating that channelizing the flow would make that velocity faster and Jim said that would make the sediment deposit further into the lake. Glenn suggested that they use a project manager to oversee the dredging. Marty asked Joe is he could manage the project and Joe said he'd need help with the engineering and permitting part of it but once they go the project started he could help with the maintenance part of it. Becky said that in 2003 Joe Gargano oversaw the dredging project by monitoring the contractors' progress every day and taking copious notes on everything - she suggested that he'd be a good resource to tell them what it took to manage the project. Marty asked Jerry if he knew of anyone in the community would have the qualifications to manage a dredging project like that and Jerry said no. He said it's a very complex undertaking - he agreed with Becky, stating that Gargano lived that project while it took place, spending hours down there and even adding dirt and seeding himself when the project was done. Jerry said that they should also get a hold of Dick Baumann - he asked who built the coffer dam and Becky said that Nordman and Beco built the dam and installed the pump as a part of the dredging project in 2003. Joe Rush asked how monitored the amount that was taken out and Becky said that she thinks that Gargano kept track of the truckloads of dewatered material that was going out – it would be in his notes. Marty thinks that they should let the professionals manage the project – they've got Wendler and Joe Rush to help with it. Tim said that he agreed that hydraulic dredging would need professional management but he didn't think that they would need engineers to manage a mechanical dredging program - they are strapped for cash and getting engineers involved would be expensive. Marty asked if Tim would feel comfortable with them doing a smaller scale dredging this year at Schings Park and Tim said yes and outlined an example of how he would manage it within a set budget amount. Tim would look further into renting a machine and hiring a contractor to run it. Marty asked if they could afford to do more than just Schings Park and Tim said that they could look at the report to see where the silt is heaviest and they could work off of their properties and perhaps talk to the POA to work off of their property as well. Marty said that he would like to get the dock areas cleaned out with smaller equipment this year too because he's had complaints from boat dock renters about how shallow it's getting - Tim agreed that they could get in there and maintain those areas with smaller equipment like a backhoe. Glenn said that he would go out for bid if the project is going to be a bigger one. Tim motioned to create a bid spec. and go out for bid on dredging Schings Park up to \$15,000 and Jim seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [07-27-15-01] Becky will supply Tim with a bid spec template.

Marty asked Glenn to take a look at the budget to come up with money for future dredging, even looking at a special assessment. Glenn talked to the bank in Rochelle and for every \$100,000 in loans that they would take for 10 years at 2.5 to 3% interest, they would take they would need about \$13,000 in cash flow. Glenn passed out copies of budget cuts that he recommended for the board to review for the next meeting.

V. Old Business – Newkirk Dock Improvement – Jim motioned to approve the Newkirk dock improvement and Glenn seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously. [07-27-15-02]

VI. Adjourn: Tim motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM and Jim seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously. [07-27-15-03]

Motion List

- 1. Tim motioned to create a bid spec. and go out for bid on dredging Schings Park up to \$15,000 and Jim seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [07-27-15-01]
- 2. Jim motioned to approve the Newkirk dock improvement and Glenn seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously. [07-27-15-02]
- 3. Tim motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:20PM and Jim seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously. [07-27-15-03]