



LOST NATION-NEW LANDING RCD

August 12, 2008 Time: 7:00PM

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call** – Marty called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.
Board Members Present
- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| Marty Portner | - President | Steve Larry | - Vice President |
| Herb Hill | - Secretary | Betty Lou Finn | - Member at Large |
| Glenn Baldwin | - Member at Large | | |
- II. **Welcome Newest Board Member: Glenn Baldwin** – The board welcomed Glenn to the board and he told the board about himself.
- III. **Pledge of Allegiance**
- IV. **Motion to Approve Agenda** - Herb motioned to approve the agenda and Betty Lou seconded the motion. Herb cancelled his first motion and motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business Item I. Raise Travel Mileage Reimbursement Rate to .585 per Mile and Betty Lou seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [08-08-01]
- V. **Motion to Approve the 3/24 Special, 4/8 Executive, 4/23 Special & Executive, 6/9 Executive, 6/18, and 7/15 Minutes** – Steve motioned to approve the 3/24 Special, 4/8 Executive, 4/23 Special & Executive, 6/9 Executive, 6/18, and 7/15 Minutes and Betty Lou seconded the motion. The board approved the motion with Glenn Baldwin abstaining from the vote. [08-08-02]
- VI. **Review and Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report** – The RCD's assets in checking and money market as of July 31, 2008 - \$149,539.38 The board received their first installment of taxes on July 2nd of \$78,986.63 and their second installment of taxes on July 31st in the amount of \$2,027.44. Becky moved \$50,000 of the money into the money market to take advantage of the interest rate. They paid \$3,317.26 to Lewis Pools for burn-pile \$135, N. Beach Scope A - \$1,685 and spreading of LCC playground mulch \$1,497.26. They paid Olson Ecological \$2,982 for Grant Procurement services performed in June, \$826.80 to Ogle County Life for printing of the annual budget and \$77 to the Sign Shop for 2 aluminum 12X18" Beach Closed Signs. Betty Lou asked about the \$50 issued to Kathleen Butz and Becky said it was a refund given because the building wasn't opened on time. The RCD donated \$50 to the Jess Furlan Memorial Scholarship fund in memory of Steve Larry's mother-in-law. Steve motioned to approve the treasurer's report and Herb seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [08-08-03]
- VII. **New Business**
- A. Julie Smith – Dock Improvement Request** – Herb met with Julie on her property to review her dock plan. The dock that she would like to build is a 5'X15' dock with composite decking and ACQ treated framing lumber. They would keep the same rock and plantings that are already along the shoreline for stabilization. Herb motioned to approve Julie Smith's request to build a dock on her property at 602 Mississippi Drive and Steve seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [08-08-04]
- B. Motion to Approve Tax Levy** – Joe Olliges asked if the tax levy would generate the full .75 per hundred and Becky said she is assuming not because last year they kept the levied amount at 5% or below over the received amount and consequently they didn't receive the maximum rate that they can request (*generally as property values go up and/or more houses are built, they will be entitled to more each year and so will need to ask for more than the 5% over to get their full .75 per hundred of assessed value*). Marty said that they did this to avoid a hearing, however this is the last year that they will do this (*next year they will go for the full amount that they are entitled to*). Marty read off the first paragraph of the tax levy and noted a date change that needed to be made. Steve motioned to approve the tax levy ordinance amount of \$156,335.00 with the modification on Page one, Paragraph One of April 30,

2008 being changed to April 30, 2009. Herb seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [08-08-05]

C. Review Decision/budgeted Line Item to Pave Parking Lot – Herb obtained a bid for \$36,000 just for the lighting and because it had issues with it, it was put to the side. There was a question as to whether the RCD wanted to fund the project and so Herb was hesitant to ask for any more bids until he knew that he could get funding for it. The bid was over 18 months ago so he will need to have it rebid. Steve asked what type of lighting they would need and if it was for the current parking lot – Herb responded that it was for a new parking lot to be constructed there and offered to show the plans to Board. Marty agreed that Herb should show the board the prints again because there are many new members that have been appointed to the board since that plan was done. Marty asked Herb when he would be able to give a presentation to the board and Herb said that he would first have to go to Wendler engineering to get the plan straightened out and to meet with two of the contractors that would bid on the job – he figures by the September meeting he should be ready to do a presentation. Glenn Baldwin asked what portion of land the new parking lot would take up and Herb said that it would replace the majority of the grassy area and about 1/3 of the volleyball court. Marty said that lighting is needed because there are a lot of functions here in the late fall and winter months that take place in the late afternoon when the sun is not out. Steve would like to see the whole proposal for lighting and what they expect to get for that amount of money and as far as paving he thinks that they should walk cautiously on that because they are trying to clean up the lake and it adds run-off into the lake. Betty Lou asked whether there were plans to expand the Lake Court Center and Marty said he isn't aware of any plans at this time to improve the building or build a new one.

D. Limited Use/ Phosphate Regulations – Steve asked if the RCD should set make recommendations lawns and if so, would Joe Rush be willing to give them some guidance on that. Joe said that although the majority of the phosphates in the lake are coming from upstream, anything that they can do to control the amount of phosphates coming in is a good thing. He felt that it may be difficult to enforce the rule if they make it mandatory, rather, if they educate the population on the advantages of zero phosphorus and perhaps even help them get a soil test done to show that they don't need to spend money on fertilizer for their lawn.

Marty said that he knows of a couple of property owners that pump out lake water to water their lawn and asked Joe if that practice could harm the lake. Joe said that he doesn't know of any reason why that would harm the lake – it would only harm the lake if you had everybody pumping water out of the lake and you had a limited water supply it could lower the lake. Jerry said that the RCD should keep a record of who is doing that and Marty said that there are only two people that are doing it that he knows of and they got permission before hand. Steve asked Joe to send him some information on the right fertilizers to use and he will put into the next issue of the Watershed.

E. Procedure re. Rescheduling of Meetings – They ran into a conflict with another scheduled meeting and Steve would like to ensure in the future that they try not to schedule their meeting when there is something else scheduled. Herb said that they ought to schedule a meeting for a certain day of the month and stick with it to lessen confusion.

F. Preliminary Discussion on Relocating RCD Office – To make for a more professional atmosphere as well as make the RCD files more easily accessible to board members, Steve would like the board to consider moving the office out of Becky's basement, either by joining with the POA if they should wish to move their office to a bigger location and share space or to use the Lake Court Center by either using the library or expanding the building to put in an office. Marty asked Becky how she felt about having the office in her home and whether it was disruptive or not and Becky said that she really enjoys having the office in her home because it is convenient for her and it is more convenient for district property owners because she can more easily help them during non-office hours for things like obtaining boat stickers and camping permits. Herb said that Steve has an excellent point, and although it is not too early to talk and plan for the future he thinks that in the next year or two he doesn't see it happening because they have so many other things that they need to do first that they don't have the money for it yet. Herb personally would like to see a building put in on Flagg Road with lots of parking to house offices for the POA, LLUD and RCD to make it more convenient for property owners on the east side as well as the west side. Herb said that he has always been able to access the files in the office in a timely manner. Glenn agreed with Steve that for professionalism's sake it would be better to have it in an office located in the Lake Court Center.

G. Open bids and Motion to Award North Shore Riprap Project – Marty opened the bids and read them off as follows: Matt's Excavating - \$17,350; Lewis Pools - \$3,875; Burke Excavating - \$9,782. **Specifications:** 440' of shoreline filled to a maximum depth of 2' with RR4 rock (same as rock on dam), four feet out from the shoreline, fill in poor drainage area around the fishing dock with rip rap to prevent washout which is now occurring on the shore side of the dock. Steve made sure that all contractors received the same bid specifications and he met with each of the contractors personally. Steve motioned to award the North Beach Project Bid to Lewis Pools in the amount of \$3,875 and Glenn seconded the motion. The board approved the motion with Betty Lou abstaining from the vote. [08-08-06]

H. Campground Access Road – Herb is going to get estimates on repairing the road leading into the campground and burn pile.

I. Raise Travel Mileage Reimbursement Rate to 58.5 Cents a Mile – As of July 1, 2008, the IRS raised the mileage reimbursement rate to 58.5 cents a mile. Currently the RCD reimburses employees and volunteers at 48.5 cents a mile and last month, Marty asked Becky to look at whether the RCD should reimburse volunteers at the same rate as employees. Becky spoke to the accountant and he recommended that since the RCD is not a charitable organization, they should reimburse at the same rate as employees. Marty told Becky to go ahead and change the rate to 58.5 cents a mile

VIII. Old Business

A. Dock Owner Identification – Steve would like to implement a dock identification system using Section and Lot numbers rather than addresses because some of the docks are on empty lots that don't have addresses. Marty would like to see the same material used to give them a more uniform appearance. Marty asked Steve to come up with some specifications and bring it before the board for next month's meeting.

IX. Board Member Reports

X. Employee / Committee / Consultant Reports

A. LMC - Jerry Sellers

1. Jerry is still trying to work with ILM to get the dredging of the silt basin resolved.
2. Cattle is off of Orland Property as of August 1st
3. Trees have been removed from North Beach
4. Fishing Club put the structure in the lake
5. Don Finn has agreed to be project manager for future dredging (Jerry distributed copies of Don's report to the board) Don asked the board to take the report with them to look at and have any questions ready for him by the September meeting. Don will be looking at what has been done in the past so that they can make an informed decision on what to do in the future.

B. Joe Rush – Shoreline Maintenance Bids from Pizzo and Associates – Joe obtained bids on some of the POA and RCD property that the RCD would like to showcase for examples on different native plantings and rip-rap methods to be employed for stabilization. Joe said that Schings Park and Old East Beach are both conducive to native plantings. Pizzo's bid for annual maintenance costs is \$10,000-12,000 a year and Joe is going to contact them to find out what that plan consists of. Joe has prioritized some of the areas including two lots of RCD property near the inlet at Clear Creek, POA owned Lakeside Park and the west side boat launch, which are both extremely eroded areas with steeper slopes, which are not as conducive to native plantings and so he recommends riprap there. Joe asked how receptive the POA was to repairing their shorelines and Marty said that he talked to Tom Wendling about it and his board has known about it for some time and that although they don't have a line item for the work in this budget year, he did seem receptive to working in parallel with the RCD on it, particularly the Lakeside Park area, of which Joe thinks that there is about 700 feet of shoreline to stabilize. Joe thinks that RR3 will be a good size rock to use for the riprap. Marty asked if there would need to be excavating done and

Joe said not for the riprap but for the native vegetation plantings there would be quite a bit of excavating. Steve asked what Joe's recommendation the areas are and Joe said that he recommended riprap on the Lakeside Park shoreline after the ground hardens and ice forms this winter; they might get a better deal in late fall from contractors 'cause there is less work available to them at that time. Park Drive Park could also be rip-rapped; however, they may want to consider native plants for the long term benefit of nutrient uptake of the plants' roots. He thinks that although the North Beach Shoreline would be conducive to planting, it may be better to riprap it since there is so much fishing there. Schings Park is a fantastic area for native plantings due to its shoreline. Joe went into detail on how a company would maintain native shoreline plantings. Joe said that the RCD has done a great job of educating the lakeshore property owners on planting buffer strips and that there are already a lot of native plants established around the lake. There is a company in Taylorville Goodpastor and Jamieson that has established programs where they come in and tell property owners what to do. Marty asked if professionals would have to get involved in the majority of property owners' shoreline stabilization or if they could do it themselves and Joe said that with some minor guidance and perhaps a bill of sale to show that they are using native plants, most of the work can be done by the property owners themselves. Joe commended the VLMP on a job well done for their volunteer efforts in sending in water samples to the state. Phosphorus and nutrients are elevated, which isn't good, however, Diane Karuso's study of the invertebrates in the water and mud show that we have a diverse amount of bugs in the lake and that the lake has great potential. He is looking at a few different projects regarding stratification and water oxygen levels. Jerry said that it is important that they get a grab sample off of the bottom of the lake for Diane to analyze so that they can see what their sediment consists of and Joe said that it may even be a test that is needed to obtain a dredging permit and that they could find out before doing it so that they know what is needed ahead of time.

C. Rebecca Olson – Grant Update – In the past two months they have been working on completing the following five step process:

1. Identified potential partners in the area – Initial identification and contact completed

NRCS - They started this in June and Steve and Rebecca had a meeting with the NRCS yesterday. Initially, the RCD met with the NRCS a few years ago and at that time they expressed a willingness to help the RCD, however, they got pulled away toward other projects and did not have enough staff to dedicate to the RCD. The situation has since changed - they have hired new staff and are very willing and able to help. They are federal employees and their job is to work with private landowners to do conservation practices. Regarding landowner outreach, we can piggyback on their program and send them landowners to enroll in different conservation programs; they also want to help with the watershed planning process. Rebecca thinks that they are the RCD's strongest partner and she will be meeting with them again to help them understand how much they can get involved in the planning.

Nature Conservancy - Their mission is different from the RCD's, (they do not work on water quality, instead they are working with high quality natural areas and restoration of prairie landscape), however they are very happy knowing what the RCD is doing and cooperating with the RCD as a landowner even if they can't provide labor or assistance with our programs.

Natural Land Institute (non-profit in Rockford) – been active for 50 year and are a good resource for any old field notes or undocumented information is probably in their office, their staff is incredibly knowledgeable, and they are really active in holding conservation easements in this area.

Prairie Preservation Society of Ogle County – volunteer group that was initially organized by the IDNR and is a conglomeration of professionals in the field that meet bi-monthly to define how they are going to be involved in community issues.

2. Gather Information on the area – Mostly complete except for some detailed oriented work that needs to be done – she has data layers on the location of forests, grasslands, wetlands and floodplains, as well as the different soil types.

3. Use Information to put it into an action plan – She has delineated a pilot program area on the area on Clear Creek that runs straight into the lake because it is a manageable chunk of land (only three property owners), it has the highest priority as far as affecting the lake, and it allows them to go over the mechanisms that they are using to get to the end product. She highlighted the silt basin for restoration and delineated an area in green for livestock exclusion (it is a working document so that it may change as circumstances change, for ex., there may or may not be cattle there in a year and they may or may not accept the idea of livestock exclusion). Each red dot represents a cattle crossing, which they need because pasture is on both sides and is recommended every 800 feet. The crossing would be in the form of a rock ripple where the water is very shallow, which allows oxygen to enter the stream and is followed by a pool and a run and then repeats itself.

They need to do get permission to look at the creeks to do more study on the erosion of the banks – Rebecca has marked the areas with the worst amount of erosion in yellow – it is bad enough that vegetation won't work and rock would be a better method of stabilization in that area. Rebecca also recommends three spots where they could reconnect some meanders that were straightened out in the past because when you have water rushing through a straight channel you get more erosion and it doesn't allow the sediment to percolate out and all the problems that you experience with erosion and sedimentation worsen. The downside of reconnecting a meander is that it is very expensive. Steve said that the incentive of the getting the landowners to do something about the silt moving along the creeks is that they are actually losing land and nutrients that they are putting on their soil. The NRCS gives the landowner a model of how much land they are actually losing. Steve is going to compose a letter to the NRCS to request their assistance. Rebecca said that in order to get priority over other grant requests they need a watershed plan (this is especially true for the EPA).

Rebecca's recommendation is that once they have a watershed plan then they would get the details of the highest priority project started.

Step 4: Go To Landowners who are Willing to Participate – Contact each of the landowners who are affected by letter or a group meeting.

Step 5: Obtain Funding – They want to go to their local community first to see what kind of resources they can contribute.

Five Grants to Pursue:

Federal – State Wildlife Grant (Initially, her confidence was high in getting the State Wildlife Grant, however, for this fiscal year, the Illinois climate has changed and her confidence in getting the grant this year has lowered).

Conservation 2000 – confidence remains low in getting this grant

IEPA (newly discovered source) - Best bet for getting grant; IEPA has a program with funding of about 4.5 million dollars to be distributed nationwide. They are very good people to work with and she will keep in contact with them. Available next August.

Grand Victoria Foundation / Illinois Natural History Survey – Initially she proposed to send a letter of inquiry to the Grand Victoria Foundation by the beginning of October. Rebecca talked to the staff because they usually give an indication whether it is likely that you will get funding and their initial comments were very positive - they suggested to her that the Illinois Natural History Survey might be interested in our watershed as a case setting for larger watersheds, however, because the plan is not complete, Grand Victoria doesn't want to see it yet. Rebecca recommends that they wait until the next cycle (which is the first Friday in May, 2009) to submit the plan.

Marty is pleased that there are not as many property owner involved in the pursuing the plan with the highest impact and he feels that Steve and Rebecca are handling the process of contacting landowners and partners well at this point.

Steve said that they have been told that the two other property owners besides the Nature Conservancy District are interested in conservation as well. Although there are 35 property owners in the whole watershed, those three property owners have the highest impact on the watershed.

Rebecca added that the NRCS has cost share funding so all of the money won't have to come from grants. They already have cost share programs out there that the landowners can apply for. The problem right now is that corn and soybeans are very marketable and so they may not be interested in participating so perhaps the RCD could make it more attractive to them by giving them an incentive to participate.

Joe Olliges asked if the largest cattle operation planning on staying there and Rebecca said that she and Jerry met with the owner and either this year or next year is the last year of his lease. Steve added that even if they wanted to continue the operation, the plan that Rebecca has proposed makes provisions for livestock by using fences to limit the area that the cows access the streams on. Steve said that even though grants are going to be tough to get in this economy, he is getting positive feedback from everyone that he is contacting to list them as supporters of the RCD's project.

D. Becky – Dock Compliance Update – Becky sent out four letters to property owners and all the owners have responded except for the ULLPOA. Marty said that he will call the POA and find out who to talk to about it. Becky said that as soon as she gets more property owner information on docks that need repair, then she will send out more letters. Steve asked Jerry if there is anything more that they can do to identify the owners and Jerry said that he hasn't had the chance to get those yet. Jerry said that he will make it a point to do that.

XI. Guest Comments

Joe Olliges – Parking Lot Bids– Joe asked if they would be using the same bid that was 18 months old and Herb said that he would be getting it rebid. Joe said that he thinks that they will need to put an ad in the paper because it will be more than \$2,500. Herb said that first he needs to contact Wendler Engineering to have them redo the specs because he had some problems with the spec that was done (for example, elevations).

Frank Durkin – Survey – Frank said that he and two other volunteers would be willing to help compile the information that was sent in on the surveys. Marty asked Joe Rush if he would be willing to help look at the data to get the most from the information that it provides and Frank said that once the information is compiled then Joe can take a look at it.

Mike Robinson – LCC Rental Refund – There was a rental in which the LCC was not opened on time and so the RCD refunded the renter's \$50 fee.

XII. Motion to Adjourn Meeting – Next Meeting: September 9, 2008 Steve motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30PM and Glenn seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [08-08-07]

August 12, 2008 Motion List

1. Herb motioned to approve the agenda and Betty Lou seconded the motion. Herb cancelled his first motion and motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of New Business Item I. Raise Travel Mileage Reimbursement Rate to .585 per Mile and Betty Lou seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [08-08-01]
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