



# LOST NATION-NEW LANDING RCD

Wed, March 22, 2017 – 7:00p.m.

I. **Call to Order** – Jim called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

## **Board Members Present**

James Brown – President

Bill Winebaugh – VP

Andrew Warcaba - Secretary

II. **Pledge of Allegiance**

III. **Motion to Approve the Agenda** – Andy motioned to approve the agenda and Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion by roll-call vote. [03-17-01]

IV. **Motion to Approve the 2/16 Minutes** – Jim motioned to approve the 2/16 minutes and Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-02]

V. **Motion to Approve the Treasurer's Report** – Andy motioned to approve the treasurer's report and Jim seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-03]

VI. **Board Member Reports**

### **A. Jim Brown**

**1. Town Hall Mtg. Agenda & Date** – Jim has scheduled the town hall meeting to take place on May 13<sup>th</sup> during their regular meeting. Joe Rush can be there until 10:30 a.m. to give a presentation about his role w/ the RCD and answer any questions. Rebecca Olson will be on hand to give a presentation about the Clear Creek Watershed Partnership and what she does to write and manage the grants that the RCD applies for. Andy said that he'll be talking about marketing and social community outreach. Jim said that Schings Park should be done by then and he'd like to talk about it and other RCD properties such as the Silt Basin, the acreage behind the church, the beaches, and the LCC parking lot. Bill asked if Jim wanted he and Andy to give him an outline of what they plan to talk about to ensure that it covers what he is looking for and Jim said yes. Andy suggested that they do a mailing to get the word out to property owners about the meeting and Becky said that a postcard mailing would cost a bit but would be the way to go.

**2. Jim and Joe Rush to do Annual Walkthrough** – Jim explained to the rest of the board how he and Joe Rush meet every spring to do a walkthrough of the properties that were updated through IEPA grant money per the EPA's requirement that it be maintained for a minimum of 10 years. Shawn will be with them so that he can see what has to be done and let Jim know what he can handle vs. what they may need to contract out. Andy asked if Joe only looks at the properties related to grants or if he could also look at some of the trees that are down in the lake and give them some suggestions on whether to leave them there or remove them and Becky said that he does more than just assist with the grant affected properties – he is considered their professional aquatic manager and can answer questions that they may have regarding the lake.

**3. Closing of Beaches due to E.coli** – Jim said that they are pretty sure that a big contributor to the E.coli that is contaminating the lake and causing the beaches to close each year is the feedlot on Daysville Rd. south of Flagg Rd. Rick Kennay was at the last CCWP meeting and voiced his concern that the land is not owned by the operator; rather, it is owned by an investment group who leases it to the operator who then raises 1,000 cows for them and they won't do anything about it. From what Rick said, Nachusa Grasslands has filed complaints against them and they were ordered to either remove the manure pile or put a surround around so it can't wash into the waterway. Andy asked why they don't get the EPA involved and Shawn said that the EPA is already involved. Shawn said that they had a year to come into compliance and they are holding back for now since the Ogle County SWCD is already dealing with them and they being charged and fined right now. Andy asked if they would want to get their attorney involved and Jim said that before they do anything, he'd like to talk to Bill Kleiman w/ Nachusa Grasslands and find out what their status is and see if they want to go after them together. Shawn saw NIU out there testing the water and asked if Jim would also talk to Bill to see if they know anything about that. Jim said that he'll email Bill; however, Bill is quite busy with the volunteers when he is out here. He's real good about updating the CCWP on what they are up to and the last time Jim talked to him he said that Nachusa converted 105 acres into Prairie last year (the original goal of the CCWP was 20 acres a year). Jim would like to go out and test the creek on both sides of the property after a rainstorm, which he feels should be easy since they have roads on both sides of it. Shawn asked who they would send the samples to in order to have them tested and Becky said that Joe Rush has a lab that we've sent samples of our water to in order to test for blue-green algae and perhaps they can test some samples for the E.coli as well. Bill and Andy asked about the method and

frequency of the water samples that the RCD has tested for the beaches and Becky said that Shawn takes samples of water at the beaches every 2 weeks starting just before Memorial Day until Labor Day and the samples are tested by labs connected with the Department of Public Health. They test on a Monday and get the results by Thursday. Bill and Andy expressed concern about the fact it takes 3 days before they know if the water is contaminated so that people could be swimming in contaminated water before the beaches have to close and Becky said that they are following the state's department of public health standard for beach water testing and they also sometimes pre-emptively close the beaches if there has been significant rainfall as that is a big contributor to the high E.coli levels. Bill said that after they talk to Nachusa and Joe Rush, perhaps they can get the EPA involved a little stronger since they carry a lot of weight.

## **B. Bill Winebaugh**

**1. Control Burn of RCD Properties** – Bill asked the other board members what their thoughts were on control burning of the RCD properties. Jim said that Nachusa burns their property that is north of the RCD's property that is north of the campground stream and that the RCD allows them to burn the RCD's property there as well. Andy thought that it would be good to burn the properties that are around the lake, both RCD owned and, with owners' permission, the privately owned vacant lots because he thinks that the weeds growing through the rock that is stabilizing the shorelines as it looks terrible. Jim said that it depends on what it is; for example, along Babbling Brook they have native plants planted in grids that help stabilize the shoreline there. Jim added that a buffer zone along the stream also deters geese from coming up onto the shoreline as they don't like to walk into tall grasses where they can't see (*if there are predators there*). Andy asked Shawn his thoughts on it and Shawn said that he keeps the LCC shoreline and the areas around the boat docks and racks clear, he clears the North Beach shoreline before the kid's fishing derby, and the RCD is required to keep the face of the dam clear of all debris. Shawn said that the buffer zone was created to slow down water runoff and keep the chemicals out of the water coming into the lake off of lakeshore properties and that it was Dennis Cantrell's idea to keep a 6-foot buffer zone around all of the RCD properties. Becky said that Dennis had a good idea with that but the only problem with that is in order to have an effective buffer zone (*that doesn't become an unsightly mess*) you need to consistently do the controlled burn and plant native seed to encourage native plants to grow through the non-native species because the deeper roots of the native plants allow them to survive the controlled burns while the shorter roots of the non-natives die off. Rebecca Olson is an expert in what natives the RCD should plant. Bill said that having something there is better than nothing and Becky agreed, stating however, that although the non-natives do keep the soil in place, if they allow whatever wants to grow to be grown along there, they start getting little trees and other invasive plants taking over (*and it becomes the unsightly mess that Andy is talking about*). Shawn asked if they would like him to mow it for now until they can get Rebecca in there to make recommendations. Andy asked whether they should look at doing a fall burn and Bill said that normally they do burns in the spring before the plants are up rather than in the fall. Andy asked if there have been controlled burns done out here before and Becky said that she thought they had. Jim asked who they should get to do it and Andy suggested that they could use volunteers from the old fishing club members and Jim said that they have to have someone who knows what they are doing. Bill added that volunteers are nice but you also have to have someone who knows what they are doing because there are a lot of factors to consider such as wind, humidity, height of flames. Bill said that they could mow it until they talk to somebody and plan a burn for next year. Bill said that he has a working knowledge of how to do controlled burns although it's been awhile, but he used to do small burns on farmers' properties that he would hunt on but this is different in that it's close to residences and he would be uncomfortable with just having volunteers out there with matches. He added that all volunteer help is appreciated, but they need to have somebody that (*knows what they are doing*). Becky said that there is a gentleman who volunteers with Nachusa who lives in the community that may be a good person to talk to. Bill said that there are also people out there that you can contract to do control burns depending on the size – he doesn't know what they would charge but that could be a possibility. Depending on how much they want to burn and whether they want to do some of it themselves, there are tools out there such as a drip winch (drip torch) to lay down a thin line in an area to produce a clean burn and other tools to control a fire such as flappers, rakes and shovels. Andy asked Jim if he and Joe could pay attention to the areas that might need a control burn when he and Joe do their property inspection and Jim agreed to do that. Bill assumed that Shawn is not spraying the area that they planted some water and shoreline plants in at the West Beach and Shawn said that he is not spraying there and that more of it is coming back so it's finally taking hold although something in the water composition doesn't allow lily pads and that grow there. Bill said that is something on his agenda to talk to Rebecca and Joe about. Becky said that part of it could be carp creating turbidity in the water that don't allow the plants to get established. Becky said that she had mentioned to Bill that the RCD owns lots 1, 2 & 3 at the West gate and lots 118 & 119 near there and she was wondering if the board would like to have someone like Oltmanns clear those areas like he did at the Flagg Rd Silt Basin last year with a bush hog for about \$200. Shawn said that a lot of that brush in there is dead and Oltmanns may only be able to get his tractor in so far because it's a waterway and very mucky in there and never dries up. Jim said that if there is so much vegetation there that it is slowing up the water then they really do need to clear some of that out of there. Andy asked Shawn if that is something that he wants to do or if they should see if Ken

wants to do it and Shawn said that they should see if Ken wants to do it because it's a lot of work that may require the bigger equipment such as a bucket to take down trees that Ken has access too. Andy said some advantages to clearing that area would be less mosquito breeding ground and less cover for deer running across the road, thereby providing more visibility for drivers on Flagg Rd. He said that they could ask Ken for an estimate to clear the area. Bill wondered if it is a wetland, and if so, if there is a certain way to handle clearing it. Becky said that long term it would be good to establish it as a wetland and Nachusa would have knowledge on how to do that. Bill said that they can put it on the list see where they can go with it.

**2, Carp Removal** – Bill contacted Rob Maher with the DNR and they said that they were waiting for Shawn Price, the fisherman that is going to do the removal, to sign and send back the application that they sent to him. Bill requested the license for the whole year, not restricted to any specific days. They were planning on doing two removals, one for removing carp in the spring and one for removing shad in the fall. He will also talk to Shawn Price in case he has a better solution, perhaps netting both carp and shad in the first round.

**3. Goose Control** – Ron Fredrick is in charge of the goose control program for this year. When Ron thinks it's the right time to proceed, they will see if they can get a couple of volunteers to help with the program. Bill said he is new to this but he was wondering if they will start nesting early with the warmer weather that we've been having. Andy asked if private property owners are having a problem with the geese if they can do something about that and Becky said that they can control the geese on private property with permission from the owners; however, there are some property owners that don't want the RCD disturbing the nests on their property so they steer clear of them. Bill asked how the decoy swans and owls are working and Shawn said that the swans worked for a while until the geese got used to them. The owls are a little more effective. Becky said maybe they need to move them around a little more. Bill said that he has an owl on his dock and it works well to keep the herons off.

### C. Andy Warcaba

**1. Fundraiser to Extend the Kids' Fishing Derby Beyond 2017** – Frank Durkin is going to head up the fishing derby for this June with the remaining funds from the fishing club. Gene and Maureen Bronkema and Cheryl and Bill Wash are also volunteering for that event. This fall, Andy would like to look at a fundraising event to pay for future kids' fishing derbies. Andy asked if Becky had any ideas for fundraisers and Becky said that Frank Durkin mentioned a fish fry although she thinks pancakes smell better. Andy said that perhaps they could look at doing a couple of those yet this year.

**2. Raise Lake Level (Date?)** – Andy said that Jeff told him that raising the lake would not affect his work at Schings; however, if they are going to clean out the dock areas and install new docks, raising the lake back up could impact that. Jim said that they had talked about having Winterland clean out the boat areas while he has the equipment over to do Schings Park and he asked if Jeff usually cleans those areas and Becky said that normally they have Oltmanns do it but that it would make sense to have Jeff do it while he has his equipment here if it's more cost effective. Andy said that the sandbar near Schings Park needs to be cleared and he'd like it to be cleared at the same time that Jeff does Schings Park. Andy suggested that they will try to bring the lake back up at the end of April or beginning of May, weather permitting. Andy plans to have Jeff pile the silt on an area at the acreage off of Flagg Rd that Oltmanns currently farms. Andy has been in contact with Oltmanns and he said that when they were done, he would prorate the \$1,100 field contract that he has with them now.

**3. Seasonal Dock Rentals** – Andy met with Tim to discuss replacing the three service docks at Park Drive Park, the North Beach, and the West Beach. Andy motioned to install three premium roll-away docks at the boat ramp areas located at Parkside Park, East Boat Ramp, and the North Beach once Jim determines who owns the dock at Parkside Park and, if the POA owns it, if they grant permission to the RCD to upgrade the dock. Bill seconded the motion and the board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-04]

The board discussed whether they should re-install the existing rental docks, driving the poles in deeper and Becky asked if they could eventually replace the existing docks with the newer ones. Shawn said that the existing wood docks are 5'X10' while the new roll-in premium docks are only 4'X10' so they would not be able to be interchangeable. Regarding electricity at the docks, they discussed solar energy. Andy motioned to reinstall the old docks, sinking the poles down 6 feet so that the docks don't upheave. The motioned died for lack of a second. Bill asked how many rental docks they would be installing and Shawn said there were 4 on one side and 3 on the other. He asked what the cost is to install and maintain them and Becky said that it would cost about \$1,400 - \$2,000 for them to initially install them and \$1200 to remove and \$1200 to reinstall the old ones each year or around \$200 to remove and \$200 to reinstall the premium roll away docks each year. Becky recommended that if they are going to spend the money to install the docks, they should install the new ones so that they are not paying for installing the poles twice. Andy asked about the initial outlay if they buy the premium docks and Becky said the initial cost for the premium docks is around \$8,141 plus hardware. The spreadsheet that Becky designed to show the estimated costs associated with installing and maintaining the premium docks for 5 years was \$13,641 so the fee to recoup that cost was around \$200. She recommended that they charge \$250-\$300 a year so that they will recoup their estimated costs and any unforeseen maintenance costs in 5 years. Andy said that he doesn't have any problem with doing it the right way as long as they have money in the budget for it. He added that they are saving some money on what they expected to spend at Schings Park so that would help. Before they decide if they

will make that outlay of money, Andy wants to contact all of the boat dock renters to ensure that they are interested in renting the new docks at that higher price. Becky recommended that if they have at least 10 people who are interested in the program before they proceed with it, and if they do move forward with it, they could let everyone in the district know that the program is going to pay for itself in 5 years. Andy motioned to install three premium roll-away docks at the boat ramp areas located at Parkside Park, East Boat Ramp, and the North Beach, with material and installation costs for the docks NTE \$4,000, once Jim determines who owns the dock at Parkside Park and, if the POA owns it, if they grant permission to the RCD to upgrade the dock. Bill seconded the motion and the board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-04] Andy motioned to proceed with the dock rental upgrade program to include installing and maintenance of 7 premium roll-away docks NTE \$13,000 upon the contingency that at least 10 boat owners show an interest in renting spaces on the new docks for \$250-300. Bill seconded the motion and the board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-05]

## VII. Old Business

**A. Security Contract** – Bill said that he has not heard back from Jack Skrogstad about the three security officers obtaining their own liability insurance. Bill had Becky call the insurance company that the RCD has their liability policy through and they do not provide insurance for security personnel, instead, he recommended that they contact a broker but didn't have a specific one to recommend. The reason for them not providing the insurance is because as off-duty police officers, they are able to carry a gun even though they would not be using it in their capacity as a security officer for the RCD. Bill was dissatisfied with the insurance agent's answer because he felt that as a police officer, they would be better able to handle a situation involving a handgun than someone who isn't a trained officer. Bill talked to Sue Hill Monday and she was going to get some information from Jack in writing and get back to Bill yesterday but she hadn't done so. Bill said he is still working on it but it's a slow process.

## VIII. New Business

**A. Motion to Approve 20% Down Payment to Winterland at Start of Schings Park Project** – Bill asked if there was a completion date in the contract and Andy said the end of May. Jim motioned to approve the 20% down payment to Jeff Winterland at the start of the Schings Park Project and Andy seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-06]

**B. Non-profit LCC Rentals and Refunding Rental Fees** – Jim discussed with Becky the issue of non-profits rentals potentially getting their rental bumped if a paid renter wants the same time. They suggested that the non-profit could put the rental fee down to reserve the date and then if a paid renter doesn't step forward needing the same date, then the RCD would refund their rental fee. Jim motioned to refund rental fees for 501c non-profit groups that rent the facility for a fundraiser as long as it doesn't interfere with another paid rental and Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-07]

**C. LCC Parking Lot Improvement** – Andy said that before the meeting in May, he'd like to get a proposal from Wendler and Willett Hoffman to engineer a design for the parking lot to include grading for proper drainage. Jim asked if they want to expand the parking area or just get a bid to resurface the existing area that they use for parking now. Andy said he wants an engineering design for resurfacing the existing area and he'll talk to them.

**D. Tennis Court Resurfacing** – Becky said that 12 years ago it cost \$2000 to resurface the tennis court. She will try to see if she can find the company that did it before.

**E. LCC Dock** – Jim said that he, Wes and Andy took a look at the LCC dock and would like to see a railing installed on the lake side of the higher dock before the fishing derby. They would also like to add a separate dock alongside the lower dock to extend that area and he suggested putting in a rubber bumper on the face of the lower dock. Shawn can handle this and Wes Jaros offered to power wash it. Bill asked if they would repaint it after Wes power washes it. Bill said that they should add two railings on the upper deck to prevent little ones from falling through and that they need to put something in front of the gap on the side that is where the steps from the lower dock comes up to the upper dock. Andy asked if Shawn can paint it and Shawn said he paints them it but the weather gets to them so it only lasts a year. Andy said that there are also a couple of boards on the upper dock that are a tripping hazard that need to be replaced. Bill asked if they need something more substantial than the 2 ft. pavers that are being used as steps from the grass to the dock and Becky agreed that they need something better there. They discussed the problem that they have with kids throwing the stabilization rocks that are at the LCC shoreline into the water and suggested a security camera. Shawn said there is a camera aimed at the lake but Becky said that they'd have to find a way to tell if the rocks were disturbed – she suggested painting the top layer of rock a neutral color and then if they notice that those top rocks are disturbed, they would be able to tell and go back to look at the camera footage. Jim said that he will talk to Shawn about all the things that they want done to improve the LCC dock.

**F. RCD Property Review** – Andy wanted someone to do an overview of all the properties to make a list of what needs to be done to them. Jim will call Shawn Friday.

- IX. Motion to go into Executive Session: Discuss Switching Groundskeeper from Contractor to Employee, 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1)** – Andy motioned to go into executive session to discuss possible change of groundskeeper from contractor to employee at 8:48PM and Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-08]
- X. Reconvene Meeting** - Jim reconvened the meeting at 8:58PM.
- XI. Motion to Adjourn** – Andy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:59PM and Jim seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-09]

### **March 22, 2017 Motion List**

1. Andy motioned to approve the agenda and Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion by roll-call vote. [03-17-01]
2. Jim motioned to approve the 2/16 minutes and Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-02]
3. Andy motioned to approve the treasurer's report and Jim seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-03]
4. Andy motioned to install three premium roll-away docks at the boat ramp areas located at Parkside Park, East Boat Ramp, and the North Beach, with material and installation costs for the docks NTE \$5,000, once Jim determines who owns the dock at Parkside Park and, if the POA owns it, if they grant permission to the RCD to upgrade the dock. Bill seconded the motion and the board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-04]
5. Andy motioned to proceed with the dock rental upgrade program to include installing and maintenance of 7 premium roll-away docks NTE \$13,000 upon the contingency that at least 10 boat owners show an interest in renting spaces on the new docks for \$250-300. Bill seconded the motion and the board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-05]
6. Jim motioned to approve the 20% down payment to Jeff Winterland at the start of the Schings Park Project and Andy seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-06]
7. Jim motioned to refund rental fees for 501c non-profit groups that rent the facility for a fundraiser as long as it doesn't interfere with another paid rental and Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-07]
8. Andy motioned to go into executive session to discuss possible change of groundskeeper from contractor to employee at 8:48PM and Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-08]
9. Andy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:59PM and Jim seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [03-17-09]