



September 12, 2017 6:00 p.m.

LNNLRCD Meeting

- I. **Call to Order and Roll Call and Pledge of Allegiance** – Bill called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
Board Members Present –
Bill Winebaugh – President Andy Warcaba – VP Joan Bonnamy – Secretary
Anthony O'Brien – Member at Large
- II. **Motion to Approve Agenda** – Andy motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of Craig Pence Dock Improvement Request to New Business. Joan seconded the motion and the board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [09-17-01]
- III. **Motion to Approve 8/15/17 Minutes** – Andy motioned to approve the 8/15/17 minutes and Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [09-17-02]
- IV. **Motion to Approve Treasurer's Report** – Andy motioned to approve the treasurer's report and Joan seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [09-17-03]
- V. **New Business**
- A. Consideration and action to authorize the RCD Board President to cast a ballot on behalf of the Lost Lake RCD, as a member of the Property Owners Association, on the Proposed 2018 ULLPOA Budget is as follows:**
- Joan motioned to authorize a vote to approve the proposed 2018 ULLPOA budget and Andy seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [09-17-04]
- B. Rogers Dock Improvement Request** – Andy motioned to approve the Tim & Kim Rogers dock improvement request and Bill seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [09-17-05]
- C. Pence Dock Improvement Request** – Andy motioned to approve the Craig Pence dock improvement request and Joan seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [09-17-06]
- D. Wash Dock Improvement Request** – Andy said that there are some things that they want to discuss as a board and maybe look into some further action. Andy motioned to refer the Wash dock improvement request to a committee and Joan seconded the motion. [09-17-07]
- E. Payment of annual insurance premium of \$5,048.00** – Joan motioned to pay the annual insurance premium of \$5,048 to Rochelle Insurance and Anthony seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [09-17-08]
- VI. **Board Member Reports**
- A. Bill Winebaugh**
- 1. Burn Pile** – Bill and Shawn looked at the pile of wood debris on the 22 acres and they plan to burn it this fall (before things get too brown) in a coordinated effort with the Ashton/Franklin Grove Fire Department. They'll also notify the church so that they are aware of when they are going to burn it.

There was a question as to whether the RCD would open up the area by the dam for burning. In 2005/2006 the burn pile was closed to ongoing community use. In 2014, it was re-established for a month to allow the property owners of the RCD a place to put their brush and tree debris from when micro-burst storm activity took out many trees in the community. Bill said that when they had the burn pile in the past it was difficult to control – people would throw tires, logs and stumps, and construction debris onto the burn pile. It was unsightly and took a long time to burn at a cost of about \$500 each time. Because of the

time spent to maintain the area, the proximity of the burn pile to residents in the area, and the type of material that was thrown in there, Bill does not feel that the RCD be involved in it.

2. Cleaning Service – Bill has been in contact with a cleaning service and had her look at the building. She is willing to come once a month to clean the building for \$20 an hour for 4 hours. He'd like to give her the option the first couple of times that she comes out to spend more time on cleaning if it needs it. Andy was in agreement. Joan said that she thinks it needs it and it would be nice to have her come in and clean it.

B. Andy Warcaba

1. Assess condition of Current Docks – Andy said that he'd like to do an inventory of the docks on the lake to assess their condition, ensure that they are properly numbered, and update ownership records. There have been ownership changes so they need an up-to-date list of property owners that have docks. He spoke w/ Frank Durkin and Anthony and they are going to coordinate a volunteer group to go out in a couple boats and take some photographs and find out what docks need numbers, who owns the docks, and create a spreadsheet of dock owners that they can use to notify them if they need new numbers or are in disrepair. In the RCD's charter, they own 6' of lakefront property all around the lake's pool which is at 690' of elevation. So if there is someone who doesn't want to live up to the RCD standard that have been developed over time, he wants to bring it to their attention and he is hopeful that they will fix up their docks. He thinks that (the condition of the docks on the lake) represents the people and if they are in disrepair it can negatively impact us. Andy asked Frank for his input and whether he had volunteers in mind and Frank said that before they get into a heavy discussion he would like the RCD to outline the existing dock ordinance. Bill said that he and Shawn spent 5 hours touring the lake and properties and they looked at all of the docks. It is his understanding that the standard of maintaining the docks is that they should not present a hazard. For example, if there are tree limbs lying over a dock or is at a steep angle or rotting away, then that is what they are going to request owners to fix. Bill said that Shawn is willing to help out, Frank said he's got at least another boat and a couple of volunteers and Andy said that they are welcome to use his john boat if they need it. Bill said that when they lower the lake in the fall it will give the dock owners the time and opportunity to work on their docks. In the spring they will then take it to the next level. They will post on the boards to make the community aware of what they are doing.

2. Wes Jaros Suggestion on Dock Ordinance – Andy said that Wes sent an email to the RCD and it had some good stuff in it and it is why they tabled the motion to approve the Wash's dock request. Recently, the board approved a 10' maximum vertical measurement of docks in the lake because of the shallowness. Wes indicated that he would like to go more than 10' – up to 16'. Andy feels that it is something that they have to consider because the if they allow 16' the next person might want to go whatever and he (Andy) probably has one of the longest pontoon boats out here at 24'. He is not looking to put in a 24' dock in but he does need to do something for his residence because it is so shallow. Andy also wants to look at getting involved with IALC again and get some input from the other lake communities that are in that organization. Wes also mentioned the RCD installing a boardwalk for dock renters to safely get to their docks. Becky said that Shawn and Jeff Winterland just finished installing paths of small stone over the riprap at each dock for renters to access their docks.

3. Determine Date to Lower Lake - last year they lowered the lake around November 4th and so they are looking to lower it by one board around the same time this year. The first Monday in November this year is November 6th – Andy will also look at Ken Oltmanns' schedule.

C. Joan Bonnamy – Security Cameras – A property owner notified the RCD that on August 22nd between 8:30-11:30 p.m. there was a party w/ loud music at the North Beach that involving several people and 4-5 vehicles. Afterwards there were beer cans strewn about, evidence of them smoking marijuana, and 3 boats were knocked off of the racks. In the past, they worked with the POA and split the cost of a remote trail camera that they used in successfully catching criminal activity at the campground. They are available for under \$100. Bill said that he has a trail camera that he uses for hunting that is motion sensitive so the more people that are walking in and around the area, the more it will take pictures and

there is only so much space that they can hold on a card. Becky asked if there is a remote access that they could connect to store the data off of the camera and Bill said maybe on the newer ones. Joan said that she has a newer indoor one that has remote access and Becky said that the cameras that they use for the building have remote access as well. Bill said it's not a bad idea – maybe they can resolve that issue under security. Frank asked who would man the camera and Bill said that if the RCD puts it up, they would man it or perhaps work something out with security. Craig Pence said that putting signage up that there are cameras in use would also be a deterrent. Anthony agrees that signage would be helpful.

D. Anthony O'Brien – no report

VII. Old Business

A. Security – Andy said that they have been talking about this for so long that they are almost reaching the end of the season that they would need to have the RCD properties patrolled by security; however, the good news is that in working with the POA they think they have got a solution for it that is still in process.

VIII. Guest Comments

A. Ron Mangini – Ron stated that he is a 25 year resident and was a POA board member for 11 years. Ron apologized to Bill for being so upset with him when he called him a couple weeks ago. He said he was outraged when he saw the contractors digging on RCD property to put in two docks in an area that has been natural for 25 years. Bill said that he accepted Ron's apology for both occasions. Ron said that it's the RCD's job to maintain the lakefront and they have allowed two docks to be put in at Schings Park – one of them to replace a 4' dock that had been there for many years and had been grandfathered in. When he moved here, Schings Park started out as a grassy area, it has since been used as an area to access the lake for dredging, most recently having mounds of silt on it for two years following one of those dredging sessions, then it was riprapped, and after that they dug two holes (out of the riprap) and installed two docks there. Ron is also upset about their new dock/shoreline ordinance that allows docks to now extend out 10' from the shore. Bill said that the notice was posted for two months. He said that the board encourages all residents to come to their board meetings to speak to them and as residents they (property owners) have to come to the board and tell them what is on their mind. Bill said that the one dock was in need of repair and was grandfathered in; moreover, they did not give away RCD property, (rather), they allowed those property owners to build their docks there and have a written agreement that the docks are for public use – it enhances Schings Park. The bench will be put back in at the park and there may be some tree plantings and a couple of picnic tables installed once the grass has grown in and anyone can be out on the water and moor at those docks and have a picnic on that land. Ron said that he wouldn't have a problem if the RCD put in their own dock for the public to use. He felt that the grandfathered dock was okay but he felt that it was wrong for the RCD to allow a private property owner to install a dock on public property (even if the public is allowed to use it). Bill said that the board did not feel that way – as a board they did not take it lightly and debated it for two months and it was a group vote. Ron finished by saying that the community moved out here for the natural look (that Lost Lake provides) and they (the RCD) should not modernize it to increase property values by doing things like allowing longer docks on the lake. Bill thanked Ron for talking to them.

B. Wes Jaros – Wes said that as the board rules on these matters in the future to think about the future of Lost Lake. He said that Ron was entitled to his opinion on keeping Lost Lake as natural as possible; however, Wes quoted section C. of Chapter I of the RCD ordinance code (see below) and felt that the phrase “development...of lost lake” meant that the lake should be maximized so that all residents can use the lake in whatever they want as long as it's a lawful use.

Chapter I Section C. Statutory Authority - The RCD, formed under the River Conservancy Districts Act 70 ILCS 2105, in performing its primary duty of the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of Lost Lake and its watershed, parks, trails, and related facilities and providing the means for the tax payers within its district access to lakes, rivers, streams and other natural features; is granted full power and authority to acquire and establish the above facilities and to operate, maintain, protect, and improve the lake, a park system and implement a recreational program. As aid to the accomplishment of these duties, the Board is granted the authority to enact ordinances-

Wes said that while the phrase “Improve the lake” in the statement above is open to interpretation; for example,

while Ron Mangini feels that no improvements is improving the lake, many owners have complained about property values not going up and he suggests that one of the reasons that they lag behind the scale is because of a lot of silly restrictions. He said that his family has owned property in upper Wisconsin for his entire life that has two bays that are much narrower than the inlets that feed Lost Lake and yet there are no restrictions on the length of docks on the lake – they have 16'-20' docks there and it doesn't interfere with people going into the bay to sightsee or to fish. Wes said that fishermen don't usually come within 16' of the shoreline and there would be no interference for anyone using the lake if they (the RCD) extend the docks out a few more feet than the code currently allows. They have shallow difficulties for many people to get into a boat and crunch the bottom of the boat against stones is silly. He asks the board instead of staying back to 25-30 years ago, let's improve the community and move forward. This is the only lake that he has ever seen that does not allow piers to extend out into the water itself. He said that maybe that makes Lost Lake unique and some people like it but his contention is the majority of people that are looking at the lake will be looking at that restriction. He concluded by saying if they want to improve the community and increase property values, let's look forward.

Bill thanked him and said that this is why they referred the matter to a committee – they are not taking it lightly. Bill said extending docks is just a band aid – the real problem is the depth of the lake and the need for the RCD to get serious about dredging out their lake. Bill said that he disagrees with some of Wes' comments – he lives on the lake and he has fishermen, kayakers and canoers that come way closer than the 16' to the shoreline that Wes said. Another situation is that if they have a 16' dock out there and someone has an 18' boat, they are not going to pull the bow of their boat up to the shoreline so they're going to moor the boat out (further along the dock), let's say that they moor it halfway up the dock so they will be sticking out that much further into the lake. There's more to the issue than just pontoon boat owners – there's people that like to use it for canoeing, kayaking, fishing, paddle-boarding, and tubing. And there are people that just like the aesthetics of looking out across the lake and seeing the natural beauty as Lost Lake is a jewel. All he can say is that they are working on it and as a board he believes that they need to be consistent in their decisions and they need to do what's best for all – they can't just support the needs of only a few people.

- IX. Motion to Adjourn** – Andy motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:46 p.m. and Joan seconded the motion. The board approved the motion unanimously by roll-call vote. [09-17-09]

9/12/2017 Motion List

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