

Rainbow Lake Water Protection District

Board of Commissioners Meeting

February 3, 2025

The Board of Commissioners meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Leitsch at 9:00 a.m. at the Brighton Town Hall. In addition to Chairman Leitsch, Commissioners present included Peter Shrope, Steven Samuels, and Peter Geertz. Commissioner Gordon Sawyer was absent.

Board Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of the Commissioners on August 19, 2024, were unanimously approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Geertz reported that from August 19, 2024, the time of the last meeting, to December 31, 2024, the district incurred several expenses, including:

- Annual loan payment: \$19,942.08
- Insurance premiums: \$3,070.00
- Tree removal \$1,280.00

These payments resulted in a year-end balance of \$20,714.80.

Since January 1, 2025, four additional bills were paid:

- Dam Maintenance: Randy Smith & Sons: \$4,775.00
- Accounting services: R.A. Mercer & Co \$1,000.00
- Adirondack Daily Enterprise publication: \$18.37

As of February 3, 2025, the bank balance was \$14,921.43, which was deemed reasonable to provide for future maintenance and contingencies.

Treasurer Geertz then reviewed the independent accountant's report for the years ended December 31, 2024, and 2023. No exceptions to generally accepted accounting principles were noted. Year-over-year, the district's cash balance decreased by \$2,760.00, and the outstanding loan balance is now \$166,269. The board agreed that the district remains in stable financial condition.

Dam Control and Maintenance

Chairman Leitsch referenced the bill from Randy Smith & Sons, Inc. for 2024 dam maintenance in the amount of \$4,775.00, which was previously distributed via email. The bill was greater than prior years because of increased visits to the Dam. The amount was deemed reasonable based on the number of site visits.

The board reviewed the following documents and reports:

- Annual record of flashboard operation and dam maintenance: No significant issues requiring action were noted.
- Semi-annual dam inspection reports: Reviewed with further interventions to be determined for cracks in the wingwall. Additionally, erosion at the side of the dam was noted.
- Annual engineering inspection report and revision: Reviewed, with the recommendation for tree removal performed with small trees dropped and bucked.

Additionally, it was confirmed that:

- The temporary revocable DEC permit for tree removal was utilized, and the remaining trees were successfully cut down.
- The historical water level records were reviewed in relation to storm events, and no anomalies were identified. There was discussion of the range of water height that will result in opening and closing of the flash boards.

Regulatory Activity

- NYSDEC Visual Dam Inspection Report (October 17, 2024): Reviewed with note that concrete shows signs of superficial cracking and efflorescence.
- Dam Name and DEC ID Update: The board acknowledged that the RLWPD dam has been officially renamed “Kushaqua Lake Outlet Dam,” and the correct DEC ID number is 182-1308 to align with the NYSDEC dam inventory.
- DEC Permit TRP 33-22-15654: Officially closed, with all required actions completed.

Emergency Notification Flowchart

The Emergency Notification Flowchart was reviewed and updated to correct the dam name description and ID number to align with the NYS dam inventory. An updated copy will be placed at the dam.

Review of Policies and Procedures

The board conducted its annual review of policies and procedures. Suggested revisions were discussed and will be incorporated into the official documentation.

Election of Officers

A slate of officers for 2025 was presented and unanimously approved as follows:

- Chairman: Gary Leitsch
- Secretary: Steven Samuels
- Treasurer: Peter Geertz

Public Officials Liability Insurance

The board reviewed the district's public officials liability insurance policy. The coverage limit per claim is \$1 million, and the aggregate coverage was increased to \$2 million.

Succession Planning

Commissioner Steven Samuels agreed to continue serving as a dam commissioner beyond his current term, which expires in the summer of 2025.

Old Business

- Warning Sign Installation: The warning sign at the bridge near the dam was installed.
- DEC ID Number Update: It was noted that the dam will require a revision of signage to reflect the correct DEC ID number 182-1308.

Next Meeting

The next Board of Commissioners meeting will be held on June 9, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at the Kushaqua Lake Outlet Dam.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.