

Rainbow Lake Water Protection District
Board of Commissioners Meeting
August 19, 2024

The Board of Commissioners meeting was called to order by Chairman Gary Leitsch at 9:00 a.m. at the Kushaqua Dam site. In addition to Chairman Leitsch, Commissioners present included Peter Shrope, Steven Samuels, and Peter Geertz. Also present was Steven Smith (from Randy Smith & Sons).

Board Minutes

Minutes from the meeting of the Commissioners on June 10, 2024 were unanimously approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Geertz reported from June 10, 2024, the time of the last meeting, to August 19, 2024. One bill was paid, Adirondack Daily Enterprise bill for \$18.37, leaving a balance of \$45,006.88. The bank balance was deemed reasonable to provide for future maintenance and contingencies.

Proposed RLWPD 2025 Budget

The proposed RLWPD budget for 2025 was reviewed (attached). Given that actual numbers for insurance costs were not yet available, the proposed budget may have alteration with actual versus estimated costs for insurance before it is submitted. The reserve is expected to be approximately \$22,000 in 2025.

Dam Control and Maintenance

The Commissioners walked the site of the Dam with Steve Smith. The area around the Dam where trees were cut was clear and there was access to walk freely on the berm. The Commissioners engaged Steve Smith in a question-and-answer session.

The frequency of dam inspection by the professional engineer, John Carr, was discussed. We decided to continue having John do an annual inspection with photographs for our files as this was originally an insurance requirement. Since our dam is considered low hazard, an annual inspection by a professional engineer is not a regulatory requirement.

The historical water levels recorded at the Dam since 2020 were reviewed, in light of the recent high-water event that occurred on August 10th. The "Policy and Procedures for the Operation of the Flood Boards and the Performance of Dam Maintenance" were also reviewed. This document will be formally reviewed and revised as necessary during the February meeting.

Succession Planning

Extension of Peter Shrope's term was approved by the Franklin County Legislators. There was a discussion of recruitment of future commissioners.

Status of request from the Town of Franklin to install a Dam warning sign on the bridge

There was discussion concerning the request from the Town of Franklin for a warning sign to be installed at the bridge prior to the dam. This has not yet been completed, and Peter Shrope obtained guidance as to how to proceed with installation of the warning sign by the RLWPD.

Other

There was discussion about the current liability limit on our Public Officials insurance policy. Peter Geertz will get a quote on the cost to increase our liability limit from \$1MM to \$2MM. Gary Leitsch will contact Franklin County to inquire about their recommended Public Officials insurance limit.

The next meeting will be held on February 3, 2025 at 9 a.m. at the Town of Brighton Town Hall.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steven Samuels, Secretary