

**Papakeechee Protective Association**

**LAPSI Team Meeting 2/8/13, 7:00pm**

**Minutes**

Attendees (Alphabetically): Kendall Floyd, Georganna & John Hart, Jodi & Mack Hedges, Charlotte Hill, Jan & Mark Laurent, Anthony Serianni, Virginia Surso, Diane Tulloh

Guests: Gary & Sue Dant

**Charlotte (board) – Wetlands Mitigation,**

Charlotte distributed the following documents: Army Corps of Engineers “permit to discharge fill” OK to proceed 7/20/11; IDEM Section 401 Water Quality Certification “to place fill into 0.12 acre” of wetland 4/20/2011; DNR Special Conditions regarding Application #: FW-26113 (no date), this document appears to reference another document not included here; Williams Creek Consulting Natural Resource Mitigation Monitoring Services 1/24/13.

Williams Creek consulting group is the group that developed the wetland mitigation plan. This plan included creating new wetland to replace that which was removed through the process of restructuring the levy. The new wetland area was created during the restructuring of the Levy. Williams Creek also developed a plan for ongoing maintenance and monitoring of the newly created wetland. This ongoing monitoring is required by the Army Corps. There is also an IDEM document outlines what must be done and a document from the DNR with special conditions which pretty much just repeats that of IDEM. Part of the ongoing monitoring required by IDEM is a report by every 12/31 each year. The report contains such things as vegetation, etc... Currently the board cannot locate the Williams Creek monitoring plan. Charlotte is trying to locate a copy of the plan and may have to contact Williams Creek for one.

It was suggested that perhaps the LAPSI team could perform the ongoing monitoring tasks proposed by Williams Creek rather than paying Williams Creek to do so. PPA must meet 2-3 years of criteria, and if it is met they will waive the final years up through year 5. See docs for cost of Williams Creek to monitor. (P.S. After reviewing the docs I was unable to find any cost – Kendall).

So we'll review as a group, prior to board signing any contract with Williams, and we'll let board know if we think we can successfully perform the monitoring. Need to determine by the end of the year (2013).

John added that he was also discussing this with another committee and that the levy project was wrapping up with several inspections. One concern is that performing the work as lay people could result in additional costs if we fail to meet requirements. Therefore the cost of monitoring by Williams may be small in relation with the overall cost of the project, making it worth the investment.

John added, Williams made original plan off of a pro-bono survey which ended up not being adequate and Williams had to be paid an additional amount to modify their original plan.

## Gary Dant – “our Jeremiah Johnson” per Virginia

**Nuisance Wildlife Control Operation** – most of Gary’s work consists of “in the water”. Concerns about water quality, especially when it’s hot re: blue algae. He uses traps. He brought sample traps:

- Beaver trap or “conibear” (invented by Frank Conibear) which is a body grip trap. Very specific to target animal. He also showed a smaller trap (a 110) for mink & muskrat. He said our rip rap should keep most of those animals out of the levy.
- Foot holds (for coyote). Drowning swivel for a “water set” so animal drowns quickly. Traps need “tuned”. Look for “sign” of the animal and place the trap where you think the animal will place its foot. Pans (where their foot goes) are adjustable. Extra pan testing helps avoid trapping “non-target animals. He back-files the “dog” so it has a crisp edge creating a hair setting and the trap “fires real crisp”.
- #4 double long swing. Good beaver trap. Anything larger than a #3 that doesn’t have offset jaws has to be completely covered with water by law (in Indiana). #5 – his favorite beaver trap, also works for wolf and cougar out west. He always sets for a right rear foot catch on the beaver.
- Dirt trapping – covering with a dirt pattern “dirt hole set” imitates where an animal has put its leftovers. Don’t want debris on top. Uses sifter box. Leave a triangle shape which mimics what the animal would have left. Also picks up scat (keep a clean bag in your pocket) and place so that the animal won’t step in that spot forcing him to step where you want him.
- Also showed snares.

Scents are also an important part of trapping. He carries animal urine; in this case he showed a bottle of mink urine. Also used as a cover scent to cover your scent.

It is great to make a living trapping. Helps trap nuisance beavers, especially for farmers.

Gary brought us some documents regarding clean water: Indiana Lake Management Conference applications; The conference is on 3/22 - 23 at Pokagon. He also mentioned WACF meetings and the Indiana department of fisheries out of Columbia City (260)244-6508 where Jed Pearson is the current head biologist.

He also gave us a copy of the 1977 fish and plant study by Aquatic Control from Seymour, IN. (By the end of our meeting one or two pages were missing from the end of this report.) He also shared copies of three newspaper clippings regarding the private status of Papakeechee one of which specifically stated we were “unequivocally private” and that the DNR motion arguing that point was denied.

Nate Long is from aquatic control (800-753-5253). OK to call him. They do the aquatic control on Webster Lake. (In Gary’s opinion Webster is way over-treated and there is hardly any vegetation.)

Grace college Water Quality Samples w/Locations

Mentioned mercury & PCBs when eating fish. Indiana fishing rule book has good instructions on how to clean them in a more healthy way.

Kosciusko Lakes v Steams aerial photos.

Gary is also very active in Kosciusko County 4-H Shooting sports program where he teaches pistol and archery. He shared a schedule of archery shoots, pistol shoots, shotgun shoots and added that there is a general meeting once a month. The NRA helps them out with budget. Also believes in Good Family Trust.

Fish cribs installed on Webster Lake: He spearheaded the project last January and others in July. Fish cribs are commonly used in reservoirs in which the water level changes drastically and plants can't get established. Therefore cribs are a fish habitat for small fish.

Showed topographical (topo) map of Webster adding Webster was 5 different lakes before the dam was built. Cribs need place at the thermocline (which is the comfort zone for fish). Cribs are also a good place to fish. DNR likely provided the temperature measurements.

He believes satellites can take "pictures" of a lake bottom's contour. He has a Papakeechee topo created by a local resident.

Shared a sign given to us by Lyn of the Tippecanoe river watershed. It shows aquatic plants, esp. exotic species.

Gary also stated that he would accept donations for the 4-H.

When asked about the suggestion that the DNR can divert water either toward Papakeechee or toward Webster, Gary said that any given body of water in the game reserve will only flow in one direction, either toward Webster or toward us, but the DNR can't direct it in the opposite direction.

He's seen both black and tan large cats. Maybe mountain lions/pumas/cougar. Indiana is not recognized as a mountain lion state and therefore they are not protected.

#### **Review of action items:**

#### **Lab update - Anthony**

Oven: settled on one unit. Not yet purchased.

Micropipette – has a source

pH & Temp meter – has good unit in mind, measures both pH and temp with one probe.

Secchi Disk – selected one with a graduated rope

Anthony hopes that he can get cost low enough to avoid tapping into our \$4,000. The items probably total about \$1,300. He's going to look a little more at items to be sure.

By the next meeting he will have a list of the exact items.

In summer we can do pH, turbidity, and e-Coli (w/e-Coli as priority).

Next meeting we'll start working on a schedule.

John and Tony will deal with countertops and will also target sealing the cabinets.

Student volunteers: He has one or two leads which he will pursue

Arial photo – not yet pursued (since our priority is water testing.)

### **Documentation in possession of Ron Corson – John & Georganna**

Corson has 4-5 tubs. Somebody has already dispatched multiple other tubs as garbage (lost – thrown out). He has the pertinent info in his garage, neatly organized. He said we can use his building when we get a group together. Not heated. We'll need to bring whatever equipment (scanners) we feel we need. We discussed the possibility of organizing documents "by date" and "by project".

We need to get a group together, go over there, and then make a plan. Perhaps we can have one of our meetings over there.

### **Lake mapping – John**

Has a GPS unit that he donated to the group and offered it up to somebody to get familiar with it. Potential to use to locate where we take water tests. Kendall will assess it.

The group agreed to have John ask the board at tomorrow's meeting to release funds for sounding hardware and software. Cost currently inside \$900. He has settled on Lowrance HDS5gen2 & Dr. Depth software. We agreed that we should get the version of Dr. Depth which includes bottom hardness module.

### **Accounting Software:**

PPA uses Quicken for Windows (an older version). Virginia needs something for Mac. Tony will check into getting the Quicken software for her. The son of John and Georganna is a Mac wiz and may be a resource for us.

### **Syllabus for Sustainability Class – Tony**

He sent this out to group and if we want to see specific speakers he said to contact him.

### **Fireproof Safes – Tony**

Just for the sake of conversation, an 8.5 cubic foot 2hour fire safe is \$1,200.

**Next meeting: 3/8/13. 7:00pm at Virginia's.**