

Lake Rescue Association

Board Meeting

Marty Fino's Home

May 17, 2014

Roll Call: Marty Fino, Natalie Fisher, Frank Wingate, Angi Benson-Ciufo, Mary Rita Batesole, Charlie Robinson

1. Call to Order: at 9:05 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes: Angi made a motion to approve meeting minutes of Jan 13, 2104. Charlie seconded and motion carried unanimously.

3. Treasurer's Report: Natalie made a motion to accept the report and Frank seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Report attached.

4. Old Business

a. ERG update and future plans: Charlie presented a memo regarding the grant and future plans. Charlie is recommending applying for another ERG grant and in connection with it, obtain some depth measurements on Rescue and Round Pond. (see attached memo). Frank made a motion to continue on with a new round of ERG grant with Kristen Underwood which will attempt to include depth measurements on the lakes. Natalie seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Frank made a motion to use any monies received in the ERG grants to be placed in the Rescue our Lakes funds. seconded by MR and the motion passed with all in favor.

b. Dredging odds and ends (buoys, etc.): Charlie has ordered two buoys that will go near the dredging area. Charlie will go order two additional buoys. Gary McIntrye has ordered a new large buoy.

c. Shoreline Protection H.526: It has passed both houses and is awaiting the Governor's signature. Natalie will provide a link to the state website for members who wish to read more about the law. The local planning commission will meet next Tuesday. The board is considering approaching the Planning Commission to ask that they enact rules that are functionally equivalent (no more restrictive than state rules) zoning regulations to the State H.526 bill so that the Town can be the issuing authority for permitting under these regulations. Some board members will go to the planning commission meeting to find out what they intend to do regarding the new law.

d. Milfoil program - development of volunteers, etc.: Frank reported that he has been in touch with the divers after finding one plant during dredging. They have searched the dredging area already. The lake was too murky to search other areas at this point. No plants were found.

e. Water Quality testing: Charlie reported that Lake Pauline does not have the formal water testing as we do, courtesy of the Norman's. Ann Rose is going to do this for us. The state will also perform their own water tests. Charlie reported that the water testing results from the State are in the DropBox. The board discussed septic systems around the lake and how to provide members with options for repairs, etc.

5. New Business

a. **Website Content:** Angi reminded the board that Amit Khanna is the new webmaster. Any content to be added/changed can be sent to Amit.

b. **July 4th Planning:** Angi would like permission to pay Noah Schmidt \$150.00 to handle the games and pick up and return of grill, tables, etc from Okemo. Angi has asked the landowners for permission and so far has heard back from the Mahoney's that it is okay to host the party. Board gave permission for payment to Noah.

c. **Annual Meeting:** Will be held on Saturday, August 2nd from 9 am - 12pm at the Ludlow Community Center. The Town has waived the \$50 fee for the meeting. Marie Caduto, Frank Heald, Kristen Underwood will all be invited.

Next meetings: June 21st @ 9 am; July 12 at 9 am; August 2nd is annual meeting; September 6 at 9:00 am. All meetings will be held at Marty Fino's.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Draft on ERG for Board Meeting 5/17/14:

The current grant is most recent in a series focused on studying and trying to control sediment flowing into Lakes Rescue and Pauline from upstream. Until Irene, we were really trying to find hard evidence that the influx was not simply nature taking it's inevitable course that would fill in sections of the lakes to swamps or even dry land. Primary focus was on evidence in the lakes themselves and the Buffalo brook watershed.

LRA sponsored the two corings by Dr. Lini from UVM. There was also a first ERG study by Kristen Underwood of the Buffalo Brook area. These studies supported the idea that there have been periods when man-made (or beaver-made?) events sizably increased sediment in both Round Pond and the main lake on Rescue.

There was no doubt that Rescue took massive amounts of sediment during Irene and that three – not one – watersheds contributed. The current ERG grant was therefore funded to get detailed information on all three. A post-Irene depth survey in Round Pond by ANR suggested about a foot of new sediment and the UVM report found the same when they repeated the cores in both Round Pond and Rescue. Dredging showed a more concentrated sediment increase in the Round Pond channel.

Kristen's final report will provide estimates that a total of 117,000 cubic yards of what washed out from the three watersheds. (Loaded onto dump trucks, that amount of sediment would create a bumper to bumper line 22 miles long.)

The largest single contribution was from Money Brook with Patch Brook supplying the smallest amount. There is a residual of sediment estimated at 5,000 backed up in Money brook. Since larger sized material drops out first, Amherst, then Echo undoubtedly got the most and what entered Rescue was smaller in size and amount. Finer aggregates travel the furthest, explaining why the additions in Rescue and Pauline lakes very small and easily stirred up.

Individual reports from each of the watersheds will contain recommendations for reducing sediment in all sizes of storms. However, there is no expectation that sediment can be eliminated in storms even approaching the size of Irene. In particular, Money brook will continue to release large amounts of sediment in moderate and larger storms unless there is major monetary investment.

In addition to monetary costs, reducing sediment outflow will require voluntary agreements from public and private owners in all three watersheds. So the combination of requirements suggests that improvements will be modest and slow in coming. This has long term implications for all four of the lakes and a recommendation of the current ERG will address the need for much greater and regular monitoring by the state. Currently some of the lakes receive only minimal depth monitoring in 5+ year cycles. If we don't have information about ongoing inflow of sediment, we can't plan for ways and resources to address it.

Marty, Ann and Charlie met with Kristen and Gretchen Alexander (ANR river scientist for the Black River) and tentatively agreed on content for another ERG application.

We are primarily interested in projects that

- a) focus on remediation rather than further study, and
- b) are within the likely amounts of funding available from ANR.

Projects that can't be funded this year are put on a list and considered in future years.

Here are the tentative recommendations for the ERG application which Kristen will write for us:

1. The only activity that meets the above criteria for Money brook is plantings on slope areas in the lower portion of the watershed. They will hold smaller amounts of moisture and reduce or eliminate sediment during rainstorms. Currently, the Black river turns brown after every period of rain. Kristen's time would be spent hiring, supervising and working with contractors and others to select plantings and locations.
2. There are sections on Buffalo brook where forest roads can be abandoned and some water bars inserted to divert high water and drain steep valley walls. Kristen's time would be devoted to selecting the areas, communicating with owners, hiring and supervising contractors to do the work.
3. There are two locations on Patch brook where berms can be removed to allow high water to flow onto unused land rather than into the river. Both locations require owner agreement so the activities will primarily involve developing engineering plans that can be used in owner

negotiations. Kristen's time would be spent hiring contractors for the plans and communication with owners.

In all three instances, a major responsibility for Kristen will be to monitor performance and outcomes against project goals. If experience so far is repeated, the major work for LRA will be scheduling meetings and turning in the very complicated payment requests. At the end, LRA will net something like \$7,000 for that work.