

Leland Dam Authority
Regular Session – Wednesday, January 10, 2024
Approved 2/28/2024

Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video). The video of the meeting can be found at the following link: <https://leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2625>

Call to Order:

Meeting called to Order by Leland Dam Authority Chairman Steve Christensen at 10:16 a.m. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America as dispensed with as it was previously recited at the Organizational meeting.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Chairman, Steve Christensen (Drain Commissioner)	PRESENT
	Vice-Chairman, Garth Greenan (Road Commissioner)	PRESENT
	Member, Kama Ross (District #5 Commissioner)	PRESENT
	Member, Richard Thompson (Engineer Category)	PRESENT
	Member, Drew Warner (Riparian Category)	PRESENT

Approval of Agenda / Late Additions or Deletions:

County Clerk Michelle L. Crocker stated that the minutes from December 13, 2023, are in note form and available, but suggested waiting until the next meeting to approve.

Road Commissioner Greenan suggested combining agenda items #3 Replacement Cylinder and #4 Design for Power Unit since they are closely related.

Chairman Christensen asked for a motion to remove the December 13, 2023, minutes and combine agenda items #3 and #4.

MOTION BY ROSS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS AMENDED BY REMOVING APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13, 2023, MINUTES AND COMBINING AGENDA ITEMS #3 REPLACEMENT CYLINDER AND #4 DESIGN FOR POWER UNIT. SECONDED BY GREENAN.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 5 (Ross, Thompson, Warner, Christensen, Greenan)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment (3 minutes):

None.

Action Items –

Approval of Minutes – Special Session, August 16, 2023:

Chairman Christensen suggested moving the approval of the August 16, 2023, minutes to the next meeting so they could review them again.

MOTION BY GREENAN TO MOVE APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 16, 2023, SPECIAL SESSION MINUTES TO THE NEXT MEETING. SECONDED BY ROSS AND THOMPSON.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 5 (Greenan, Ross, Thompson, Warner, Christensen)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Lake Leelanau Lake Association (Discussion):

Chairman Christensen stated that John Popa and the Lake Leelanau Lake Association have been actively looking and discussing Dam operations and lake levels and that the Dam Authority has heard from riparians about lake level over the past two years. Christensen added that they had carried a little more water last year than previous seasons and the realization that the staff gauge at the Narrows was set too low and was our check along with the setting at the Dam we eventually felt we were carrying a bit low, though Popa had been beating that drum for a while. Christensen said he appreciated Popa's input along with the Lake Association and all the riparian's input.

John Popa and Jim Wysor of the Lake Leelanau Lake Association were present before Authority Members. Wysor said that the Lake Association is here to be of assistance and to help out. They do not feel like there is anything adversarial, don't have any particular agenda, just want to be part of the discussion or assist with any policy or procedures you come up with in terms of maintenance of the Dam and levels there.

Popa said that they are part of a small Lake Association committee and they have discussed concerns that they don't think the level has been maintained as it should be. After an event it seems the level hangs in there another week afterwards, haven't had been reading the gauges all the time, though Thompson is doing that now. There is a court order to maintain the level and where, but a procedure to fine tune and a written procedure for doing that and the Lake Association can be a big help, but are ultimately not responsible for it.

Discussion continued. No action taken.

Replacement Cylinder/Design for Power Unit:

Christensen stated they have been meeting at a committee level trying to hammer out a couple of things. The cylinder concept was voted to go out for bids to get a cylinder and they came to realize there was potential for a couple different companies at work or installers at work, and could get balled up in the process. In reality we would want the company doing the design work to be involved in ordering the cylinder because the pump system and cylinder all have to work together. The conclusion was they should be going out for bids on the design of the unit and the cylinder. That is the reason they did not go out for bids on just the single cylinder.

Road Commissioner Greenan reviewed for Authority members the Hydraulic System Outline Specifications sheet he had prepared. The handout can be seen here:

https://leelanau.gov/downloads/hydraulic_system_outline.pdf

Commissioner Ross asked if this is what Don Coppins had suggested to them when he was consulted and Greenan said yes.

Christensen said there was a thought to have Coppins take a look at them though Coppins was not willing to put the specifications together due to liability. He would probably be willing to take a look at them. Another thing that Christensen said he has had come to mind is that they would have the spec sheet and go out for bids, and when we get a company awarded that we are going to need them to weigh in on what we are asking for and need to have some flexibility and listen to what the company could possibly tell us also.

Greenan said he included that whoever is awarded the bid to provide a schematic plan prior to assembly with the intent to have both cylinders operating at the same time whether they were to have one pump or the other out of service so the setup is to continue operating the way it is now with the exception is if one goes out we could be pushing one cylinder.

Christensen suggested it go back to committee level with the objective of having it tuned up to the point we could go out for bids. Then they go over this carefully with Coppins so he can give his input, and it covers any concerns.

Consensus by members that the committee will meet and work on the specs and for Christensen to contact Don Coppins to review them.

Clarification on Suggested Railing at Walkway (MMRMA):

Chairman Christensen said that Spicer has done the evaluation and stated that the walkway is solid. He would suggest that due to the hydraulics project and cost right now, that the walkway get moved to the back burner at this point.

Brief discussion continued. No action taken.

Sensors and Staff Gauges:

https://leelanau.gov/downloads/lake_sensors.pdf

Thompson said he thinks we are comfortable at this point with the number of people helping read the gauges. There are a total of four (including himself) and will try to set dates to do this once a month. He doesn't think we want to assign one volunteer to one gauge necessarily so we can keep it flexible. Thompson said they had talked before about putting all the data points out on the Lake Leelanau Lake Association website and is in favor of that, but asked if everyone is comfortable as if we have one data point that doesn't fit for whatever reason, it may pose questions. Members agreed yes, as it is all public information.

Commissioner Ross asked why this information isn't on our County website and asked about looking to have this added to that location also. Administrative Deputy Clerk Middleton spoke and said that is something she is capable of doing as far as adding that lake level link for the Lake Association to the Leland Dam page of the website.

Consensus by members that the website link to the lake levels on the Lake Leelanau Lake Association website, be added to the Leland Dam portion of the County's website.

Brief discussion continued regarding website links and possibly checking with the County's IT Director Liana Wilson and also Nancy Popa, President of the Lake Association before placing the link on the County website.

Procedures/Manual Update:

https://leelanau.gov/downloads/procedures_manual_dam_operation_settings.pdf

Road Commissioner Greenan reviewed the Leland Dam Operation and Settings handout that they have been working on with Maintenance Director Jerry Culman. This is what they are aware of as to how the Dam currently operates and has been operated. It outlines five different conditions and those conditions apply both to summer and winter with the one-foot elevation difference as we are aware. The five conditions Greenan outlined were:

1. Normal: <1" rain per 24 hours, <14 days without rainfall.
2. Rainfall Event/Snowmelt (minor): 1" to 3.2" rain per 24 hours, 1" to 10-year storm.
3. Rainfall Event/Snowmelt (major): 3.2" to 4.5" per 24 hours, 10–100-year event.
4. Rainfall Event (historic): >4.5" per 24 hours.
5. Power Outage: Prepare to use generator if lake levels warrant; Shut off valve to cylinders, switch power switch to off; If adjustment to gates is required, bring generator to dam area and connect.

Discussion continued between Authority Members.

Christensen suggested that perhaps for the next meeting Greenan could add more detail for each of those five conditions, to cover more concerns.

Warner asked if they can adopt this as preliminary procedure and change as they go along.

MOTION BY ROSS TO IDENTIFY THIS DOCUMENT AS DAM PROCEDURE DOCUMENT, DRAFT FORM, TO BE KEPT IN MOTION TO COMPLETION IN EVERY MEETING MOVING FORWARD. SECONDED BY WARNER.

Discussion – none.

AYES – 5 (Ross, Thompson, Warner, Christensen, Greenan)

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Christensen will verify with Culman that he is sharing this information with Duane Flaska of the Maintenance Staff.

Commissioner Ross would like to put something together for the next meeting to possibly be shared in the Enterprise about how the Dam Authority and Lake Association are working together to share information with the public.

Public Comment (5 minutes):

The following individuals spoke: John Popa

Commissioner Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

Move to adjourn by Commissioner Ross.

Chairman Christensen adjourned the meeting at 12:06 p.m.

Steve Christensen, Drain Commissioner
Chairman, Leland Dam Authority

Alison Middleton, Administrative Deputy Clerk for
Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk