

LELAND DAM AUTHORITY
Regular Meeting – Wednesday, June 21, 2023
Tentative minutes

Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video). The video of the meeting can be found at the following link:
<http://leelanau.gov/meetingdetails.asp?MAId=2529#handouts>

Call to Order:

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Steve Christensen at 10:04 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 Flag of the United States of America was recited, followed by a moment of silence.

<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

Staff Present: Administrator Deb Allen, Maintenance Director Jerry Culman II, and Maintenance Worker Duane Flaska.

Guests present.

Approval of Agenda / Late Additions or Deletions:

MOTION BY ROSS TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY GREENAN.

Discussion – none.

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

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Public Comment:

The following individuals spoke: John Popa.

Action Items –

Update from Cal Killen:

Cal Killen of TIA Software was present before Dam Authority members and gave a PowerPoint presentation that can be seen at the link below:

http://leelanau.gov/downloads/leelanau_dam_authority_6212023_low_res.pdf

Killen discussed the lake sensors and placement at the Dam, Narrows, and South Lake and explained that within the enclosure on each there is the current electronics and that will be swapped out with an even more current and compact type. Killen showed a sample to board members that can be sent by mail or installed by anyone if needed.

The Lake Leelanau Lake Association website captures a snapshot of the lake and sensors there and explained the plotted levels and trends of the three different sensors. Killen reviewed

calibrating sensors to a staff gauge and position of staff gauges near the sensors. He suggested not to waste any more time calibrating sensors with a surveyor until we have staff gauges closer to the sensors.

Killen commented that hydraulics/waterflow contribute to what the graphs are telling us and understanding waterflow is complicated. The court order is to measure the lake level at the Dam and maintain that level at that spot which may be inches below both north lake and more below south lake. When Culman changed the level by opening of the Dam even a little bit days ago, the water flows faster in that channel. Managing the Dam and order is tricky. Where the water is, what the court order says, and where the public want the water, it's tricky. Calibrations should be ongoing. Argument is if we don't then there is possibility of sensors moving with drifting. There needs to be a concrete way of measuring things.

Killen answered questions from Dam Authority members.

Approval of Meeting Minutes – May 31, 2023, Regular Session:

MOTION BY ROSS TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. SECONDED BY THOMPSON.

Discussion – none.

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

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion of Adjustments to Accommodate Certain Situations:

Chairman Christensen said over 40+ years Culman has had on occasion situations to address; water out of the Dam bounces boats or creates havoc downstream. Even done during the nighttime leaves the marina upstream needing to move boats. Upstream and down it is a common accommodation for boat traffic. Killen's presentation was phenomenal but even talking inches or part of inches for the water we need to gather more data.

Christensen talked to the Leland Mercantile owner a week or so ago regarding boat traffic where boats were having trouble getting in and out due the Bimini structure (canopy bundle). According to Dewitt marine, that structure can be unpinned and the boats do not need to scrape going beneath the bridge, not sure if we needed to do that or not, but the Dam is open a bit and lake and river is a bit lower and said he is still confident readings are within the court order. What adjustments for accommodations should we have and should we continue with current adjustment or go back up a certain amount. The staff gauge is going to be placed by solid survey marker in the fall and staff gauge in at the narrows is happening to help us as a group get a feel for the differences and what we are doing to make lake level appropriate.

Thompson offered clarification that the gauge under the bridge (Narrows) should be done at end of this week if weather holds.

Commissioner Ross questioned what is the process if a request is made to Culman and said she feels very strongly that there needs to be a clear process about this.

Thompson stated he understands the concern, but said he is not qualified to second guess Culman about what the needs are at the Dam.

Christensen said accommodations are more common throughout the year but especially during wet season.

Discussion continued between members and it was said that it needs to start happening that Culman bring all his information on paper and be able to get this into Flaska's head too for the future if he takes over for Culman.

Killen suggested from the audience that Glen Lake has been through this process already if someone asks for the Dam to be changed, and could show you their process.

Christensen said he is not comfortable with where we are, as it was agreed to hold more water in the system and until the staff gauge is in at the Narrows, and has questions now about gauge and sensor at the Dam. After talking to Killen about calibrating staff gauges with sensors on a regular basis, Christensen thinks we should do it at the Dam too.

Ross said Glen lake does a team of volunteers and maybe we could think about support from community and getting more data for input and a volunteer support group so that the work we do is understood and in compliance with court order.

Christensen responded and said we are public, not private like Glen Lake.

Greenan questioned photos provided by Christensen earlier which can be seen at this link: http://leelanau.gov/downloads/control_room_outside_wall_06202023.pdf

Christensen stated that the first photo with the pen pointing is the gauge inside of the control room and the other one is the staff gauge outside on the wall. Christensen stated they are currently holding within the bottom of the court order. Additional discussion between members and Culman continued regarding what level/range everyone would be comfortable. Culman said currently he has it set at 9'1".

Agreed by consensus to have Culman bring the level back up to 9'2", and continue to watch the weather, notifying Christensen if phone calls begin coming in.

Continued Review of the Leland Dam and Gauge Sites:

Christensen said he will speak on both agenda items 4a. and 4b. together.

Plans were found for the walkway at the Dam. After presenting those to the County's Building Safety Department and after review, it was determined that if open to public the walkway is not ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliant. Now we are bumping into if we keep it open to the public, how do we do that regarding ADA compliance on the Falling Waters Lodge side. Administrator Allen spoke about concerns to liability to the County. Both The Cove and Falling Waters have been notified and signs have been crafted but not put up yet saying "closed due to maintenance". Ultimately it is a Dam Authority decision. The County's insurance company MMRMA will be out within the next 30-days to take a look at the walkway and control room.

Additional discussion continued.

MOTION BY THOMPSON TO PLACE SIGNS READING “CLOSED FOR MAINTENANCE” ON THE WALKWAY OF THE LELAND DAM. SECONDED BY ROSS.

Discussion – Warner questioned the issues regarding ADA access and Christensen responded. Additional questions and discussion between members continued.

Thompson withdrew his motion and support was withdrawn.

Wording was discussed for new motion.

MOTION BY GREENAN THAT ACTION BE TAKEN ON PLACING OF LELAND DAM WALKWAY CLOSURE SIGNAGE BASED ON PENDING LEGAL OPINION. SECONDED BY THOMPSON.

Discussion – brief.

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

NO – 0

MOTION CARRIED.

Leland Dam Gauge:

Christensen questioned if they would like the surveyor to go do this too or wait on it until next meeting.

Brief discussion.

Item will be discussed at next meeting.

Staff Gauge at the Lake Leelanau Narrows:

Thompson updated that they are trying to have this done by the end of this week.

Gauge off of Birch Point Rd:

Thompson reported he had nothing additional yet other than a new marker had been put in the ground. Need to continue working with the property owner for access but seems to be very compatible and doesn't think it will be an issue.

Public Comment:

- Dawn Lund – Referenced an email she had sent to Authority Members earlier in the week (not provided). Pictures provided can be seen at the following link:

http://leelanau.gov/downloads/pc_d_lund_06212023.pdf

- John Popa.

Authority Member Comments:

None.

Adjournment:

Move to adjourn by Greenan. Seconded by Ross.

Chairman Christensen adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

Steve Christensen, Chairman
Leland Dam Authority

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