

DREDDING

Mohegan Lake District

Mohegan Lake Association
Minutes -- June 12, 1996

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Present:

David Wright (Secretary) Mohegan Colony Assn.
Denis Horbatuk Mohegan Beach Park
Toni King SOLE Beach
Hollie Foster SOLE Beach
Bob January Mohegan Highlands
Diane Ingram Mohegan Colony
Bob Connick Mohegan Lake District
Wayne Thompson (guest) Windsor Machinery
Harold Terbush (guest) Windsor Machinery

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The meeting was held at the Mohegan Colony schoolhouse and began at 8:00 p.m.

Beach Sand -- Denis reported that they are getting their sand at Clayton-Adams in Somers this year, paying about \$28.50 per yard. He noted that the white sand is more expensive and cost \$32.00 per yard. He requested information on the Sonar for distribution to other groups including Boy Scouts who have asked him about it.

Sonar - Dave reported that after the last meeting, he had filed a permit application for the Sonar with the DEC, that the permit had been approved in a record 21 days, and that the applicator, Allied Biological, had scheduled a treatment in record time, with the Sonar being applied today, June 12. The lake should not be closed again for the whole summer. He noted that we will have to do weed harvesting and there have been some problems getting the crew in shape for the summer. He will go out this Saturday morning and personally cut the weeds if necessary. Because the Sonar will kill the existing weed growth, and as it decays, it consumes oxygen, there could be a sever oxygen depletion which could cause a fishkill, unless we are able to get out and aggressively cut the weeds which are there. Ideally, Sonar should be applied in March before the weeds really start to grow. Dave will have George Edlich and Ellis King get moving on this. George Edlich will have primary responsibility and Ellis will work as available. Bob Connick will assist when he gets through school.

Boathouse roof -- Dave requested authority to hire a contractor to repair the collapsed boathouse roof. Someone apparently broke in and stole all of our tools and equipment during the winter and the condition must be corrected. It was estimated the cost to be about \$2,500, but we will get at least three bids

from local contractors before having it worked on. Bob noted that it might make sense just to have a chain link roof over the weed harvester, since a fancy enclosed roof probably is not necessary for this outdoor piece of machinery. This was agreed, except that there should be some roofing over the harvester itself, especially the engine which might rust. A list of local contractors were provided and we will contact each of the seven of them to see if they are interested in bidding on the job. Dave will consult with Bob as to a suitable plan for the work.

Fish netting -- Dave met with Fugro East, the same firm as Ken Wagner currently works for. For some years now, we have been looking at netting the undesirable fish, such as small sunnies, bluegills and similar type "panfish" which feed on the zooplankton, thereby depleting the population and discouraging a natural reduction in algae. We know from prior fish surveys that we have an overabundance of panfish, perhaps 100 times as many that should be in the food chain in this lake. Accordingly, if we could remove some of that level of the food chain, we might actually help the lake naturally improve itself. There was general agreement that this was a good idea, but Bob Connick noted he had gotten catalogs for nets and that we might be able to do the job much cheaper and suggested that he and Dave consult and decide what to do before issuing a contract to an outside vendor. This was agreed and will be followed up. There was also discussion of possibly having a contest where local kids could catch the sunnies and other small panfish and receive a nickel a piece for turning in the fish, which we would then turn over to Charlie Miller at Mohegan Sportsman. This would bring people down to the lake, and get rid of some of our problem less expensively, and keep the money in the community also. We will follow up on this after Lake Day. This will be one of Bob Connick's jobs for the summer.

Fertilizer -- Dave noted that one ton of lake-friendly fertilizer had been purchased and provided to Whispering Pine Nursery, and there had been extensive publicity for the fertilizer. Unfortunately, it appears Whispering Pine, although having been given the fertilizer free, is now charging \$20 a bag for it. Bob January was asked to contact them and let them know this is not what we contemplated, and the fertilizer should sell for a maximum of \$15.00. Bob will also find out the status of how many bags have been sold and report back to us.

Sewers -- It was reported that Val Santucci has taken out construction mortgages for the work for his subdivision on the east side of the lake. This is probably the best evidence that we will see construction began on this project this summer. Denis reported that he had been told by the Town Engineer that Santucci was going to break ground on the main line down Mohegan Ave. between his project and Dale St. where the pump station will be located, this summer. Denis also reported that Santucci has cleared a path from his subdivision all the way of to Ivy Road. He seems to be moving

ahead rapidly. Denis also reported that the Town Engineer believes they will break ground on the west side sewer project this summer. Both projects have been approved by the Town.

Dredging -- Dave reported that he had met with the guests a few weeks ago, and that they might be able to more efficiently and inexpensively dredge our lake over a period of years. It would be very difficult to bond this project although the total cost will probably be \$ 3 million or more. With our given budget, we can't afford anything like this, particularly since we just approved two new multi-million dollar sewer projects in the area. There was concern expressed by all that we do not want to raise taxes and that a substantial bond issue would probably be inappropriate at this time. Wayne and Harold introduced themselves. They have a business in Hopewell Junction and are currently in the process of dredging Wappingers Lake. Although they have limited experience in dredging, they have acquired this dredge and they do have a multi-million dollar contract to dredge Wappingers Lake in the summer of 1997. They handled all of the permit process, and believed they could get a permit for Lake Mohegan also. They spent approximately two hours surveying the lake, possible detention areas with Dave just before the meeting. They noted that the dredge is a hydraulic pontoon boat which takes the dredged materials and can pump them a mile or more from the dredging area through an 8 inch pipe. Their concept was a willing to work with us on the basis on the cost of the delivery of the dredge, set-up, removal of the dredge, and then charging for the actual hours of operation of the machine. If we have more money in a given year, we can dredge more; with less money we dredge less. The disadvantage of this type of program is that the dredging will cost much more for every yard of material removed, because much of the cost is the creation of the detention area itself. The detention areas which were considered include the following:

1. New Chalet Condominiums -- the Phase II area is about 15 acres and seems to be a prime location.
2. Tall Timbers -- this is another 15 - 25 acres, but has the disadvantage of being farther from the lake. The advantage is that we could probably talk the Town into tying it up for a few years, and if we get a booster pump, we could simply install the 8 inch pipe under the ground and each year come and dredge it after the one shot initial expenditure of creating the detention area and installing the pipe.
3. The Holland Club Property -- This appears very undesirable, since the only level ground is heavily treed.
4. Section III Beach Area -- while this is close to

the lake, and might serve as a small detention area for dredging that immediate area, it is unlikely it could be useful because it is far too small.

5. Mohegan Colony Ballfield -- it is possible, that when we dredge the south end, if we do it in September or October of the year, we could talk Mohegan Colony into allowing a temporary use of their ballfield as a detention area. The dredged materials could be put there, to a depth of several feet, and removed via truck. Then, in the spring, the ground could be completely restored and replanted to be far better than it currently is.
6. Nabby Day Camp -- the same idea as Mohegan Colony, using it in the fall and winter as a detention area, and then reseeding and replanting it before the spring.

Wayne and Harold reported that you can detain approximately 1,500 cubic yards per acre foot of detention area. Because the hydraulic hedge pumps so much material so quickly, it is the size of your detention area which limits your ability to dredge -- and directly impacts on cost. Thus, for a 15 acre detention area at New Chalet, we could probably deposit 20,500 cubic yards of dredged materials. Assuming the dredge can produce 50 yards per hour of materials, this would be about 400 hours of operation or about 2 months work.

The dredge requires not only an operator but a second person at the pipe so that if the detention area fills up or if there is some kind of problem, he can communicate via walky-talky with the dredge operator to turn it off. Also, it is desirable to have at least one and preferably two people on the shore to move the cables which help keep the dredge in a stationary position. The dredge has two cables attached to the shore and also two "legs" by which it walks along and dredges a sloth about 30 feet wide.

There was discussion of the cost of doing this. They estimated, as a "ballpark" figure, that 150,000 cubic yards could be dredged from the lake at a cost of about \$600,000. This would certainly take care of the filling in of the north end, and would allow it to be dredged to a depth of 3 - 6 feet beyond where it is now, which is anywhere from 18 inches to 3 feet. They noted that the cost of a booster pump would add about 30% to the price. The price of \$4.00 per cubic yard is certainly much lower than we had expected. Although initially, the books which we referenced, including "Diet For A Small Lake" refer to the cost of dredging as being anywhere from \$1.00 to \$10.00 per cubic yard, in fact, we have heard numbers more in the range of \$10 - \$30 per cubic yard. Thus, we expected that to dredge about 1,000 yards a year would cost about \$25,000 or something in that range. It sounds like, if

we are able to set up the New Chalet detention area, and project the ability to take our 22,500 cubic yards, we may actually be able to feasibly accomplish this and it would have at least some impact on the north end dredging, although it would certainly use up our budget for a year or two.

Diane questioned whether the whole lake could be dredged, or whether we were limited to a specific area. Harold felt that given our physical situation, it would make sense to dredge a specific area, so that we could at least accomplish one task. Then, as funds become available, focus on the next area. Wayne noted, however, it is better to get a permit for a larger area, and then do it in phases, seeking annual modifications of an existing permit. It is always better to modify a permit rather than to seek a complete new permit. Toni questioned how deep we could dredge the north end, only taking out 22,500 cubic yards, if in fact we can even do that. Dave estimated this would allow for the entire area to be about 6 feet deep, although others disagreed with the arithmetic and suggested it was more like 3 feet. Wayne noted that they have to stay away from the shore if you are adjacent to a state wetlands, but otherwise the mechanics of the dredge allow you to go right up to the shore generally. Obviously, they would stay away from the swimming beach areas, so as not to take away the beach sand. Bob asked repeatedly what the cost would be for the smaller scale project. Harold reported that it cannot be stated accurately, but that they would give us a written statement setting forth the cost of delivering it (which takes about 3 days including set-up), and the cost of taking it away. Then, with an estimate of the cost of hourly operation, we can decide how much we can afford within our budget. One estimate was \$400 per hour for the use of the dredge and four-man crew. Dave had previously asked them for some type of quote which would be close to \$500 per day and this doesn't sound like it, although we will have further discussions. They will also give us an hourly rate with an operator and two laborers.

Wayne noted that he had gotten a permit for the Wappingers dredging and that the most important aspect is the detention area. He will give us a proposal which provides for their applying for an getting the permit for us, and then perhaps having guaranteed work on the site for say, three years.

Dave noted that if we bonded the 150,000 cubic yard job which is really what the north end needs, over a 20 year bond issue, this would cost about \$20 - \$30 per household per year in additional taxes. By itself, this would be worthwhile, except for the fact that we have several other areas to dredge also. We simply cannot wait 20 years to dredge the south end, the area behind the island, and the New Chalet inlet, for example. Rather than doing one area of six-foot deep dredging, it may be necessary to simply do three for now, and take "half a loaf" as being all we can afford.

Wayne suggested that we could get 50-year financing at either low interest or perhaps 3 to 4% a year interest through the State of New York. They will explore will Dave possible alternative finding sources and the economics of a lakewide dredging project funded by a 50 year bond issue. Certainly the benefit of the improvement to the lake from the dredging will be far more than 50 years, so if we can get it for little or no interest, it might make sense to at least consider it as a scenario. However, given the extreme tax burden already suffered by the local residents, it is unlikely that this will be received well by the community or by the two town boards which will need to approve it.

The meeting concluded at 10:30 pm. The next meeting will be held at the Mohegan Colony Schoolhouse, Wednesday, July 10, 1996 at 8:00 pm. Members are reminded that Lake Day is June 23 and everyone is invited to the campout Saturday night, June 22. Rain date, the following weekend.

David Wright, Secretary