



Schaefer Lake Newsletter

April 2021

www.slloa.com



The northern third of Schaefer Lake, roughly from the Gilliland property in the left foreground to the County Road 900 East bridge, is being targeted for a dredging project being considered by the Schaefer Lake Lot Owners Association board of directors. Informational meetings are planned for this summer, followed by an expected vote of property owners. (Tom Jekel)

2021 budget, dues approved

Lot owners learn more details on biggest lake projects

The view of Schaefer Lake from the County Road 900 East bridge (right) was when levels were low on Feb. 23, 2020, showing an under-the-surface island of silt in the shallow end of the lake. (Tom Jekel)

Spillway revamp, dredging both possible this year

A majority of Schaefer Lake property owners voted to approve the proposed 2021 budget of \$161,100 in expenses and a second year of \$1,000 annual dues in ballots counted during the March 23 annual meeting at the Hawcreek Conservation Club.

From a combination of proxies submitted ahead of time and other votes cast in person at the annual meeting of the Schaefer Lake Lot Owners Association, the budget passed 48-7 and the proposed dues were approved 47-8, with the participating 55 property owners exceeding the 52-lot quorum needed to conduct business.

The biggest expense in the budget is \$125,000 for an emergency spillway improvement suggested by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

The Schaefer Lake emergency spillway was constructed in 2004 to limit damage to lake properties during a historic flood, which occurred four years later when water topped the dam and the spillway's nearby earthen embankment. The DNR felt changing the top layer of the embankment from grass to gravel would lessen potential flood damage in the future, board secretary Scott Towsley explained to lot owners.

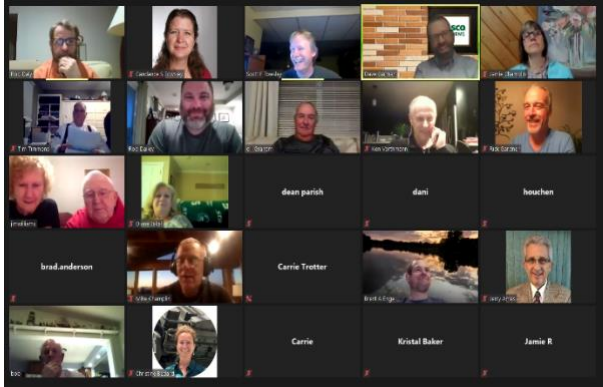
When undertaken in late summer or early fall, the two-week project is designed to improve the reliability of activation of the emergency spillway fuse plug under flood conditions, he said.

While budgeted for \$125,000, the actual cost of the project – which would require lake levels to temporarily be dropped 1 or 2 feet -- could be as low as \$51,730 as an excavation bid came in well below estimates, Towsley said. Percival Construction submitted a bid of \$20,030 for that part of the project. Engineering fees for Burke Engineering are expected to be \$31,700. If those numbers hold, the difference between the spillway project's budgeted and actual amounts could be applied to the lake association's long-range fund, where monies are being held for a planned lake dredging, he said.

Details about the budget and the spillway and dredging projects were shared during a March 9 informational meeting conducted via Zoom as well as during the in-person March 23 annual meeting.

Dredging, last done at Schaefer Lake more than three decades ago in 1989, has been discussed regularly during SLLOA board meetings and annual meetings in recent years.





Some participants in the March 9 Zoom informational meeting are pictured at left. (Candy Towsley)

The dredging proposal by Heartland Dredging, the SLLOA board's preferred vendor, would remove 5 to 7 feet of silt that has accumulated on the bottom of the northern third of the lake. While some parts of the lake are as shallow as 1 foot deep, going forward on the project would result in water that is 6 to 8 feet deep in the dredging area – from the shallow end of the lake at the County Road 900 East bridge toward the middle of the lake in the vicinity

of Bob and Sandy Gilliland's property, board vice president Brent Engel explained. Water that is at least 4 feet of depth is needed for a healthy fish habitat, he said.

If the dredging project moves forward this year after a series of informational meetings this summer, Heartland Dredging has offered an 18 to 20 percent discount for Schaefer Lake lot owners, Engel said.

At least 50,000 cubic yards of silt would be removed at an estimated cost of \$600,000 – give or take \$50,000 either way, Engel said. That price is based on what it would cost to pump the silt through pipes onto an unspecified Duck Creek upstream property that would spread the material three feet deep over 10 acres of land, he said.

Tapping into some long-range reserve funds already held by the SLLOA, the necessary new income from a special one-time assessment would range from \$3,500 to \$5,000 per lot, far less than a potential \$15,000 assessment per lot that has been discussed previously – with the higher estimate based in part on the cost of trucking silt to a site away from the water, Engel said.

The lower dredging costs are possible since several property owners along Duck Creek and outside the floodplain have expressed a willingness – with financial compensation -- to provide land for silt to be spread, eliminating the need for trucking which can double or triple the amount, Engel said.

The silt would be pumped into a berm and later leveled with the land returned to a tillable property, as it was in 1989, he explained.

Treasurer Rob Daly said the board conducted a 10- to 15-year projection of the association's cash flow and concluded that a reserve of \$175,000 to \$200,000 would be adequate, compared to the current reserve of about \$400,000. These financial assumptions included no change in the current \$1,000 annual association fees.

Some of the excess reserve could be dedicated to the dredging project, Daly said.

The current level of income coming from property owner dues will provide \$450 to \$500 per lot to be used to pay for future dredging, which could be needed in another 8 years or so, board officers said.

More specifics on the dredging project – including financing options -- will become available during a series of summer information meetings. Support of 60 percent of the lake lot owners would be required for the dredging project to go forward.

Thinking of taking your pet out for a spring spin around Schaefer Lake? Pay your dues and submit boat registration first.

Invoices, boat registration due

Mailings have gone out to lot owners with an invoice for \$1,000 in dues for 2021 and the SLLOA watercraft registration form.

All lot owners in good standing – defined as being up-to-date with past and current annual membership dues – may register their powered watercraft for this season.

If information on your boat registration has not changed, the forms allow you to check “no change,” which means just signing and submitting the form.

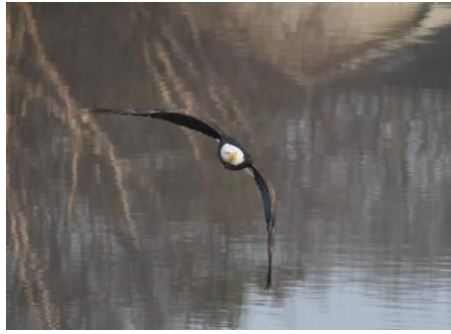
Payment of dues by April 30 and submission of your watercraft form can be made one of two ways:

- By mail to SLLOA, PO Box 41, Hope, IN 47246
- Hand-delivering your material to any 2021 board member, who will be able to provide your 2021 ramp-access key and boat sticker.



Where do I find the cows?

You would think that tourism officials or Paul Ashbrook himself had put out wayfaring signs for Hope Ride bicyclists looking for help locating cows along East Lakeshore Drive South during the fall event. But no, these are just the county-provided signs warning motorists of the curve across from the Jerry and Kathy Mellis residence. (Tom Jekel)



Lake resident and amateur photographer Jamie Champlin took these photos of one of our Schaefer Lake bald eagles while looking out the sunroom picture window of her from her home on March 9. She is among several lake residents who enjoy photographing the eagles.

Majestic imagery

Schaefer Lake resident Jamie Champlin doesn't really consider herself a photographer, having gotten her first camera only 10 years ago. But the Michigan native has had great success shooting nature photos on or near the lake since she and husband Mike moved here in December 2013.

Her newest camera, a Nikon D3500 SLR (single lens reflex) digital camera with a 300 mm telephoto lens that has a zoom feature, has allowed Champlin to take great photos of Schaefer Lake nature – especially the bald eagles that frequent our area.

Among her best photos are these of a bald eagle taken the morning of March 9 through the picture window of her sunroom facing west and overlooking the lake.

She has also seen and photographed eagles while kayaking on Duck Creek below the County Road 900 bridge, when she switches to her lighter, older Canon OptiZoom camera.

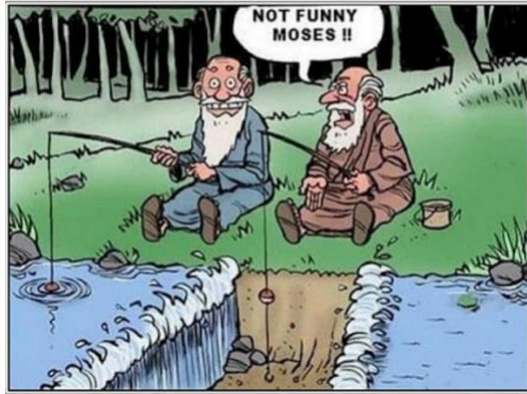
“I see them often down the creek sitting in trees. A lot of time I just see them flying by. We probably have 3-4 eagles that frequent the lake,” Champlin said.

Best time to photograph? She frequently spots bald eagles in the vicinity of Schaefer Lake between 7 and 9 a.m.

“I always get excited seeing them,” Champlin said of the eagles, while also enjoying the lake's resident heron and geese. “I just like to take pictures. I'm always looking.”

OFF THE DEEP END

.....The lighter side of Lake living



By Mike Champlin

Healthy Living Recipe

By Shannon Dailey

Spring makes me hungry for quiche. I could seriously eat quiche for every meal.

Spinach Mushroom Bacon Feta Cheese Quiche

- 1 pie crust (buy them pre-made or make your own)
- 4 beaten eggs
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 3/4 cup ham or bacon
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheese
- 1/4 frozen spinach (de-thawed, drained and chopped finely), or fresh chopped spinach
- 1/2 cup fresh mushrooms, chopped finely
- 1/4 cup feta cheese

Line a 9-inch pie pan with crust. Crimp edge. Line unpicked crust with double thickness foil (sprayed with cooking spray so it doesn't stick). Bake at 450 degrees for 8 minutes. Remove foil. Bake 4-5 minutes or until pastry is set and dry. Reduce temperature to 325.

Meanwhile, in a medium bowl, stir together eggs, milk, salt and pepper. Stir in ham or bacon, spinach, feta cheese and mushrooms. Add cheese and mix well. Pour egg mixture into hot, baked pie crust. Bake in the 325-degree oven for 40-45 minutes or until knife inserted near center comes out clean. Let stand 10 minutes before serving.



Minutes of recent board discussions, actions

SLLOA Board Meeting

7 p.m. Sept. 23, 2020

In attendance: Rob Dailey, Rob Daly, Dean Parish, Jennifer Hellmich, Scott Towsley, Brad Anderson

Police searching area lakes during investigation

Local law enforcement agencies have contacted the Schaefer Lake Lot Owners Association board and will be conducting a sonar search of the lake as part of an ongoing investigation. Schaefer is one of eight lakes in the area being searched as part of this investigation.

Residents may notice police cars and remote-controlled boat on the lake.

August 2020 minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report & Financial Update (Diane Jekel)

- Late notices were sent out for two lots with outstanding balances. Currently, there is \$6,000 outstanding for 2020 dues, representing 7 lots (some lots have paid partial thus far).
- Will be sending a second late notice. If balance is not paid in full by Nov. 1, then a lien will be placed on the property Nov. 2.
- P&L report will be sent out electronically Sept. 24

Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)

- Jeremiah Percival provided a verbal quote of about \$19,500. He will be providing a written formal quote soon. Next step after receipt of the quote is to approach Burke Engineering to gain concurrence to use Jeremiah for construction of the emergency spillway. Scott to follow up with Jeremiah.

Update on Dredging (Brent Engel)

- Brent working with property owners on understanding their terms and conditions.
- Brent to approach Heartland Dredging to get a hard quote for the two dump sites.
- Next steps: Collect and review of the project material then review with the board; preparation of general information meeting material; bylaws specify an expense of this type needs two information meetings; annual meeting in March will be one of the information meetings; vote on the project will be post-general membership meeting.

Directories (Scott Towsley)

- Directories have been printed.
- Board members will distribute the directories to the houses near their own.

Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Kim Parrish to reach out to Candy Towsley to prepare for the new owners of the Lewis' house.

Dam Maintenance (Anthony Paul)

- LOA boat ramp will be seal-coated Sept. 30. Ramp should not be used until Oct. 2.
- Brent will post an announcement on Facebook.

Annual Tasks Due

- Secretary to send membership meeting results to legal (Scott)
- Update Website with new board, board officers (Candy)
- Update Emergency Action Plan: Further updates needed for new board members, reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations.

Action items Updates:

- Follow up on welcome committee lake coasters (Candy)
- Need to deliver koozies to new welcome committee.
- Bylaw and covenants committee: In revision work to be done, need to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will probably need legal review). Need to look through plats at courthouse for covenants.
- Follow up on LOA park on hold for LLC. Make an action item to resolve a plan with Chuck Lovelace and long-term plan for the "park lot."
- New siphon pump: Add the communication about when the 2-foot drawdown pipe is opened into the annual task list.

- Updated Rules and Regulations: All to look at their respective records for the latest version. Jen sent them after the last meeting. Scott to check with Candy on whether the latest Rules and Regulations are posted on the website. If not, then put the latest on the website.

Walk In's

- There was a car racing through the neighborhood. Discussion topic on how we increase the number of speed limit signs. There is a petition process for the county. This information will be shared with the lot owner to see if they want to petition the county.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Oct. 20, 2020 at Brad Anderson's house.

SLLOA Board Meeting

7 p.m. Oct. 27, 2020

In attendance: Rob Dailey, Rob Daly, Brent Engel, Jennifer Hellmich, Brad Anderson, Scott Towsley, Diane Jekel, Anthony Paul

September minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Update (Diane Jekel)

- Investigated how to apply liens on the lots, concluding that it was better for association attorney to apply the liens.
- Diane Jekel submitted her resignation as treasurer, accepted by the board.
- Rob Daly was nominated and elected to become the new treasurer effective immediately. Diane will remain on the board.
- Diane to send out the latest title company correspondence to Rob Dailey and Rob Daly as an example of a frequent activity she, as treasurer, has had to do. Title companies often contact her as houses sell, needing the current status of the lot in question.

Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)

- Received the quote from Jeremiah Percival
- Review plan with Burke Engineering

Update on Dredging (Brent Engel)

- Next steps: Collect and review of the project material then review with the board; preparation of general information meeting material; bylaws specify an expense of this type needs two information meetings; annual meeting in March will be one of the information meetings; vote on the project will be post-general membership meeting.
- Brent has connected with a property owner about furthering the conversation about putting the removed material on their property.
- Heartland Dredging backlog looks light. They could start in 2021 based on current business.

Directories (Scott Towsley)

- Board members will distribute the directories to the houses near their own.

Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Kim to reach out to Candy to prepare for the new owners of the Lewis' house

Annual Tasks

- Secretary to send membership meeting results to legal (Scott)
- Update Website with new board members, officers (completed by Candy)

Update Emergency Action Plan (Scott)

- Further updates needed for new board members, reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations.

Action items Updates:

- Follow up on welcome committee coasters, given to Susan Brown (Candy)
- Need to deliver cozies to new welcome committee given to Susan Brown
- Bylaw and convents committee (Rob Daly, transitioning to Brad Anderson). In the revision work to be done, need to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will probably need legal review). Need to look through plats at courthouse for covenants.
- Follow up on LOA park (on hold for LLC); make an action item to resolve a plan with Chuck Lovelace and long-term plan for the “park lot.”
- New siphon pump completed.
- Communication about when the 2-foot drawdown pipe is opened added to annual task list
- Updated Rules and Regulations: All to look at their respective records for the latest version. Jen sent them after the last meeting. Scott to check with Candy on whether the latest Rules and Regulations are posted on the website. If they are not, then put the latest on the website.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Nov. 18, 2020 at Brad Anderson’s house unless with Zoom.

SLLOA Board Meeting

7 p.m. Nov. 18, 2020

In attendance: Rob Dailey, Rob Daly, Diane Jekel, Scott Towsley, Brent Engel, Jennifer Hellmich, Dean Parish

October minutes approved.

Treasurer’s Report and Financial Update (Rob Daly/Diane Jekel)

- Diane to send out the latest title company correspondence to Rob Daily and Rob Daly as an example of a frequent activity the treasurer has to do. Often title companies contact her as houses sell, needing the current status of the lot in question.
- Balance sheet and P&L was sent by Diane via email. Board reviewed the material and approved.
- 2.5 outstanding lots to pay annual dues (2 lots owe entire amount, half payment due from another). Rob Dailey will connect with SLLOA lawyer to send a last notice to the 3 lot owners who have not yet paid all of their dues.
- Amount SLLOA has paid to Burke Engineering: 2018, \$6,739; 2019, \$9,955; 2020, \$3,769.
- Rob Daly asked to move the SLLOA bank account at German American to a corporate account. This will allow for multiple people to have secure and independent access to the accounts. All agreed.

Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)

- Received quote from Jeremiah Percival (\$20,030, with 50% due upon signing of contract)
- Held discussion with Burke Engineering on SLLOA soliciting an independent quote on the emergency spillway project. Conversation went well with Burke on this topic. They understood that this quote is significantly lower than the quote they had collected, which is why SLLOA is interested in pursuing. As part of the conversation, Scott shared with Burke the statement of work for the bid and the quote to enable Burke to understand the level of information shared with Jeremiah Percival.

- Scott is arranging a meeting with Burke and Jeremiah Percival for Burke to become comfortable with their ability to perform the work.

Update on Dredging (Brent)

- Next steps: Collect and review of the project material then review with the board; preparation of general information meeting material; bylaws specify an expense of this type needs two information meetings; annual meeting in March will be one of the information meetings; vote on the project will be post-general membership meeting.
- Brent has connected with a property owner about furthering the conversation about putting the removed material on their property.
- Heartland backlog looks light. They could start in 2021 based on current business.
- Brent met with property owner. Owner's concern is they do not want the dumping of the silt on their property to make it unusable.
- Have not been able to connect with the other property owner. Looking to connect with them within the next few months.
- Plan to refresh the quote with Heartland Dredging.

Directories (Scott Towsley)

- Deliveries have been completed.

Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Kim to reach out to Candy to prepare for the new owners of the Lewis' house.

Dam Maintenance (Anthony Paul)

- Status of 1-foot-diameter siphon pipe?
- Pump is in the storage building and hoses are to be picked up. Anthony to assemble the pump piece and get the siphon functional.

Annual Tasks Due

- Secretary to send membership meeting results to legal (Scott)
- Further updates of Emergency Action Plan needed for new board members; reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations.

Action Items Updates

- Bylaw and covenants committee needs to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk, which will probably need legal review. Need to look through plats at courthouse for covenants.
- Follow up on LOA park on hold for LLC. Make an action item to resolve a plan with Chuck Lovelace and long-term plan for the "park lot."
- Updated Rules and Regulations completed. Latest Rules and Regulations posted on the website.

Walk In's

- Resident complained about wake surfing and the large wake it creates. Since this is a private lake, lot owner is responsible for their own shoreline and boats. Board discussed and came to the same conclusion as last year.
- Discussed options for general membership meeting with respect to the current and projected COVID situation. Zoom can be used as the platform; people who do not have a computer can call in via phone. Board could also send the PPT with the membership mailing. Rob Dailey will check on legal aspect of collecting proxies.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Dec 16 at Brad Anderson's house unless with Zoom.

SLLOA Board Meeting Minutes

7 p.m. Dec. 16, 2020

In attendance: Rob Dailey, Rob Daly, Brent Engel, Jennifer Hellmich, Brad Anderson, Scott Towsley, Diane Jekel, Dean Parish, Anthony Paul

November meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Update (Rob Daly/Diane Jekel)

- Balance sheet and P&L was sent by Diane via email. Board reviewed and approved.
- 2.5 outstanding lots (2 owe entire amount, half payment owed from another) to pay their dues. Rob Dailey will connect with SLLOA lawyer to send a last notice to the 3 lot owners who have not yet paid all their dues.
- SLLOA bank account at German American changed to a corporate account, allowing for multiple people to have secure and independent access to the accounts.
- Board members to review the P/L file sent from Rob Daly and provide input on 2021 budget by next meeting. Email Rob Daly with additions
- Registering with the Secretary of State completed

Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)

- Received quote from Jeremiah (\$20,030 with 50 percent due upon signing of the contract).
- Second quote requested independent from Jeremiah.
- Review discussion with Burke: Scott is arranging a meeting with Burke and Jeremiah Percival for Burke to become comfortable with their ability to perform the work. Scott and Jeff Fox of Burke Engineering have met several times over the course of the last month on the direction of the emergency spillway. Overall, SLLOA and Burke are aligned with the current proposal. Burke is OK with Percival Excavating performing the work. Burke spoke with DNR on the proposal, with no issues to report on. Scott and Jeff Fox to meet in early January on finalizing the proposal to be presented to the DNR which would include the design and modified cross section of the emergency spillway to address their concerns. Also, the selection of a contractor and proposed implementation timeline will be a part of the material. Meeting with the DNR in late January on the finalized proposal to get alignment with all parties (DNR, SLLOA, Burke) on the schedule. Burke to submit the permitting letter to the DNR in February. Scott has asked for an additional quote on the emergency spillway. Was anticipated the quote Dec 11, but it has not arrived. He will follow-up with the company. Proposed construction timing is late September or October 2021

Update on Dredging (Brent Engel)

- Next steps: Collect and review of the project material then review with the board; preparation of general information meeting material; bylaws specify an expense of this type needs two information meetings; annual meeting in March will be one of the information meetings; vote on the project will be post-general membership meeting.

- Brent has connected with property owner about furthering the conversation about putting the removed material on their property. Heartland backlog looks light. They could start in 2021 based on current business.
- Have not been able to connect with the other property owner. Looking to connect with them within the next few months.
- Brent has connected with Heartland dredging and requested them to refresh the quote. Heartland will be coming to the lake in January to see the dump locations.

Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Kim to reach out to Candy to prepare for the new owners of the Lewis' house.

Dam Maintenance (Anthony Paul)

- Is 1-foot diameter siphon pipe status operational?
- Pump is the storage building and hoses are to be picked up. Anthony to assemble the pump piece and get the siphon functional.

Annual Tasks Due

- Secretary to send membership meeting results to legal.
- Update Emergency Action Plan: Further updates needed for new board members, reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations.

Action items Updates

- Bylaw and covenants committee: In revision work to be done, need to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will probably need legal review). Need to look through plats at courthouse for covenants.
- Follow up on LOA park on hold for LLC. Make an action item to resolve a plan with Chuck Lovelace and long-term plan for the "park lot."

Walk In's

- Discussion of what to do with the general membership meeting with respect to the current and projected COVID situation. Zoom can be used as the platform and people who do not have a computer can call in via phone. Board could also send the PPT with the membership mailing. Rob Dailey will ask about the legal aspect of collecting the proxies. In annual meeting preparation, will use previous 2020 meeting PPT as a baseline. Brent to update the dredging material. Also, a separate handout with specific dredging updates will include financial options. Rob Daly to reach out to German American Bank for options. Brent to touch base with Poplar Bank. Scott to update the emergency spillway. Board to send out a letter informing the membership that the meeting will be held virtually. Brent and Scott to investigate a voting mechanism within Zoom. Backup is by proxy. Provide a 2-week grace period after the meeting for people to send in their proxy via mail.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Jan 18, 2021 via Zoom.

SLLOA Board Meeting Minutes

7 p.m. Jan 18, 2021

In attendance: Rob Dailey, Rob Daly, Brent Engel, Jennifer Hellmich, Scott Towsley,

Diane Jekel, Dean Parish, Anthony Paul

December meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Update (Rob Daly/Diane Jekel)

- Discussion on SLLOA storage location previously owned by Shaton's. The owner passed away a few years ago. Since then, SLLOA has not been billed for the storage. Should we move?
- Discussion of 2021 Budget: Board members to review the P/L file sent from Rob Daly and provide input on budget, needed by next meeting. Email Rob Daly with additions. 2021 budget proposal will be reviewed live.
- Reminder on late-fee application: If the lot owner reaches out to the board on outstanding balance and an agreed-upon payment solution is found, then late fees will be waived.
- 2021 Dues will be \$1,000/lot, same as in 2020.

Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)

- Received the quote from Jeremiah (\$20,030, 50 percent due upon signing of the contract).
- Second quote requested independent from Jeremiah.
- Review discussion with Burke: Scott and Jeff Fox to meet in early January on finalizing the proposal to be presented to the DNR, which would include the design and modified cross section of the emergency spillway to address their concerns. Also, the selection of a contractor and proposed implementation timeline will be a part of the material. Meeting with the DNR in late January on the finalized proposal to get alignment with all parties (DNR, SLLOA, Burke) on the schedule. Burke to submit the permitting letter to the DNR in February. Proposed construction timing late September or October 2021.

Update on Dredging (Brent Engel)

- Next steps: Collect and review of the project material then review with the board; preparation of general information meeting material; bylaws specify an expense of this type needs two information meetings; annual meeting in March will be one of the information meetings; vote on the project will be post-general membership meeting.
- Brent has connected with property owner about furthering the conversation about putting the removed material on their property. Heartland backlog looks light. They could start in 2021 based on current business. Have not been able to connect with the other property owner. Looking to connect with them within the next few months.
- Brent has connected with Heartland Dredging and requested them to refresh the quote. Heartland will be coming to the lake in January to see the dump locations.
- Heartland Quote: \$553,000 for 50,000 cubic yards (northern third of the lake).

Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Kim to reach out to Candy to prepare for the new owners of the Lewis' house.
- Budget for welcome committee: See 2021 proposed budget
- Gift card for lot 91 for congrats on the new baby: Gifts for babies, \$0; bereavement, card; Welcome basket, \$25/lot.

Dam Maintenance (Anthony Paul)

- 1-foot diameter siphon pipe status operational?
- Pump is in the storage building and hoses are with Scott Taylor: Action Item for Anthony to assemble the pump piece and get the siphon functional.

Annual Tasks Due

- Secretary to send membership meeting results to legal.
- Update Emergency Action Plan for new board members, reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations.
- Lake Treatment contract
- Social committee plan for 2021, incorporate into 2021 budget as necessary.
- Welcome Committee plan for 2021, incorporate into 2021 budget as necessary.

Action items Updates:

- By-law and covenants committee, add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will probably need legal review). Need to look through plats at courthouse for covenants.
- Follow up on LOA park on hold for LLC. Make an action item to resolve a plan with Chuck Lovelace and long-term plan for the “park lot.”

Annual meeting

- Meeting materials must be mailed 21 days before meeting date
- Time window for general membership meeting from bylaws is: January or 90 days after the first Sunday in January, which is April 3. Proposed date is week of March 22 (Tuesday, March 23 then makeup meeting on March 25). Need all material ready for 21-day mailing by Feb. 28.
- Brent to post Facebook Poll on whether people would prefer in-person or virtual meeting. Dean to check on church in Hartsville and Rob Dailey to check on Hauser Fieldhouse.

Walk In's

- Discussion on what to do with the general membership meeting with respect to the current and projected COVID situation. Zoom can be used as the platform, and those who do not have a computer can call in via phone. Board could also send the PPT with the membership mailing. Rob Dailey will check on the legal aspect of collecting the proxies.
- Annual Meeting Preparation: Will use previous 2020 meeting PPT as a baseline. Brent to update the dredging material. Also, a separate handout will have specific dredging updates including financial options. Rob Daly to reach out to German American Bank for options. Brent to touch base with Poplar Bank. Scott to update the emergency spillway. Regarding voting for annual meeting, board to send out a letter informing the membership that the meeting will be held virtually. Brent and Scott to investigate a voting mechanism within Zoom. Backup is by proxy. Provide a 2-week grace period after the meeting for people to send in their proxy via mail.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. Feb. 16 via Zoom.

SLLOA Board Meeting Minutes

7 p.m. February 16, 2021

In attendance: Rob Dailey, Rob Daly, Brent Engel, Jennifer Hellmich, Brad Anderson, Scott Towsley, Diane Jekel, Dean Parish, Anthony Paul

January meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Update (Rob Daly)

- Discussion of 2021 Budget: Each to review the P/L file sent from Rob Daly and provide input on 2021 budget, needed by next meeting. Email Rob Daly with additions. Reviewed proposed 2021 budget.

Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)

- Meeting between DNR, SLLOA and Burke Engineering scheduled for 2 p.m. Feb. 25. Rob Dailey plans to attend.

Update on Dredging (Brent Engel)

- Met with Heartland and the property owners last week. Addressed any questions and concerns from the property owners about putting the dredging material on their land. Heartland also looked at the other property. Heartland prefers the first property owner's land due to the amount of flood plain area on the other land. Do not need additional lift pumps to dump on either location.
- Heartland is offering a 15 to 20 percent reduction if SLLOA dredges in 2021. This would bring the 50,000 cubic yards project to \$450,000. Quote requires construction of a berm to retain the dredged material. The construction of the berm can be outsourced to local firms. Dry times 1-2 years. Waiting on property owner's response regarding their wants for SLLOA to use/dump the material on their property. Project duration estimated at 60 days. Heartland handles all the permitting due to the project.

Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Kim to reach out to Candy to prepare for the new owners of the Lewis' house.

Dam Maintenance (Anthony Paul)

- 1-foot diameter siphon pipe status: Is it operational?
- Pump is in the storage building and hoses are to be picked up. Anthony to assemble the pump piece and get the siphon functional.

Annual Tasks Due

- Secretary has sent membership meeting results to legal.
- Update Emergency Action Plan for new board members, reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations.
- Anthony has contacted Aquatic Control on 2021 lake treatment contract.
- Publish agenda, treasurer's report and proxies so they are received at least 21 days in advance.

Action items Updates

- Bylaw and covenants revision work to be done, adding a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will probably need legal review). Need to look through plats at courthouse for covenants.
- Follow up on LOA park on hold for LLC. Make an action item to resolve a plan with Chuck Lovelace and long-term plan for the "park lot."

Annual meeting

- Annual meeting materials must be mailed 21 days before meeting date.
- Proposed date is week of March 22 (Tuesday, March 23 then makeup meeting on March 25). Must have all material ready for 21-day mailing by Feb 28. Virtual information meeting to be Tuesday, March 9.

- Brent to post Facebook Poll on whether people would prefer in-person or virtual meeting. Dean to check on church in Hartsville and Rob Dailey to check on Hauser Fieldhouse. 10 votes for large setting, 10 votes for virtual, 10 for both. Hope school is out of the picture.
- Information-sharing meeting on dredging, emergency spillway and the budget virtually. Then they can send in a proxy or attend the in-person meeting at Hawcreek Conservation Club with only one representative per lot.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. March 25 at Hawcreek Conservation Club or Zoom

SLLOA Board Meeting 7 p.m. March 25, 2021

In attendance: Rob Daly, Rob Dailey, Brent Engel, Dean Parish, Jen Hellmich, Scott Towsley

February 2021 meeting minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report and financial update (Rob Daly)

- SLLOA received 2021 payments for 2 lot dues already. Have also received \$1,500 (2019/2020) in back dues. This leaves 2 lots still outstanding for 2020 lake dues.
- 2021 dues invoices will be printed March 26. Included will be a copy of the boat registration and instructions, a cover letter regarding the invoice (Rob Daly), vote tally from the general membership meeting (Scott Towsley) and key distribution process (ramp keys will not be mailed, but instead be available from each board member). Targeting mailing by March 29.

Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)

- SLLOA has received a letter from the DNR on the project. Overall, the letter shows our project is moving forward for approval within the DNR organization. A few items were highlighted in the letter that will need to be addressed -- specifically, the need for a survey during and after the construction to support a submission of as-built drawings to the DNR. The DNR also highlighted items from our 2019 dam inspection that SLLOA will report back on. The majority of these items have already been corrected.
- Need to verify 1-foot drawdown pipe will work for dewatering of the lake, enabling construction on the emergency spillway.

Update on dredging (Brent Engel)

- Continuing discussions with property owners in seeking land for the depositing of the silt on nearby property. Prefer to keep the area for deposit within 15 acres. SLLOA to be responsible for IDEM permits, return the property to resemble the original condition. Removal of the berm. Drainage tile installation. Maintenance agreement for 3 years after the dredging. Property owner's attorney to draw up a contract to be reviewed by SLLOA and attorney.
- Next steps: Finalize property owners' offer, in example provide the SLLOA with a contract. Finalize with Heartland Dredging how to get to the dumpsite, easement/access needed from neighboring property, impact on property (Rob Dailey), final numbers on the project cost, what 3-year maintenance contract cost look like.
- Finance (Rob Daly): German American on individual loans and home equity loans, Popular Bank for the lake's construction loan. Letter on payment options (Brent Engel). Need member poll: Will you pay in full? Target timing for the first detailed info meeting in May.

Welcome Committee (Dean Parrish)

- Kim to reach out to Candy to prepare for new residents.

- Need to order more items.
- Welcome basket will consist of 4 coasters and 2 koozies. Candy added that a current SLLOA directory, lake rules and regs, bylaws, boat registration, and Indiana boat rule book will be included.

Maintenance

- Is 1-inch diameter siphon pipe operational?
- Pump in the storage building and hoses are with Scott Taylor. Action item to assemble the pump piece and get the siphon functional.
- \$6,402 for algae control.
- \$1,164 for vegetation control along the shoreline. Board decided to not pursue the weed control spraying of the entire perimeter of the lake due to concerns that many people will be concerned with the spraying. The board will modify the contract to only spray the dam (toe, ramp area and front side) for weed control.
- One of the warning buoys at the dam is floating loose. This will be secured when the water warms up.

Annual Tasks Due

- Secretary has sent membership meeting results to legal.
- Update Emergency Action Plan: Further updates needed for new board members, reconfirm that it now meets DNR expectations.
- Lake Treatment: Contacted Aquatic Control on 2021 contract.
- Publish agenda, treasurer's report and proxies so they are received at least 21 days in advance.

Action items Updates

- Bylaw and covenants committee (Brad Anderson): In the revision work to be done, need to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will probably need legal review). Need to look through plats at courthouse for covenants.
- Follow up on LOA park: On hold for LLC. Make an action item to resolve a plan with property owner and long-term plan for the "park lot."

March 23 Annual General Membership Meeting summary

- We successfully held the SLLOA general membership meeting. We had 23 lots represented in person during the meeting and we had 32 proxies provided. This brings the total number of lots represented in person or by proxy to 55 lots. We needed 52 lots to meet the meeting quorum as dictated by the bylaws of the organization, therefore we met the quorum requirements.
- There were two items up for vote, approval of the proposed 2021 annual budget and the setting of the 2021 dues at \$1,000 per lot. There were 48 yes and 7 no votes on the 2021 budget, therefore the budget was approved. The vote on the setting of the 2021 dues at \$1,000 per lot was 47 yes and 8 no, therefore the \$1,000 dues per lot was approved.

Board member positions for 2021

- Officers elected: President, Rob Dailey; Vice President, Brent Engel; Treasurer, Rob Daly; Secretary, Scott Towsley.
- Open Board position: Brad Anderson and Rob Daly were appointed for one-year terms to set up a rotation that 3 board terms expire each year.

Next meeting: 7 p.m. April 20, 2021 via Zoom online.

Our leadership team

Members on the 2021 Schaefer Lake Lot Owners Association board: Rob Dailey, president; Brent Engel, vice president; Scott Towsley, secretary; Rob Daly, treasurer; and Dean Parrish, Brad Anderson, Jennifer Hellmich and Ken Miller. Parrish was elected to serve another three-year term at the annual meeting and Miller starts his first term on the board. Many thanks to Diane Jekel and Anthony Paul, whose terms expired this year, for their three years of service to the board.



Helpful information links

SLLOA website:

slloa.com/

The Republic daily newspaper in Columbus:

therepublic.com

Town of Hope, 404 Jackson St., Hope:

Townofhope.org

HSJ (Hope Star Journal) Online: hsjonline.org/

Community Center of Hope, 543 Washington St.,

Hope: communitycenterofhope.org/

Yellow Trail Museum, 644 Main St., Hope:

yellowtrailmuseum.wixsite.com/yellowtrailmuseum

Bartholomew County Public Library (635 Harrison St., Hope): mybcpl.org/home

Above right, new Schaefer Lake resident Schuyler Marks, who with his wife Tracy over the winter moved into the home that had been owned and David and Susan Brown, landed his first large bass of the season on Easter morning. Fishing from his pier, he was using a Yum creature bait in pumpkin with red flake. (Tracy Marks)



Above left, tulips were in full bloom during the first week of April along the edge of the Jerry and Kathy Mellis home on Schaefer Lake, as well as a few others. (Tom Jekel)