



# Schaefer Lake Newsletter

November 2021  
[www.slloa.com](http://www.slloa.com)

Resident A.J. McIver captured the rainbow  
over Schaefer Lake on June 7, 2021

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## Dredging details Nov. 17



The northern third of Schaefer Lake, 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. This photo was taken Oct. 7, when the lake level was dropped at least 4 feet for work on the emergency spillway.

# Dredging project off for this year; learn what's possibly in store at owners meeting

Schaefer Lake property owners will have an opportunity during a Nov. 17 information meeting to learn details about the opportunity to conduct the private lake's first dredging in 32 years.

In early September, the Schaefer Lake Lot Owners Association board informed members that plans to potentially start the dredging project later this year – with lot owner approval – would not materialize.

During an Aug. 30 meeting with Heartland Dredging, chosen as the project's preferred contractor, the board's dredging committee learned that the Whitestown-based company would not be able to set up and mobilize until at least spring 2022.

A few weeks later, additional information on the project's potential timeline were shared in communications with lake residents.

“We are continuing to work with the dredging company to lock down firm dates and complete costs of the project,” the board reported in a Sept. 19 email. “Dredging will NOT be happening in 2021; (and) 2022 is now in question.”

In that communication, the board described lake dredging as a critical project to the community and said it would continue working towards the end goal for this large-scale and challenging project.

In a follow-up communication on Nov. 1, the board said it had additional conversations with Heartland and was able to conclude a couple of open items for the project – enabling the information meeting to be scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 17 at the Hawcreek Conservation Club on North County Road 900 East.

The board will utilize the meeting to lay out where it is at with the dredging project. This will include aspects of the overall project, how this rolls up financially for the community, what the board has been doing to set up individual financial avenues for lot owners, and to wrap up with next steps for project approval.

“With a project of this magnitude, there are specific guidelines in our bylaws for the approval process of the project,” the board said in its Nov. 1 communication. “We will review those in this meeting, which is strictly an informational meeting. The purpose of the Nov. 17 meeting is for information only, not part of the official approval process.”

Dredging has been discussed regularly during SLLOA board meetings and during annual meetings in recent years. The dredging proposal by Heartland Dredging, as explained during this year's annual meeting, 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 to the west and Schuyler and Tracy Marks' property across the lake to the east.

Water that is at least 4 feet deep is needed for a healthy fish habitat, board members have said.

Updated cost estimates, which will be shared during the Nov. 17 meeting, are based on the ability 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. This option would be far less expensive than trucking silt to a site away from the water, the board said.

During this year's annual meeting, board members estimated that the necessary new income to conduct dredging would come from a special one-time assessment that 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.

The lower dredging costs are possible since several property owners along Duck Creek and outside the floodplain 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.

The silt would be pumped into a berm and later leveled with the land returned to a tillable property, as was done during the 1989 dredging.

Updated specifics on the dredging project will be shared during the information meeting. Support of 60 percent of the lake lot owners would be required for the dredging project to go forward.

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## Spillway project completed



**The emergency spillway project began Sept. 19 when board members opened two pipes, then added a pump to draw down the water level.**

## Month-long work wraps up in late October

The long-planned Schaefer Lake emergency spillway improvement project, which required the lake level to be lowered at least four feet this fall for roughly a month, has been completed.

The water-level drawdown of the lake began Sept. 19 as Schaefer Lake Lot Owners Association board members opened the two-foot-diameter drain pipe and one-foot-diameter siphon pipe near the boat ramp. Additionally, they deployed a rented diesel-powered pump as a third means to lower the lake's water to the level necessary for construction to commence on the spillway.





With about 4.5 inches of rain falling within a few days after the drawdown began, the effort hit its lake-level target with one day to spare before the scheduled Oct. 4 construction start, SLLOA board secretary and project liaison Scott Towsley said. The lake level was actually dropped at least 5 feet to compensate for the possibility of even more rain during one of the wettest Octobers on record.

Construction work to remove and replace materials forming the emergency spillway – located adjacent to Susan

Thayer Fye’s home east of the dam, near the corner of County Road 500 North and East Lakeshore Drive – was done between Oct. 4 and Oct. 20 by PAF (Percival and Family) Construction of Seymour.

What’s still left to be accomplished for the project is follow-up work, including creating as-built drawings and submitting them to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Towsley said.

The original dam was replaced in 2004 by Force Construction of Columbus. Force also was hired to construct the Schaefer Lake emergency spillway that same year to limit potential damage to lake properties should a historic flood occur. Four years later, that actually happened when water topped the dam and the spillway’s nearby earthen embankment, damaging many properties.

The sand, gravel and grass spillway was rebuilt after the June 2008 flood to the exact specifications of its 2004 design.

While the spillway functioned as it should have, with high water eroding the sand, Towsley said no one saw exactly when that happened, leaving the question: “Did it trigger appropriately?”

Subsequently, the DNR asked the SLLOA to investigate spillway design alternatives that could improve the reliability of activating the emergency spillway fuse plug under actual flood conditions, a process that has been underway for about five years, he said. Consultants from Burke Engineering of Columbus recommended changing the top layer of the embankment from grass to all gravel to lessen potential flood damage in the future, Towsley said.

Lake association property owners approved the anticipated \$125,000 cost for the emergency spillway improvement during the 2021 annual meeting held March 23. Actual cost turned out to be far less, however.

PAF Construction submitted a bid of \$20,030 for the excavation part of the project. Engineering fees for Burke Engineering were expected to be \$31,700, resulting in a total estimated cost of \$51,730. Actual costs are expected to be close to those estimates, Towsley said.

The unspent \$75,000 difference between the spillway project’s budgeted and actual costs could be applied to the lake association’s long-range fund, he said.

Timing for the spillway project this year originally would have required lake owners to pull their

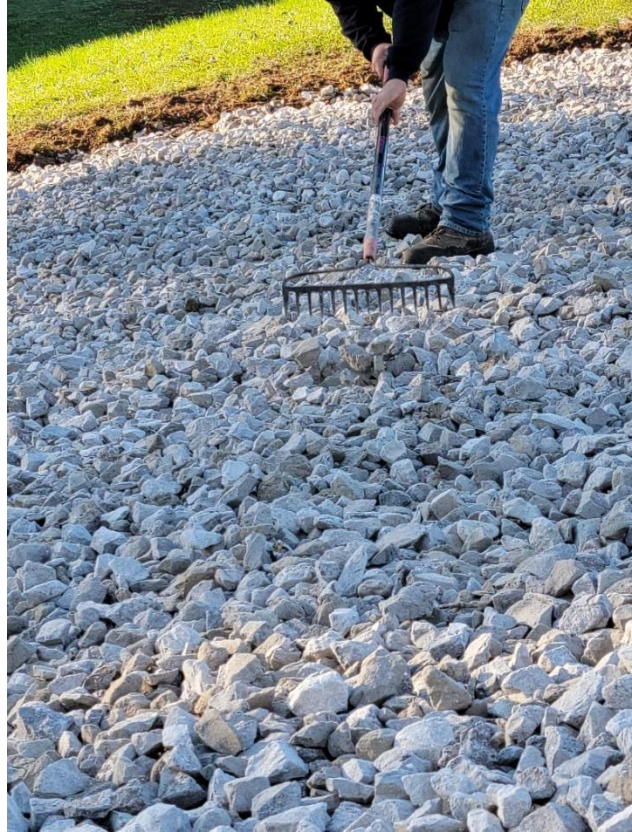
**Above: Jeremiah Percival of PAF Construction at Oct. 20 completion of spillway work**

watercraft out for the season starting at the end of Labor Day weekend – one to two months earlier than usual. However, at the request of several lake residents, the original Sept. 5 drawdown start date was delayed until Sept. 19, giving residents two more weeks to be out enjoying the lake.

Dropping the water levels temporarily created beaches where there had been bays along Schaefer Lake shorelines, giving individual property owners dry access to their docks and boat lifts not possible under normal conditions – and many used the opportunity to make repairs or to add riff-raff rock along their shorelines or seawalls.

In an Nov. 1 email to residents, SLLOA board members said it was exciting to accomplish the spillway replacement project as a community. “Thank you for everyone’s patience and understanding as we navigated this significant project this fall,” the board wrote.

**Jeremiah Percival raked out gravel Oct. 20 at the top of the new emergency spillway.**



### OFF THE DEEP END

.....The lighter side of Lake living



**Diving off the 900E bridge is not allowed**

By Mike Champlin



It was a good year for bass fishing, as Schuyler Marks (June 12) and Bill Lewis (Aug. 3) can attest





## Minutes of recent board discussions, actions

### SLLOA Board Meeting

7 p.m. April 27, 2021 via Zoom

**In attendance:** Rob Daly, Rob Dailey, Brent Engel, Dean Parish, Jen Hellmich, Scott Towsley, Brad Anderson, Ken Miller

March 2021 meeting minutes approved.

#### Treasurer's Report and Financial Update (Rob Daly)

- 66 lots out of 102 have paid to date. 30 days due on the invoices will be April 30. When do we send a reminder? Review payment status in May meeting then set a date for a reminder mailing.
- Key distribution process question: Communicate via Facebook (Brent) and email (Scott) to remind people to 1) Pay their dues. 2) If you have mailed your check in, see one of the board members to collect your key and stickers. 3) Hand in your boat registration form. 4) Ken to sit at the ramp to collect all for some Saturdays. Ken to respond with dates he will commit to sit at the ramp.

#### Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)

- Awaiting response back from the Indiana DNR Technical Services Group on our construction proposal. Follow up communication with DNR and Burke on April 26.
- Survey to support as-built drawings for submission to the DNR following the construction work: Follow-up call with Percival Excavating was made today; left a message.
- The DNR also highlighted items from our 2019 dam inspection report needs to be addressed. The majority of these items have already been corrected: Cracks in the original and new construction concrete should be filled -- completed in 2019; road swale erosion on west of the embankment near the bridge along 500N -- partially complete, need to follow-up with Bartholomew County Highway Department as this is their jurisdiction; monitor the low area at west concrete section, headwalls, and abutment headwall for changes in settlement – ongoing; provide surface drainage for roadside swale left (west) side of concrete chute – join with second item; repair 1-foot syphon pipe – completed spring 2020.
- 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)

Need to finalize property owners' offer, i.e. provide the lake their contract – Brent to follow up.

#### Progress on finalizing Heartland details:

- Had a meeting with Heartland on April 6 to discuss the dredging process. SLLOA can also provide the site prep work on the dumpsite vs. Heartland. This could offer a low-cost option for site prep. SLLOA to ask Percival Excavation for a quote on the site prep work – Scott to connect with Percival Excavating. Brent to update the Powerpoint for the dredging project with the site plans to be used for quotation purposes.
- How to get silt to the dumpsite: SLLOA needs to connect with the neighboring property owners, as the dredge pipe will have to cross their driveway to get to the proposed dump site property.
- Final numbers on the project cost: From the meeting with Heartland on April 6, 50,000 cubic yards is the bare minimum. Heartland feels 75,000 cubic yards is really the more ideal amount of silt to be removed.

- Heartland stated that SLLOA will need an NOI agreement which includes construction drawings and site plan for where the silt will be set, and details of erosion control devices put in place. Forms, drawings, proposed elevation, erosion control plan and permitting will cost \$6,850 from Innovative Engineering Consulting. This is in addition to the cost of the dredging from Heartland.
- Heartland will be here first week of May for the depth survey. Estimate for the survey was about \$800. Survey area will be basically the same as the last one.
- Met with Popular Bank. SLLOA has received their various options for financing the project as a whole (construction loan) and also individual homeowner loans.
- Next steps: Mark up the dredging plan for several target depths for the 3 areas of interest – Scott. Brent to send to Heartland so they can, after the depth survey, calculate the total silt to be removed to the various target depths. General information meeting: Need to complete above item, then this develops the options for the lake, dump site property owners' contract, neighboring property owner's approval. Target timing for the information meeting is end of May, first part of June.

#### Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Kim to reach out to Candy to prepare for new residents.
- Need to order more lake stuff – Scott to ask Candy for the contact info for the coasters.
- Welcome basket will consist of 4 coasters and 2 koozies. Candy added that a current SLLOA directory, lake rules and regulations, bylaws, boat registration, and Indiana boat rule book will be included.

#### Dam Maintenance (Dean Parish)

- 1-foot diameter siphon pipe status: Is it operational? Pump is the storage building and hoses are with Scott Taylor: Action item for Dean to assemble the pump piece and get the siphon functional.
- One of the warning buoys at the dam is floating loose. This will be secured by Dean and others when the water warms up.

#### Annual Tasks Due (from task list)

- Update Emergency Action Plan: Further updates needed for new board members, reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations
- Lake Treatment contract: Dean contacted Aquatic Control on 2021 contract; contract signed and delivered. Rob Dailey will need to revise the dam weed control contract with Aquatic Control.

#### Action Items Updates

- By-law and covenants committee: 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.

#### Walk-ins

- Replacement of the lock on the storage shed – Rob Dailey will put an old lock on the unit.

**Next meeting:** 7 p.m. May 25, 2021 via Zoom.

**SLLOA Board Meeting  
7 p.m. May 26, 2021 via Zoom**

**In attendance:** Rob Daly, Rob Dailey, Brent Engel, Dean Parish, Jen Hellmich, Scott Towsley, Brad Anderson, Ken Miller

April meeting minutes approved

**Treasurer's Report and Financial Update (Rob Daly)**

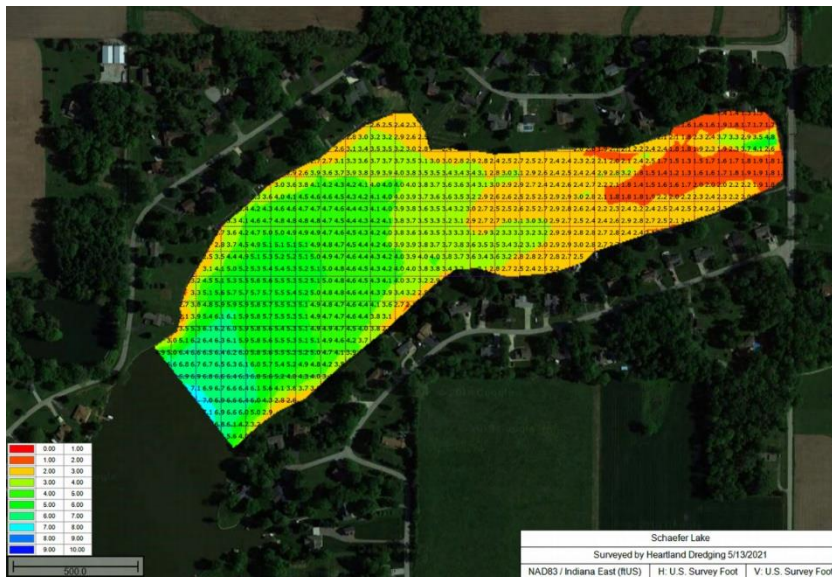
- Review Financials: 17 lots are outstanding.

**Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)**

- DNR project approval received
- As-built survey status (added request from DNR post re-construction of the emergency spillway): Percival Excavating has chosen Independent Land Surveyors to perform this work. They have discussed the scope of work with Burke Engineering. Expect quotation from Independent Land Surveyors within the next week.
- 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)**

- New depth survey was completed the week of May 10. In the 2.5 years since the last survey, about 5,300 cubic yards have been deposited. Another observation was Area 1 (nearest 900E) has not really gotten more shallow. However, Area 3 nearest the turn-around spot is getting more shallow. Total volume of material to be removed in the three areas is about 115,000 cubic yards (silt removed to provide 6 feet of water depth). Rob Daly will calculate various options of dredging depth to provide the group with what these will cost per lot. See figures below from recent depth survey



Summary from Heartland of depth survey:



Schaefer Lake - Hope, IN  
Volume of Cut Down to 6' Depth

	1/11/2019	5/13/2021	
	<u>Survey</u>	<u>Survey</u>	<u>Change</u>
Area 1	70,258	73,280	3,022
Area 2	26,226	27,218	992
Area 3	13,674	14,918	1,244
<b>Total</b>	<b>110,158</b>	<b>115,416</b>	<b>5,258</b>



Prepared by Heartland Dredging 5/17/2021

- Heartland is looking for work. Their dredging

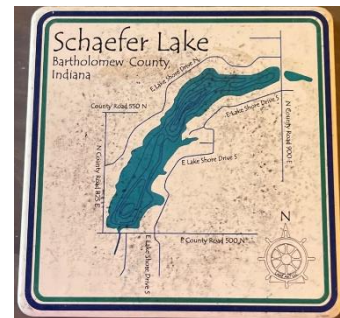
crew is sitting idle.

- Property owner's land lease contract for deposit of dredged material: draft underway. They will finalize the contract and send to SLLOA.
- Need to contact the neighboring property owners about running the pipe across their driveway. Brent Engel to provide a document showing the path of the pipe. Rob Dailey to approach the neighboring property owners.
- NOI permit for erosion control plans for the drainage area: Heartland had a contractor submit a quote. Scott Towsley to approach Burke Engineering for a second quote.
- Communication meetings: Set up a meeting for the board to review the project.

Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Kim Parish to reach out to Candy Towsley to prepare for new homeowners.

- Need to order more lake stuff: Scott Towsley to ask Candy Towsley for the contact info for the coasters. While they do not show our lake on their website (probably too small), they have it in their Lake Art and Lakeside product lines. Up to now, we've use the Lake Art line for our gift baskets, but



when we ordered last we put in a separate order from the Lake Side line, and we personally liked it better. Lake Art is on the left, Lake Side is on the right.

- You will not find Schaefer Lake on their website selection. You must call and talk to them to set up the order for Schaefer Lake. Whoever orders will have to set up a new account with them
- Welcome basket will consist of 4 coasters and 2 cozies, a current SLLOA directory, lake rules and regs, bylaws, boat registration, and Indiana boat rule book

Dam Maintenance (Dean Parish)

- 1-foot diameter siphon pipe status: Is it operational? Pump is the storage building and hoses are with Scott Taylor: Action Item for Dean Parish to assemble the pump piece and get the siphon functional.
- One of the warning buoys at the dam is floating loose. This will be secured by Dean and others when the water warms up.

Annual Tasks Due (from Task list)

- Update Emergency Action Plan: Further updates needed for new board members; reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations

- Water samples April – August: Rob Dailey will take the samples

#### Action Items Updates

- Bylaw and covenants committee: In the revision work to be done, need to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will 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-ins

- Rob Dailey has put a replacement lock on the storage shed.
- Marker buoys at the main spillway and by the ramp should be replaced, as the latter one is faded. TigerDocks.com was where they were ordered before.
- Mike Champlin presented on lake property taxes.

**Next meeting:** 7 p.m. June 22, 2021 via Zoom.

#### **SLLOA Board Meeting**

7:30 p.m. June 22, 2021 via Zoom

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

May Minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report and Financial Update (Rob Daly)

#### Review Financials

- 2021 Dues: Currently there are 7 lots outstanding.
- 2020 taxes have been filed per extensions, which is normal for the lake.
- Rob Daly met with German American Bank on a tailored personal loan option for people to leverage as a financing option for the dredging project.
- Rob Daly will be setting up separate accounts on the SLLOA general ledger for the dredging and spillway projects to track the spending for each project.

Past Due Letters: Attorney to draft letters of notification for late unpaid dues. Late fees to be added to remaining. Discussed filing liens on properties.

#### Update on Emergency Spillway Progress (Scott Towsley)

- DNR project approval received
- As-built survey status (added request from DNR post re-construction of the emergency spillway): Percival Excavating has chosen Independent Land Surveyors to perform this work. They have discussed the scope of work with Burke Engineering. Expect quotation from Independent Land Surveyors within the next week.
- Target start of the project is September 2021.
- Next steps: Set up pre-construction meeting with Burke, Percival Excavation and SLLOA targeting end of July, which is approximately one month prior to the start of the project. Need to verify 1-foot drawdown pipe will work for dewatering of the lake enabling construction on the emergency spillway. Confirm with Burke and DNR the amount that the lake needs to be lowered. DNR referenced 4 feet below mean pool. Burke, Percival Excavation, and Scott Towsley recommend 1 to 2 feet below mean pool. Percival Excavation requesting to start stockpiling

material for the construction near the site. Percival Excavating will be submitting an invoice for 50 percent down payment this week. Invoice is being sent to the SLLOA PO Box.

#### Update on Dredging (Brent Engel)

- Reviewed Jen's meeting with Stroh, the SLLOA's legal counsel. Board voted to have Stroh's office mark up the suggested changes to the land lease (location for dredged material).
- Rob Dailey reviewed his communication with Heartland Dredging on questions about the land contract.
- Estimated 2-year duration for drying out the silt.
- Heartland Dredging collects soil samples: Suggestion on taking a sample from the lake now to establish a baseline to compare future samples to. Heartland provided a sample of their insurance coverage. Rob Dailey to connect with our insurance company on environmental contamination insurance. Heartland does not recommend the two weir request from the land owner.
- Need to arrange an in-person meeting with Heartland Dredging, the SLLOA and the property owners.
- Brent to provide Popular Bank contact information to Rob Daly.
- Rob Daly to set up a meeting with Popular Bank to discuss construction loan for SLLOA.
- Rob Dailey to contact the Jacksons concerning the dredge pipe crossing their property.
- 115,000 cubic yards is the amount of silt the board recommends for the dredge project.

#### Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Kim to reach out to Candy to prepare for new homeowners.
- Lake items in process of being ordered.
- Welcome basket will consist of 4 coasters and 2 koozies, a current SLLOA directory, lake rules and regs, bylaws, boat registration, and Indiana boat rule book.

#### Dam Maintenance (Dean Parish)

- 1-foot diameter siphon pipe status? Scott Towsley now has the hoses from the old pump at his house.
- Pump in the storage building: Action item for Dean to assemble the pump piece and get the siphon functional.
- One of the warning buoys at the dam is floating loose. This will be secured by Dean and others when the water warms up.

#### Annual Tasks Due (from task list)

- 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 the revision work to be done, need to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will 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-ins

- After the rain event last Saturday, it was noted that potholes and erosion occurred on Lakeshore Drive South near the cow pole and on the bridge on 900E. Scott to call Danny Hollander for the county to address.



- With the two lake projects, when would be the right time to add the fish to the lake? The fish hatchery stated that it is currently too warm to put fish in the lake. Discussed delaying this expense until 2022.

**Next meeting:** 7 p.m. July 20 via Zoom

### **SLLOA Board Meeting**

7 p.m. July 20, 2021 via Zoom

**In attendance:** Rob Daly, Rob Dailey, Brent Engel, Dean Parish, Jen Hellmich, Scott Towsley, Brad Anderson, Ken Miller

June minutes approved

Treasurer's Report and Financial Update (Rob Daly)

- Review Financials
- Past due letters from Stroh: Currently 5 lots are outstanding; discussed filing liens on properties that are not in good standing.

Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)

- Target start of the project is September 2021
- Next steps: Setting up pre-construction meeting with Burke and Percival Excavation targeting end of July or early August; connect with Susan Fye to ensure she is informed about the project.

Update on Dredging (Brent Engel)

- Brett to arrange an in-person meeting with Heartland and the property owners.
- Rob Daly to set up a meeting with Popular Bank for the construction loan for SLLOA.
- Rob Dailey to contact neighboring property owners concerning the dredge pipe crossing their property
- Brent connected with laboratories to investigate quotes for soil analysis.
- Next steps: Review modified land lease with property owners.

Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Lake items in process of being ordered for welcome gifts.
- Welcome basket will consist of 4 coasters and 2 koozies, a current SLLOA directory, lake rules and regulations, bylaws, boat registration, and Indiana boating rule book.

Dam Maintenance (Dean Parish)

- 1-foot diameter siphon pipe status? Scott Towsley now has the hoses from the old pump at his house.
- Pump is in the storage building: Action item for Dean Parish to assemble the pump piece and get the siphon functional.
- One of the warning buoys at the dam came loose when chain link wore out; temporary buoy attached. New buoys ordered.

Annual Tasks Due (from Task list)

- Update Emergency Action Plan: Further updates needed for new board members; reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations.
- Are we having an annual picnic this year? The board has its hands full with the two major projects for 2021 (emergency spillway and dredging). We need a volunteer from the general

membership to lead the community picnic in September. Interested volunteers please contact a board member to get started.

- Publish newsletter
- Rob Dailey to collect water sample

#### Action Item Updates

- Bylaw and covenants committee: In the revision work to be done, need to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will 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.

**Next meeting:** 7 p.m. Aug. 25 via Zoom

#### **SLLOA Board Meeting**

7 p.m. Aug. 25, 2021 via Zoom

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

July minutes approved

#### Treasurer's Report and Financial Update (Rob Daly)

- Review financials
- Past due letters from Stroh: Currently 3 lots are outstanding.
- Feedback from bank: 1) Individual financing available for the dredging assessment. Bank reps will be available to participate in the informational meetings to present options available to the members. 2) Exploration of bridge loan for SLLOA to cover the difference between what is collected and the total expenses; SLLOA needs to provide the last 3 years of tax returns.
- Need an assistant treasurer to cover for Rob Daly when he is out for medical reasons.

#### Update on Emergency Spillway Project progress (Scott Towsley)

- Review of email response to the feedback.
- Targeted schedule: Sept. 6, both drawdown pipes are turned on to start lowering the lake; Sept. 20, construction begins; Oct. 4, completion of construction and drawdown valves are turned off.

#### Update on Dredging (Brent Engel)

- Challenges: Need permission for the pipe to run across neighboring property, and to plan with/around crop in field. Meeting with Heartland to discuss alternative routes or options to not go across the field. Rob Dailey to meet with the property owners following the discussion with Heartland about options.
- Scheduling of informational meetings and date of voting: Per bylaws, voting ballots need to be mailed out 30 days prior to the vote. Ballots to be returned by mail or delivered to the meeting, at which opening will occur.
- Lead time for material preparation and review: Sept 6-10, send out ballot and presentation material; Sept. 14, ballots arrive at each lot; Sept. 22, meeting No. 1; Sept. 29, meeting No. 2; Oct. 14, open ballots (must be 30 days from sending ballot); need to reserve the Hawcreek Conservation Club on Sept. 22 and 29, and Oct. 14 from 7-9 p.m.

Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Lake items in process of being ordered for welcome gifts. Welcome basket were to consist of 4 coasters and 2 koozies, a current SLLOA directory, lake rules and regs, bylaws, boat registration, and Indiana boating rule book. Coasters are in, but koozies have not arrived. We will deliver what we have.

#### Dam Maintenance (Dean Parish)

- 1-foot diameter siphon pipe works great
- One of the warning buoys at the dam came loose when chain link wore out; temporary buoy was attached and new buoys were ordered. We have received 2 of the 3 new dam and hazard buoys. One was lost in transit, but a replacement has been arranged.

#### Annual Tasks Due (from Task list)

- Update Emergency Action Plan: Further updates needed for new board members, reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations
- Publish Newsletter
- Collect Water sample

#### Action Item Updates

- Bylaw and covenants committee: In the revision work to be done, need to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will 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.

**Next meeting:** 7 p.m. on September date TBD via Zoom (eventually cancelled)

#### **SLLOA Board Meeting**

7 p.m. Oct. 26, 2021 via Zoom

**In attendance:** Rob Dailey, Brent Engel, Jen Hellmich, Scott Towsley and Brad Anderson

August minutes approved

#### Treasurer's Report and Financial Update

- Payment received on one additional past-due annual dues.

#### Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)

- Project is complete. Susan Fye is happy with the condition of her driveway and parking area. Thank you, Susan, for all of your patience and understanding.
- There were some additional expenses for the project: Soil compaction test for the clay – Patriot Engineering, about \$1,700; additional loads of gravel, cost to be determined.
- Next steps: Burke working on as-build drawings then submission to the DNR

#### Update on Dredging (Brent Engel)

- Received the latest quote from Heartland for 125,000 cubic yards. Pervious estimated section 1, 2, 3 to 6 feet of depth was 115,000 cubic yards. Rob Dailey, Brent, and Scott met with Heartland Oct. 4 to discuss the project. Highlights: Champlins' property will not hold the 125,000 cubic yards. Need another dump site. Need a booster pump to get to section 3 which is estimated at 75,000 cubic yards. Jacksons' property is close enough to not need a booster pump. Heartland



cannot start due to their current workload and personnel challenges. 125,000 cubic yard dredging rate is \$6.65. Current total quote for setup, mobilization, and dredging is about \$1.1 million. Realistically, the earliest Heartland can start is 2023 mainly due to labor challenges. Project duration to remove 125,000 cubic yards will be about 5 to 6 months.

- Information meetings: Nov. 17 meeting will not count toward the official process.
- Information meeting agenda:
  - a) The approve process – Rob Daly
  - b) Drone video – Rob Dailey/Brent Engel
  - c) The project – Brent Engel
  - d) Financials per lot – Rob Dailey or Scott Towsley to present lot owner financing options
  - e) Competitive quotes – Brent Engel
  - f) FAQ to be created and posted on the website
- Discussion on closing of the draw-down pipes: All 5 present voted for closing the valve on 10/30 and not reopen the valve for the normal odd-year draw own. Ken Miller and Rob Daly email input was to close the valve. Message to the community on closing of the valve to be posted by Oct. 30. Jen Hellmich to post on Facebook and Scott to send an email
- Information meeting mail, post card (Scott), email (Scott), and Facebook (Jen)

#### Welcome Committee (Dean Parish)

- Kim to reach out to Candy to prepare welcome baskets for the new owners of the Lewis' house, new residents Mark and Michaelanne Otwinowski (Carl Gross), William Randal Tuttle (Maxine Chapple), Ben and Sarah Coy (Joe Lewis), new residents Schuyler and Tracy Marks (Dave and Susan Brown), and Ken Patton (lot 55).
- Welcome basket will consist of 4 coasters and 2 cozies, a current SLLOA directory, lake rules and regulations, bylaws, boat registration, and Indiana boat rule book

#### Dam Maintenance (Dean Parish)

- Locate the T-handles for the 2-foot drawdown valve. There are 3: Cody Hege, Rob Daly and Dean have them.
- Dean will remove the broken dock pole at the ramp.

#### Annual Tasks Due (from Task list)

- Update Emergency Action Plan: Further updates needed for new board members, reconfirm with Scott that it now meets DNR expectations
- Publish Newsletter

#### Action Item Updates

- Bylaw and covenants committee: In the revision work to be done, need to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (will 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.

**Next meeting:** 8 p.m. Nov. 18 via Zoom.



**The garden of Jeff and Nancy Washburn was again bursting with color this summer, as these June 15 photos show.**



**Morning sun left reflections of a beautiful fall day Nov. 1 along the western shore of Schaefer Lake.**

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#### **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 Parish, Brad Anderson, Jennifer Hellmich and Ken Miller.

#### **Helpful information links**

**SLLOA website:** [sloa.com/](http://sloa.com/)

**The Republic daily newspaper in Columbus:** [therepublic.com](http://therepublic.com)

**Town of Hope, 404 Jackson St., Hope:** [Townofhope.org](http://Townofhope.org)

**HSJ (Hope Star Journal) Online:** [hsjonline.org/](http://hsjonline.org/)

**Community Center of Hope, 543 Washington St., Hope:** [communitycenterofhope.org/](http://communitycenterofhope.org/)

**Yellow Trail Museum, 644 Main St., Hope:** [yellowtrailmuseum.wixsite.com/yellowtrailmuseum](http://yellowtrailmuseum.wixsite.com/yellowtrailmuseum)

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

