Sand Dam Reservoir Association
Annual Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2018--- Glocester Senior Center
Social Hour – 6-7:00 p.m.
Business Meeting – 7- 9:00 p.m.

Welcoming remarks

President, Judy Colaluca

- Meeting called to order at 7:03pm
- Judy welcomed all attendees. She respectfully requested no side comments in order to make the most of the limited meeting time.
- Motion to set aside agenda was made and seconded in order to read letter from ESS group and hear DEM representative. All voted in favor of motion.

Invited (brief) presentations business meeting

- Art Searle, Chair of the Lake Management Committee, read letter from Matthew Ladewig, Senior Scientist, ESS Group
  Recommended Lake Management plan be multi-pronged, including:
  - Herbicide treatments, which alone will not be sustainable
  - Drawdown
  - Suction Harvester
  - Hand harvesting
  - Education and outreach

  Also mentioned that herbicide treatment should control the milfoil this season.

- Katie DeGoosh-DiMarzio, Environmental Analyst, Office of Water Resources RI-DEM
  Katie talked about her 12 year history with SDRA, and mentioned that she now has interns working with her to help with RI Lake Management. She talked about the dedicated efforts to manage invasive milfoil. Mentioned GREAT boater program and noted that we are leaders in the state working at boat launch to educate lake users. Check, Clean, Drain, and Dry is the current focus of the GREAT boater program. Katie summarized data from boat launch data collection efforts. Encouraged members to contact Mary O'Keeffe to volunteer. Katie also described a recent report noting mercury in fish samples from Smith & Sayles. Mercury is the product of air pollution from the Midwest. Smith & Sayles has fish with mercury levels above what is safe to eat. Katie recommended checking out website from EPA for more information about mercury.

18 Families present out of 31 member families – we have a quorum.

Meeting with agenda resumed at 7:24pm

Reports of the Officers

President, Judy Colaluca

- Judy thanked members for attending and thanked the Board. Judy also thanked Art Searle for his efforts as Chair of the Lake Management Committee. She noted his many efforts

managing the lake, helping with fundraising, and procuring the band for fundraising events.

Vice President, Carolyn Fortuna

- Talked about the efforts of the organization, and presented all of the activities that the organization is engaged in. These included working the suction harvester, multiple community clean-up events, preparation of two grant applications, water quality monitoring, drawdown monitoring, herbicide committee efforts, voluntary inspection program at the boat launch, LakeSmart training, and the Bella's fundraiser.

Secretary, Mary O'Keeffe: Minutes of the 2017 Annual Meeting

- Motion to approve the minutes made and seconded. Discussion – no corrections were suggested. All present voted in favor of accepting the 2017 minutes.

Treasurer, Eric Lariviere: 2017-2018 Report

- Due to illness, Eric asked Carolyn to provide Treasurer's report. Carolyn reviewed the expenses and income of the organization. She reviewed donations, such as watershed watch fees, contributions of gift baskets for fundraisers.
- Board of directors were introduced: Marissa Danville, Brian Sirois, and Steve Hopkins

Reports of the Standing Committees

Fundraising & Community Outreach: Marissa Danville & Eric Lariviere

- Marissa described April 2018 Bella's fundraiser. 140 tickets were sold, and attendees were invited to indicate on ticket if they preferred $ not go to herbicides. Total raised (from ticket sales, silent auction donations, 50/50 raffler) was $4465.80 for herbicide fund, and $959.20 fr non-herbicide fund. Marissa asked members to send fundraising ideas to Board. She noted the gofundme site and asked members to share the site with friends on facebook and other social media.
- Question about the gofundme funds - Where it goes in treasury. Marissa answered that the $ went to section harvester, as that was the purpose noted in the website. This will be updated on the gofundme page.

Lake Management: Art Searle

- Art identified the members of Lake Management and all of the efforts. Mike Benoit received special recognition for his efforts, not only as dam manager, but also handling lots of phone calls regarding the lake water levels.
- Art described 9/2/17 phragmites identification and treatment. The treatment appears to have been successful, but this will need continuous monitoring.
    - Question about how phragmites was treated with herbicides without DEM approval. Katie from DEM noted that the chemical used on phragmites can be used by homeowner. Member wanted to know if homeowners could apply chemicals for milfoil control under this procedure to save money. Katie said this was chemical dependent and unlikely to be applicable to the treatment of invasive milfoil.
- Herbicide Committee: Deb Silva & Cleo Monti

    - Deb described the June 15th treatment with 2, 4-D Amine provided by Solitude to control invasive milfoil. Deb thanked those who helped post signs. Deb also talked about her work with the water testing. Data from clarity and oxygen levels demonstrates excellent water quality.
- Non-herbicide Committee: Carolyn Fortuna
    - Carolyn described efforts of non-herbicide committee. One grant has been submitted to fund the Lake Smart homeowners' education program. We have been invited to participate in a webinar for training on a mobile app regarding different interfaces related to education and outreach. Carolyn encouraged members to contact her if they are interested. Another grant is being prepared for swale ponds (RI foundation) for runoff management. Bringing in additional expertise for preparation of this grant. Third grant being considered is for steam cleaning station at the boat launch.
- Suction Harvester/Teams/Training
    - Art described the fun of operating the Suction Harvester. Costs of equipment (wet suit, tank, etc) can be compensated for those who work on the harvester. Those who don't work the suction device can work on the harvester. Noted that the average age of residents is in 70s, which can make it difficult to work suction device. Recommendation was made that younger offspring be encouraged to step up and volunteer for various duties related to the suction harvester. Point of order to move back to agenda and report.
    - Art noted that the suction harvester work done last year appears to be successful. There has been no regrowth in areas that were suctioned last year.
    - Deb Silva noted that professional suction harvester use includes boons to catch fragments. LM members noted that we have a boon, but so far we've had volunteers on kayaks to collect fragments. Deb said in future, boon should be used and LM members agreed.
- Water Level Adjustments: Mike Benoit
    - Noted that water level monitoring is not like managing water levels in your bathtub. Members applauded Mike's efforts at monitoring and managing lake levels
- Drawdown: Art Searle
    - Art showed chart of drawdown, and noted average temperatures. When lake freezes following drawdown, milfoil will freeze and hopefully die.
    - Art described meeting with DEM to request permission for additional drawdown. DEM representative noted that fish surveys indicate that Bass population is trending up, while other fish are trending down (pickerel, perch, bluegill). Boost in Bass likely because they are predator fish. This is not sustainable for a healthy fish population. Extensive engineering study would need to be done, and DEM said that going beyond 54 inch draw down is unlikely to be approved. LM committee decided it was not prudent to pursue this further.

    - Discussion of whether the origins of the Lake may provide us with more autonomy in controlling the level of the water in the lake.
- Boat Inspection Program: Mary O'Keeffe
    - Mary encouraged volunteers to sign up for the program.
    - Discussion of our efforts, without much support from DEM.
    - Judy is working for a state-wide support for GREAT boaters program.
    - Motion made and seconded that a sign be made at launch, advertising how much fines would be in other states. All present voted in favor of the motion.
- Water Testing: Deb Silva
    - Members thanked Deb for her efforts at Water testing. She mentioned high water quality earlier.
- Ballot distributed for members who would like to fill Art's position at Lake Management Chair. People can self-nominate. Question about Janice Baker filling this position. Carolyn will contact Janice Baker about the self-nomination process.

Keech Pond Report: Rico Colaluca

- Swale pond created to handle runoff. Rico noted that relationship with Keech has improved.
- Member noted problems with people parking on both sides of the road and the beach at the end of Keech Dam and New Roads. Rico will look into contacting proper officials to prevent this parking problem.

Website/Education-- Carolyn Fortuna and Steve Hanley

- Carolyn reviewed the website and invited members to send her items to post to the website.

Save the Lakes--- Judy Colaluca

- Annual meeting of STL will be held June 27th from 6:30-8:30 at the Johnston Senior Center. Local watersheds will be hosting a roundtable at the meeting.

Unfinished Business

By-Laws: Janice Baker

- In order to restore tax-exempt status which was lost about 8 years ago, by-laws must be amended to conform to IRS regulations. Proposed second paragraph, Article I, Section 3 Mission, as follows: Should the SDRA dissolve, all remaining assets would be used exclusively for the purposes stated in its Mission.
- Motion made and seconded to add this to by-laws. All voted in favor of the motion.

Moment of silence to acknowledge members who passed away during the year, Don Reid and Ralph Monti.

New Business

Motion: Article II, Section 3 Special Consideration: Art Searle

Motion made and seconded to grant special membership status for Aaron Colaluca as a full, dues paying, voting member.

- Discussion of implications of special membership status. Discussion of unique contributions to SDRA made by Aaron and his family.
- All present voted in favor of the motion.

Motion: Article II, Section 6 Annual Dues and Assessments: Eric Lariviere & Dennis Danville talked about benefits of increasing dues.

- Motion was made and seconded to double the membership dues for 2018 to $100.
- Discussion of including provision for special hardship circumstances for longstanding members. Amendment to existing motion Double the membership dues for 2018 to $100, with special consideration given to longstanding members for whom this increase would constitute a hardship.
- 18 in favor, 1 opposed. Discussion of how membership will communicate change in dues, and will include note special consideration for people for whom the increase may be a hardship.

Nominations for Officers and Board of Directors: Rico Colaluca and Steve Hanley

- Nominations committee reported that Director position is up for election. Committee nominated Eric Lariviere for position of Director. All present voted in favor of the motion.
- Marissa Danville will complete Eric Lariviere's remaining year of service as SDRA treasurer.

Other New Business Items

Discuss and Review Legal Representation for SDRA

- Ray Theriault received an email forwarded from a BOD member regarding the liability of SDRA members and board members related to the herbicide treatments. Ray called DEM to solicit environmental lawyers. Ray refused to identify who he spoke with at DEM. The DEM representative provided Ray with 3 names and recommended one name specifically, Christopher D'Ovidio. He met with lawyer, who said that the association can determine whether homeowners can have right riparian rights? Ray said that the environmental lawyer recommended that we clarify liability issues. Credentials of this environmental lawyer were reviewed.
- Motion was made and seconded that a special meeting be scheduled to meet with lawyer to find out more about liability issues with all members invited with the aim of retaining SDRA legal advice.
- Discussion of expenses. Retainer $1,000 plus 250 hour. First meeting would be consultation without a fee. Recommendation made to consider other environmental lawyers. Ray refused to share the name of DEM representative or the other attorneys that were recommended. Questions raised about how retaining this attorney would protect the SDRA and about how previous lawsuit was handled.
- Vote was taken with 10 hands, and 2 proxy votes in favor; 5 hands and 3 proxy votes opposed: thus 12 in favor, 8 opposed. The motion carries.

Motion to adjourn at 9:20.

Website: https://sanddamreservoir.com/