

**Shawneeland Sanitary District Advisory Committee
Minutes of February 4, 2019**

The meeting was called to order at 6:56pm.

Those in attendance were Lynn Schmitt, Barry Vanmeter, Marianne Biviano, Kevin Alderman, Michelle Springer, Supervisor Gary Lofton, Director of Public Works Joe Wilder and 16 people in the audience.

SSDAC Chairman Vote: Barry made a motion for Lynn remain chairman. Marianne seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Lynn called for approval/correction of the November 5, 2018 meeting minutes. Marianne made a motion to pass the minutes as written. Barry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Manager's Report on Siphon System at Cherokee Lake:

The siphon system at Cherokee Lake has been used quite often over the last 9 months. The system is a vital tool to keep the lake water at or below a safe level. Due to the excessive amount of rain that we have received over the spring and summer of 2018, the siphon's have worked many hours.

During the swimming season, we were very mindful of keeping the lake at a safe level but at the same time swimmable for residents. On August 2, 2018 we lowered the lake to 18 inches below full pool. This was the lowest level of the swimming season. By August 7, 2018 the lake level had increased a ½ inch above full pool.

I only lower the lake level when it is exceeding or in threat of exceeding the safe water level set by the VA Department of Conservation. The Emergency Spillway is just that, for emergencies. If the water is running down the spillway then the lake level is at a higher level than the VA Department of Conservation wants to allow.

I have received emails stating that I am not utilizing the spillway that the citizens paid for. It is true that the citizen's paid for the spillway, but the citizens also paid for the siphon system.

Once again, the VA Department of Conservation requires Cherokee Lake to have a siphon system and an emergency spillway. Both must always be in perfect working order. This mean's when a problem arises the issues must be taken care of as soon as possible.

I have received emails stating that Cherokee Lake is the primary source of water for fire protection in Shawneeland. This is also inaccurate. The lower pond on Tomahawk Trail has a dry hydrant for hook-up. Swan Lake on Bowman Lane is also equipped with a dry hydrant. These locations are the primary water supply.

During the winter month's I will purposely lower the lake level to a level lower than the rest of the year. This is because in order to charge our siphon system to operate, we need a water supply. The water supply is the lake itself. If the lake is covered with ice it is very difficult to access the water needed. I lower the levels, so we do not have to deal with the potential of having to put staff in an unsafe situation by having to break the ice.

The VA Department of Conservation has classified the dam as a significant hazard dam. With that being said I will always error on the side of caution. Public opinion is fine, and everyone has a right to feel as they will, but I will always do what I know is the right thing regardless of the public's opinion.

One last thing about Cherokee Lake. I monitor and measure the lake level daily as well as measure the leak. Currently the leak is at a rate of 130 gallons per minute. To put this into perspective this is 7,800 gallons per hour, 187,200 gallons per day, or 1,310,400 gallons per week. So, in the summer months when everyone drives by the lake and ask themselves, why is the staff lowering the lake. Most likely it is not the staff lowering the lake, it is in fact the leak that is lowering the lake.

Perry Engineering Company, Inc. has replaced 5 culvert pipes in 5 different locations throughout Shawneeland. They have also repaired the slope failure at Cherokee Dam. As of now we are at a total cost of \$252,863.07 for the replacement culvert pipes and the slope failure repairs. We still have 3 culvert pipes that will need to be replaced and 3 that needs grouting at some point. The ones left to be done are not as big of a safety issue as the others.

The staff has worked extremely hard at upgrading ditches and drainage areas. This will help us be better prepared for the future.

We have been doing some grader patching and will continue for another 5-6 days.

The snow equipment is ready to go for the winter season. We have chemicals and supplies in stock.

Fiscal Year 2019/2020 Budget:

Lynn said that \$300,000 had to be pulled from the Reserve Fund to cover the flood damage repairs. She said that \$252,863 had been spent on those repairs thus far. Due to the winter weather there won't be any other repairs done at this time. There has been \$100,000 added to the FY 19/20 budget as a precaution for future emergencies. Due to having to pull money from the Reserve Fund, the Sanitary District Fee will be increased by \$100. Since there was no Tar & Chip project in the current Fiscal Year, the number of roads in the Tar & Chip project for FY 19/20 will be doubled.

New Business: No

Open Forum:

- The question was raised as to what can be done to collect the back taxes on properties. It was stated that if the property owner couldn't be found, couldn't a lien be put on the owner's other properties. If they are deceased couldn't their estate be taxed. The Frederick County Treasurer could use interns to do the search for the property owners. The Frederick County Treasurer goes after Lake Holiday residents. The county has an arrangement with Lake Holiday where they receive 5%, we could offer 2.5% for the treasurer's effort. This would help the reserve fund. Gary Lofton agrees the results could be beneficial. If he thought the board could do anything, he would be glad to instigate action. Gary Lofton said that the chairman of the SSDAC could email the Frederick County Treasurer on how he handles delinquent taxes and get information to address concerns about collections. The Director of Public Works Joe Wilder stated that Lake

Holiday residents pay for a bond used for their dam. Lake Holiday collects their own HOA fee and Frederick County collects for the County and Sanitary District tax.

- A resident spoke regarding an incident that occurred on 1/10/2019 at his residence on Cheyenne Trail. His daughters were victims of a peeping tom. An officer responded but did not locate the individual. The officer said that the individual knew the homeowner's pattern of when and who was home. The officer suggested for the resident to install lights around his home and that there weren't any street lights along the road. He has installed sensor lights around his house and has not seen anyone since the initial incident. He asked if it could be considered for the future to add street lights. A resident said that his neighbor had the electric company install a dusk to dawn light for \$12 a month. Another suggestion was to get a dog.
- A resident spoke regarding a No Dumping sign being put up at the Old Mailhouse. It was previously spoke about at the 8/7/2018 quarterly meeting. She was told the SSDAC would look into it. Would like to see a more official sign put up at the Old Mailhouse. She stated that someone has volunteered to purchase and put the sign up. Barry stated that he was looking at signs but did not follow up. He said that he will get with Lynn regarding the sign.
- It was asked why the Sanitary District Fee is being increased. Lynn explained why the fee had to increase. The resident said that the job done a couple years ago on the ditches coming down Tecumseh were not done correctly. Why pay money for a job that creates more problems. She said there was no cloth put down under the riprap to help slow the water down. This contributed to the water runoff. An engineer from the county should have inspected the job. She stated some ditch lines are knee deep and some driveways have bigger culverts which is the reason the driveways are torn out. Kevin said they do use riprap. The employees are lifting big boulders with equipment instead of using chainsaws and then loading the pieces onto the trucks. The equipment is being worked to death. She also stated that there is a lot of work being done that doesn't need to be done just to make work for the employee's and it is coming out of our pockets.
- It was asked how long it would take to rebuild the Reserve Fund with the \$100 increase? Joe Wilder stated that it depends on any emergencies we may have. He said that by installing plastic pipes instead of metal ones they can last forever. He said that they are working with the county engineer on identifying culverts to upgrade. The fee increase will bring in \$90,000 of new money. If we don't have to spend that money, then the Reserve Fund could build up in 3 years. It was asked why such a huge hike at once? A couple years ago, the SSDAC had proposed a couple smaller increases but because Kevin had been coming in under budget, it was decided not to increase the fee. Now with rising cost an increase cannot be avoided. The last increase was in 2015.
- A resident stated that she had heard about the destruction of the landmarks in Shawneeland and there was a petition for residents to sign. She was told that those issues regarding The Old Mailhouse and The Clowser House had been dissolved and they wouldn't be going anywhere.
- There is no increase on unimproved lots. Someone said that this is why we need to go after the residents with delinquent taxes. A resident stated that her father-in-law had passed away in

2001 and nobody has attempted to do anything about his delinquent lot. It was stated that if all the residents would send letters to the Treasurer then maybe he would do something.

- A resident asked if there would be pollinator plots this year? Yes, there will be pollinator plots and there could possibly be more plots added to what we already have.

Lynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Barry seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.