

## **PONDS AND IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

*Monday, April 10, 2023 – Sloan Clubhouse Billiard Room*

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Chairman Bruce Sieving.

Attendance:

Linda Kulp, Ray Buckley, Kurt TeKolste, Doug Loutzenhiser (Board Liaison) and Bruce Sieving

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the March 23, 2022 meeting were previously approved by email vote of Committee members and are posted to the RAP website.

### **Old Business**

#### 1. Pond Activities & Issues

- During 2022 Pond 1 well pump area had a new pressure transducer installed in the header, crushed stone was placed at the site to improve safety/equipment accessibility and several general maintenance items were purchased, all for a total cost of \$815. In addition, screening vegetation was planted between the well site and nearby homes on Sloan Road, under the direction of Landscape committee chair, Mary Tilger.
- Black dye and beneficial bacteria treatment was initiated at Pond 4 last year on April 23 to inhibit the growth of algae. The cost was \$1,800 per year while a similar treatment of Pond 1 continued at a cost of \$600 annually.
- Pond 4 fountain aerator failed in early May and was replaced by a five-diffuser bubble aerator system on June 24. The new system was installed by Coon Hollow at a cost of \$4,425.
- A leak was discovered in the Pond 4 concrete outlet structure on June 8. It was repaired on August 21 at a cost of \$815 by Coon Hollow. A report detailing the work is posted to the committee's section of the RAP website.

#### 2. Irrigation Activities & Issues

- The 2022 opening of the community's five systems, normally a one-day effort by Hydroscares, required technician visits on May 13, 23, 26 and June 16 at a total cost of \$1,721. The time required was due to extensive maintenance issues (particularly repairing Sloan drip zone leaks) while the extended interval between visits was likely due to the contractor's staffing shortages. The systems were winterized on October 31 by a new technician who required extensive guidance on the location of RAP irrigation facilities. A two page pictorial guide will be posted in all three gatehouses showing our principal system components as an aid to irrigation technicians in the future.
- On August 4 the Regency Hills entrance system was reconfigured to place all above-ground piping below grade, thus eliminating the troublesome "hot box"; the lower of two bidders, Hydroscares, performed the work at a cost of \$1,450.

### **New Business**

1. The 2023 Board-approved pond budget is \$10,700, with contract services provided by Coon Hollow and Geese Chasers. This was the same amount budgeted for 2022.
2. The 2023 pond utilities budget is \$4,000 to cover the electric usage of aerators and well pumps. This is \$1,000 less than last year since the bubble aerators use less energy than the retired fountain aerators.

3. The 2023 approved irrigation budget is \$6,700 (same as 2022 amount), with contract services provided by Hydroscares.
4. Canada Geese activity on our three wet ponds has been heavy this year, beginning in mid-January. Scott Savoy, owner of Geese Chasers indicated to Jeff Bevan that his crews are extremely busy area-wide. Linda reported that one of the dog handlers deployed a remote controlled boat on Pond 2 to remove geese who were not deterred by the Border Collie barking on the shore.
5. Ed Osterhuber of Coon Hollow reported subsequent to his initial monthly visit that, for the first time at RAP, he found used doggie bags either in or around Ponds 2, 3 and 4; these three ponds are fed by community storm drains. If there is future evidence of such activity a RAP Flyer will be distributed to the community.

As an extension of this topic the committee discussed the pros and cons of providing a lock on the Pond 4 gate or some other method of further limiting access to the area inside the fence line. There was no consensus on this matter and the issue was tabled.

6. The committee engaged in a comprehensive discussion regarding the Pond 4 goldfish die-off that was initially discovered on March 26. In summary:
  - Coon Hollow, followed by Ray and Bruce collected and disposed of over 1,000 dead fish on five different occasions, beginning March 27.
  - P4 dissolved oxygen levels tested at 9 – 11 ppm, well above the 5 ppm required for trout
  - Water sample collected by Ed and sent to Penn State lab inconclusive for blue-green algae
  - Water sample sent to a BioSafe biologist indicated possible toxicity from planktothrix algae
  - Officers of DEP and Fish & Boat Commission visited the site, due to call from a RAP resident
  - No evidence of other aquatic species mortality (frogs and turtles are active in the pond)
  - Pond 2 (which also contains goldfish) has not experienced a die-off event
  - Pond to be treated with 150 pounds of Green Clean Pro algaecide on April 12
  - Coon Hollow to apply for permit amendments to allow full recommended dose of algaecides in all wet ponds
7. The Sloan clubhouse irrigation zones #15 - #19 are being converted from drip irrigation to spray systems; the Board approved proceeding with this unbudgeted project as a result of the advocacy by Doug and Jeff Bevan. The work began on April 6 with a 4-5 man Hydroscares crew.
8. Start-up of the five irrigation systems will begin on April 18 under the Hydroscares annual maintenance contract. Two known maintenance issues deferred since October will be corrected at that time.

### **Other Issues or Questions**

Doug inquired about the status of the removal of multiflora rose bushes along the shoreline of Pond 2. Bruce responded that this, along with removal of 19 saplings in the Pond 3 basin and the resetting of the storm drain manhole cover at Pond 4, is on Pristine Green's work list. Doug will follow-up with Jeff Bevan on this.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.