

# **PONDS, STORMWATER & IRRIGATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

*Thursday, April 18, 2024 – Regency Hills Clubhouse*

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 April 10, 2023 meeting were previously approved by email vote of Committee members and are posted to the RAP website.

## **Old Business**

### 1. Pond Activities & Issues

- In late March of last year Pond 4 experienced a goldfish die-off numbering 1,000 to 1,500 fish. They were removed and disposed of on five occasions by Coon Hollow and by Committee members. It was determined through testing of the water that the cause was planktothrix, a cyanobacteria. Chemical treatment of the pond and Coon Hollow labor totaled \$2,978.
- Canada Geese arrived early in 2023, triggering the daily Geese Chasers service to begin on January 11<sup>th</sup>. The service was successful and was terminated on May 18<sup>th</sup> for a total cost of \$4,182.
- Ed Osterhuber of Coon Hollow reported removing used dog waste bags from Ponds 2, 3 and 4 (which receive stormwater flow). After this problem was highlighted in the monthly community newsletter by the HOA president the issue was resolved.
- The gate to the Pond 4 perimeter fence was secured with a combination padlock on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- On October 16<sup>th</sup> Ponds 1, 2 and 4 were restocked with triploid grass carp (two carp in each).
- The three unused Otterbine fountain controllers were removed by RAP's electrical contractor to eliminate the 230 volt safety hazard they posed.

### 2. Stormwater Activities & Issues

- A partial visual inspection of our stormwater system was performed by Raintain of Cinnaminson, New Jersey. It was neither complete nor comprehensive, but did provide positive feedback that our systems are generally clean. Repeated efforts to reach Raintain have been unsuccessful.

### 3. Irrigation Activities & Issues

- The five drip irrigation zones of the Sloan Clubhouse system were retired and replaced with spray heads by Hydroscares at a cost of \$14,800. The new setup offers much improved coverage and lower maintenance. Five companies were provided the bid document but only one responded to our solicitation.
- The Sloan Clubhouse irrigation controller failed in May and was replaced by a Hunter unit. In August the Regency Hills clubhouse controller failed and was also replaced by a Hunter model.
- A request for proposal seeking bids for the 2024 maintenance contract was sent to six local firms. Three responded and Fisher Irrigation was selected as the low qualified bidder.

## **New Business**

1. The 2024 Board-approved pond budget is \$12,200, with contract services provided by Coon Hollow and Geese Chasers. This is an increase of \$1,500 over the amount budgeted for 2023.
2. The 2024 pond utilities budget is \$4,000 to cover the electric usage of aerators and well pumps. This is the same amount as budgeted last year.

3. The stormwater budget is a new item and is set at \$2,000 to provide for a minor amount of inspection work.
4. The 2024 approved irrigation budget is \$7,300 which is \$600 more than last year with contract services provided by Fisher Irrigation.
5. Canada Geese activity on our three wet ponds began early so Geese Chasers began on January 4<sup>th</sup>. They were terminated on January 31<sup>st</sup> and then restarted\* March 4<sup>th</sup> to present. Doug suggested that we consider using swans as an alternative deterrent, similar to their use at Lederach golf course; this will be investigated.
6. Following the Pond 4 goldfish die-off our consultant suggested using predator fish to control the large goldfish population in Pond 2. The Board approved the Committee's recommendation on October 25<sup>th</sup> and twelve 8" – 10" largemouth bass were introduced to the pond this morning by Ed Osterhuber (at a cost of \$170).
7. The Pond 2 shoreline and endwall structure area are scheduled to have brush, saplings and trees removed by Pristine Green at a cost of \$904.
8. In preparation for the Phase I repaving project Delco Storm & Sewer Services performed an interior camera inspection of the subsurface stormwater piping. Several problems were discovered and Delco will submit a report and recommended repair proposal to our engineering consultant, Bustamante. The repair work will be done in a "trenchless" manner, using a resin-impregnated internal sleeve pulled into the pipe and cured in place.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 PM.

\* On April 29<sup>th</sup> it was discovered that, due to a miscommunication with the contractor, the Geese Chasers service had not resumed on March 3<sup>rd</sup> as reported in these minutes. It was resumed on, or about, April 27<sup>th</sup>.