

**LELAND DAM AUTHORITY**  
**Special Session Meeting – Wednesday, July 28, 2021**  
Tentative minutes

*Proceedings of the meeting are being recorded (audio and video) and are not the official record of the meeting; the formally approved/accepted written copy of the minutes will be the official record of the meeting.*

Call to Order:

Meeting called to Order by Chairman Steve Christensen at 1:04 p.m. Today's meeting is being held at the Government Center, 8527 E. Government Center Drive, Suttons Bay, Michigan.

Pledge of Allegiance:

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America was recited, followed by a moment of silence.

<u>Roll Call:</u>	Road Commissioner James Calhoun	ABSENT
	Drain Commissioner Steve Christensen	PRESENT
	Road Commissioner Garth Greenan	PRESENT
	Road Commissioner Bob Joyce	ABSENT (with prior notice)
	Road Commissioner Greg Mikowski	PRESENT
	Road Commissioner John Popa	PRESENT

Maintenance Director Jerry Culman II was present.

Public Comment:

None.

Communication Items:

Culman provided and reviewed photo hand-outs of the Leland Dam with Authority members. Culman said the photos (#1-4) showed the permanent placement idea and route of the apron access ladder that is needed for safety. Culman said that he had been working with Terry Walters, President-Owner, of Ace Welding & Machine, Inc., for drawings and ideas of the ladders and platform. The thought is to have it done in three pieces (two ladders and the decking).

Hand-outs can be viewed at the following link:

[https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/dam\\_photos\\_07282021.pdf](https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/dam_photos_07282021.pdf)

Photos #5-7 are showing the safety device. Culman explained there were modifications that were necessary and are being done. The expected date for finishing is August 13, 2021, as of now.

Christensen questioned Culman regarding a \$585.00 Ace Welding & Machine Inc. payment on page 2 of Transaction History Listing Report that Authority members were provided, to which Culman responded.

[https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/lda\\_07282021\\_transaction\\_history.pdf](https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/lda_07282021_transaction_history.pdf)

Discussion between Culman and Dam Authority members continued.

Old Business:  
None.

Purpose of Meeting – Discussion/Potential Action on:

Approve Invoice for Design of Safety Ladder:

[https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/handouts\\_dam\\_authority\\_07282021.pdf](https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/handouts_dam_authority_07282021.pdf)

Christensen stated that the quote of \$975.00 from Ace Welding is not an invoice. Culman told Dam Authority members that it is a cost to “own” the CAD drawings and spec sheet to then be able to proceed with the ladder and platform construction. Conversation ensued.

MOTION BY POPA TO PROCEED WITH ACE WELDING’S QUOTE DATED JULY 7, 2021, TO PROVIDE LABOR AND DETAILED DRAWINGS TO DESIGN A LADDER AND PLATFORM FOR THE LELAND DAM, AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$975.00. SECONDED BY GREENAN.

Discussion – Popa said that Culman has continued bringing it to the Dam Authority’s attention that the ladder was needed.

Christensen suggested adding “CAD Drawings” into the motion.

Popa agreed to modify the motion with support from Greenan.

**MOTION AMENDED BY POPA TO PROCEED WITH ACE WELDING’S QUOTE DATED JULY 7, 2021, TO PROVIDE LABOR AND DETAILED CAD DRAWINGS TO DESIGN A LADDER AND PLATFORM FOR THE LELAND DAM, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$975.00. SECONDED BY GREENAN.**

Discussion – None.

**AYES – 4 (POPA, CHRISTENSEN, GREENAN, MIKOWSKI)**

**NO – 0          ABSENT – 2 (CALHOUN, JOYCE)**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

Dam Apron Access Ladder – Approve Construction of the Ladder through Single Source:

Chairman Christensen said he feels it would be a little premature to approve construction of the ladder through a single source since they do not have a design yet. Culman said the plan was to have it before them so they could decide if they wished to go out for bids. Culman stated he wants the construction to be safe for anyone to use (himself and anyone that will be working there after him).

Christensen said he appreciates all of Culman’s work, and now there is both construction and installation of the ladder system to think about. It’s a good first step to get the CAD design, but it may not be ready for a motion at this point in time.

Greenan said he does not feel comfortable approving construction not knowing the cost.

Conversation continued between Authority members and Culman.

2022 Budget Discussion:

Chairman Christensen said they are in sort of a special situation as an Authority that they are basically going and asking for money from the Board of Commissioners as they need it. He would like to see the ladder project completed and done this year, as it is not in the 2022 budget. Culman questioned budget and amounts to which Christensen answered that it is "\$11,000.00 in and \$11,000.00 out, so they do have a budget." Christensen continued that they have been running around \$8,000.00 to \$9,000.00 year in and year out for just the basic stuff. If they have items that end up going over that, then they go to the Board of Commissioners to ask for that. If in 2023 they see something that is bigger that needs to be done, then it needs to be put into that budget.

Discussion continued.

Public Comment:

Culman spoke and said the gate level at the Dam is at is 8'7" and is usually 8'9", and that the flow is dictated by the mouth of the river.

Steve Christensen spoke in regards to all the data that is available to look at, and that Culman's comment refers to how quickly we can respond to a big dump of water by allowing water out at dam.

Authority Member Comments:

Popa said the graph hand-out is a good indicator of how much rain came in a short time all over the lake. [https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/graph\\_lake\\_level\\_sensors\\_07282021.pdf](https://www.leelanau.gov/downloads/graph_lake_level_sensors_07282021.pdf)

Mikowski said he thinks water on the south end is still up considerably.

Christensen would like additional discussion of lake levels vs. Dam operations at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

**Motion by Mikowski to adjourn. Seconded by Greenan.**

Chairman Christensen adjourned the meeting at 1:54 p.m.

---

Steve Christensen, Chairman  
Leland Dam Authority

---

Alison Middleton, Deputy County Clerk  
for Michelle L. Crocker, Leelanau County Clerk