



Work Session & Regular Meeting

Monday, September 12, 2016

*(Meeting Held at the Village of Richfield Town
Hall, Council Chambers)*

Call to Order:

The Work Session & Regular Meeting of the RJRD Board of Trustees was "Called to Order" at 6:33 p.m. by Chairperson Mr. Cugini and Roll Call was taken by the RJRD Administrator, Mrs. Bluso Rogers.

In Attendance:

Mr. Bob Becker *(Not Present)*

Ms. Kelly Clark

Mr. Dominic Cugini

Mr. Rich Fleming

Mr. Ralph McNeerney

Mr. Pat Norris

Mr. Bill Taylor

Mr. Bill Hanna, RJRD Counsel to the Board

Mr. Keith Shy, Capital/Public Improvements Consultant/Manager

Mrs. Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrator

Work Session:

Resolution 17-2016 Fiscal Item

This item was first discussion and action is anticipated for September 26, 2016.

Mr. Cugini stated the Fiscal Agent, Sandy Turk, has submitted a briefing memo and it was included in their agenda distribution. An additional appropriation is being requested to cover the property taxes that were paid in July, 2016. Cugini stated that the application to the Summit County Fiscal Officer to exempt the property from taxes has been made and the status of that application will be closely monitored by the RJRD Administrator and the Fiscal Agent.

The taxes are the responsibility of RJRD the first year of ownership and the exemption process can take as long as 18-24 months and depending on the County Fiscal Officer, a refund may or may not be approved and it could be all of the tax or a portion. Tax exempt status can only be applied for after the first year of ownership has passed.

The Fiscal Agent is recommending that the consulting account be restored to an acceptable limit and is requesting \$45,850.00 to be added from the General Fund that was not previously allocated. The allocation exceeds budgetary projections but the Fiscal Agent suggests that the recommended amount will allow the Board to be flexible for any unforeseen operational issues.

The Chair recognized Legal Counsel. Mr. Hanna stated that there are legal expenses associated with the filing of the tax exempt status and to obtain the refund.

The Chair and Treasurer will discuss and will provide recommendation at the next meeting.

Public Safety

Cugini provided an overview and asked the Trustees to refer to the September 12, 2016 Briefing Memo that was distributed in advance of the meeting. Cugini stated that first discussion will be waived and requested formal action on the matter during the regular meeting.

Cugini stated that there was a Capital Projects Committee meeting and during that meeting GPD presented their dam assessment. The dam assessment will be incorporated into the EDG Master Plan and will be discussed at a later date but as the briefing memo indicates there is a public safety concern.

There is a bridge across the upper lake and based on GPD's structural engineer, they have provided professional opinion that the bridge is not safe. Based on this, formal action was anticipated in the regular meeting to take the bridge offline to the public and address hiring a structural engineer for more in-depth analysis, assessment and recommendation. The appropriation would be from the capital fund.

Trustee Clark stated support for blocking the bridge and hiring a structural engineer. To answer McNerney's question regarding the extent of the damage, Cugini stated that this was outside the original scope of services with GPD and it was a complimentary opinion based on engineers who would only cross the bridge one at a time and this was due to age, load limit, and lack of maintenance.

The bridge needs to be evaluated and either repaired or replaced also depending on the use. Currently BTA uses the bridge as part of their trail system through the property. It is unclear at this time how long the bridge will be offline and its impact on the Buckeye Trail; i.e. if necessary to re-route the trail. McNerney stated that action should be taken as soon as possible. There were no other questions or comments from the other Trustees.

Eagle Scout Project

This item was first discussion and action is anticipated for September 26, 2016.

Life Scout Chris Morris presented his Eagle Scout Bridge Project to the full Board. This was the same presentation provided at the committee level and it was recommended by the majority of the committee to present it to the full Board.

To ensure that enough data was available for an informed board decision, Park Services contacted EDG to be present at the initial presentation so all details could be coordinated with the master plan. EDG's director Katherine Holmok and Land Planner Kristen Horine were in attendance.

Mr. Wesley Weir, Vice President/Master Professional/Senior Project Manager at TranSystem is Chris Moore's mentor on the project. Mr. Weir has over twenty-five years of experience in the design, inspection, load rating and rehabilitation of all types of fixed and moveable bridges, highway and rail/transit structures. Mr. Weir was in attendance care of Skype and answered technical questions relating to load limits and the overall design of the Eagle Bridge.

Chris followed up with the Fire Department and the new equipment proposed will be able to cross the bridge.

The bridge will be across the stream in the gas cut area. The cost of the materials is approximately \$7K and Chris Morris has already secured all the donations necessary. Chris Morris stated that approval is needed as soon as possible to (a) obtain Eagle Scout Council approval, (b) get supplies delivered and (c) construct the concrete and footer work in October before the ground freezes. Bridge construction would occur during winter with installation in the spring. Boy Scouts and volunteers will assist with the project. Mr. Weir will be on-site to oversee the project.

Cugini expressed appreciation for the design, work and donation. There was some discussion to assist Chris Morris only if necessary. Clark, Park Services Chairperson and the Administrator will monitor the project and the required permits.

Mr. Steven Morris stated that to secure the supplies for the bridge and to take advantage of the free delivery of the supplies, it was necessary for the Board to take formal action to approve as soon as possible. The supplies are being delivered from Columbus to the property. Cugini stated that if Trustees were comfortable waiving the first discussion of the item, that would and could be done in the regular portion of the meeting.

Regarding using the bridge for horse traffic, Mr. Weir stated that the requirements for the design of the bridge expands involving safety, height of rails and guards for horses. The design was for pedestrian and safety equipment only and the inclusion of horses significantly increases the complexity of the design and would be larger than the current project being proposed

Bee Removal Plan

The item was for first discussion with action taken anticipated during the 2017 budget process.

Trustee Clark reviewed the briefing memo included in the Trustee agenda package distributed prior to the meeting and stated that North House has bees. The bees have made a home inside the wall of North and the bee removal is free but the cost to be appropriated in 2017 covers the cost of repairing the interior wall after the bees have been relocated. The best time to remove the bees is in the spring and Clark is requesting the Board's action and consideration during the 2017 Budget Process.

Public Comment on Work Session:

The Chair recognized Molly Eastwood. Ms. Eastwood requested that the Board consider modifying the Eagle Scout Project to include horse use. Ms. Eastwood stated that horses and people can share the same trails and she provided an example from the Metro Parks. Mr. Shy asked for examples of dual purpose designs and Ms. Eastwood stated that the trails are shared and not built specifically for dual purpose.

The Chair recognized Peter Schueler. Mr. Schueler, Revere Road, provided another beekeeper, Alan Travers, Hawkins Road, as another source to remove bees.

The Chair recognized Greg Bokan. Mr. Bokan, Roberts Drive, is a beekeeper and also offered his services to remove the bees.

The Chair recognized Judy Soroczak. Ms. Soroczak provided information about Eagle Project approval process.

Regular Meeting:

Approval of Minutes:

There were no minutes for approval.

Standing Committee Reports

Capital Projects Committee:

No report.

Governance Committee:

Approval of RJRD External Communications Policy

Agenda item removed from meeting business. It will be discussed at the committee level.

Resolution 16-2016 A Resolution Declaring RJRD Property as Surplus Property No Longer Needed for Public Use, Obsolete or Unfit for the Use for Which It Was Acquired and Authorizing the District's Ability to Sell Said Property As Stated

Trustee Cugini stated that this item is in regards to the inventory that was distributed to the Board for their review and comment.

MOTION made by Mr. Cugini and seconded by Ms. Clark to approve and adopt Resolution 16-2016, A Resolution Declaring RJRD Property as Surplus Property No Longer Needed for Public Use, Obsolete or Unfit for the Use for Which it Was Acquired and Authorizing the District's Ability to Sell Said Property as Stated.

DISCUSSION: Norris voiced concerns regarding accuracy of assets, value of assets, and inability to review adequately due to time constraints. Norris recommended third party professional approach to help distance the board from the process to ensure professionalism, accountability and accuracy and utilize expertise in advertising and the ability to handle payments. Norris expressed the need to table the motion. Cugini requested specific action items from the Board to move the resolution forward; e.g. field trip as a board to review the assets. Norris stated his action plan as "to make it accurate."

Clark stated that the resolution and inventory list has been out for review for a month with no email response or input as requested. Board members have been on the property reviewing the assets. Any questionable item just needs to be conveyed to Trustee Clark and the item will be held until the question is answered. Several months ago Fleming stated that he and Mr. Becker toured the buildings and discussed the disposition of the items but neither he or Becker wrote anything down. Per Fleming, it was obvious what was junk or valuable and Fleming assumed that Becker would convey since he was Chair of Buildings and Grounds at the time. Fleming stated that each Board member should just take the time to review the items and provide input. Cugini stated that the list is extensive and less than 25% is deemed valuable. Cugini suggested that any scrap item could be moved to a central location and then physically reviewed by the board members.

MOTION AMENDED BY Mr. Cugini and seconded by Mr. McNerney to pass the inventory list "as is" and all items noted as scrap will be collected in Gund Hall and placed in a single location for the board to review and take action and those items deemed for sale would be collected and saved for sale and the sale process would be determined after the collection.

DISCUSSION: Norris stated his desire for electronic sharing of photographs rather than reviewing physically. Taylor stated that it was more productive to move items the least amount of times. Clark stated that the items need to be removed from the buildings to get ready for further action with the buildings. Many of the items are ruined from vermin urine and feces. Only scrap items will be moved to a central location. Mr. Taylor did not think that moving items around was productive. Norris stated that many of the items had

a collectible value with some starting and in excess of \$1800. Mr. Taylor questioned that value and opinion stating that people have their own perception of value for collectibles. Mr. Taylor opined that each trustee should review the items and “sign-off” on the inventory list. McNerney disagreed and opined that all scrap be moved to the dining hall since the future of the buildings are unknown and everything would be together.

MOTION TO AMEND PASSED: Mr. Becker (Not Present) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Cugini (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (No)

CONTINUED DISCUSSION: Mr. Hanna, Legal Counsel, provided Uniform Bond Law information and informed the Board of the specifics from the Tax Compliance Certificate approved by the Board when acquiring the bond.

In Section 5.20 Disposition of Property: The certificate states that the RJRD does not intend to sell or dispose of the new money project and the prior project of any portion thereof during the term of the issue except those for the dispositions of property in the normal course at the end of the such property’s useful life to RJRD.

With respect to tangible personal property, if any, that is part of the new money project and the prior project financed or refinance by the issue, RJRD reasonably expects that: (a) dispositions of such tangible personal property, if any, will be in the ordinary course of an established governmental program; (b) the weighted average maturity of the bonds of the issue financing or refinancing such property will not be greater than 120% of the reasonably expected actual use of such property for governmental purposes; (c) the fair market value of such property on the date of disposition will not be greater than 25% of the its cost; (d) the property will no longer be suitable for its governmental purposes on the date of the disposition and (e) the amounts received from any disposition of such property

(i) if a “permanent improvement” for purposes of Section 5705.10 of the ORC are required to, and will be , deposited in the Issuer’s bond retirement fund or special fund of the Issuer for the construction and acquisition of permanent improvements or (ii) otherwise are required to and will be deposited in the fund of the Issuer from which the property was acquired or is maintained, or, if there is no such fund, in the Issuer’s Permanent Improvement Fund, and may be commingled with substantial tax or other governmental revenues, and will be spent on governmental programs within 6 months from the date of such deposit, and commingled, if applicable.

The money received on anything sold is required to be placed in the capital improvement fund.

Norris stated proposed the following disposition process for scrap items: a group that exists for RJRD’s benefit would be willing to dispose of these items and that this group would sell the items and keep the money since this group only exists to benefit RJRD. Norris stated that RJRD would benefit from this sale rather than putting it back into the bond fund.

Hanna concurred that it was a two-step process and if a volunteer group removed the discarded scrap items they would not be bound to the same requirements as RJRD.

Further, Hanna stated that this cannot be an established process [as Norris described] by declaring something scrap when it isn't because it is fraud. Taylor asked if the money would return to RJRD and Norris stated that the proceeds would not be given to RJRD but RJRD would receive the benefits in another form. Fleming stated that if the disposition is "scrap" it is defined as "no value" and should be hauled away; scrap is scrap. A decision on the scrap disposition process will be discussed and determined at a later date.

MOTION PASSED: Mr. Becker (Not Present) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Cugini (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (No), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)

Chairperson Cugini tasked Trustee Clark with the development of a plan to bring to the Board.

Action for Public Safety

MOTION made by Mr. Cugini and seconded by Mr. McNerney to ensure public safety, structural engineering quotes on the upper lake bridge would be sought and if the quote is less than or equal to \$10K immediate action would be taken and if the repair is less than or equal to \$20K immediate action would be taken.

DISCUSSION: Trustee Clark asked if the bridge would be closed immediately while the quotes were being sought and if the lower lake swing bridge was also impacted. Cugini stated that the swing bridge was temporarily blocked off but not done correctly and just needs to be done correctly. Clark noted that Mr. Becker always stated that the upper bridge was to be closed but Trustees Norris and Taylor did not recall. Fleming asked for the intended purpose of this bridge; e.g. a shortcut or a way to access the lake valve.

Mr. Shy stated that per the engineer it was the manner in which to get to the valve and was not intended as a pedestrian way/trail since there is no trail there. Trustee Fleming noted that it is being used and being converted to a pedestrian trail due to the Buckeye Trail. The bridge needs to be evaluated so it is safe for maintenance and evaluated for the pedestrian use. Fleming stated that the valve can be accessed from the north and going around the upper lake. Taylor stated that it allows people access to fish from the dam wall and Clark stated that the dam wall can also be accessed from the north. McNerney opined that the lower lake swing bridge be evaluated as well since it would be cheaper for the engineering and the repairs. Taylor stated the friends were to provide evaluation information on the swing bridge. The motion is for the upper bridge only.

MOTION PASSED: Mr. Becker (Not Present) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Cugini (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Nay), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)

MOTION made by Mr. Cugini and seconded by Ms. Clark to ensure public safety, the upper dam bridge would be closed immediately until the Board takes action on the required repairs in an amount of \$3K performed by qualified professionals.

DISCUSSION: Taylor suggested that the same professionals include the swing bridge.

Mr. Cugini withdrew the motion.

MOTION made by Mr. Cugini and seconded by Mr. McNerney to professionally close the upper and lower lake bridges in an amount not to exceed \$5K.

DISCUSSION: None

MOTION PASSED: Mr. Becker (Not Present) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Cugini (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)

Park Operations:

MOTION made by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. McNerney to approve \$13K that represents 50% of the total purchase price from the Capital Improvement Miscellaneous Equipment for a Richfield Village Fire Department Search and Rescue Vehicle to be maintained by the fire department.

DISCUSSION: None

MOTION PASSED: Mr. Becker (Not Present) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Cugini (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)

Park Services:

Clean up weekend is Saturday, October 1, 2016 and Sunday, October 2, 2016 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. A clean-up plan that includes the inventory issues will be presented to the Board. September 25, 2016 is the Kirby Birthday Party sponsored by FOCH and Trick or Treat on the Trail is October 2. Request for volunteers are being sought.

MOTION made by Ms. Clark and seconded by Mr. Cugini to approve Chris Morris Eagle Bridge Project as presented and subject to the permits and easements.

DISCUSSION: Brief discussion regarding a donation but that will be formally presented at a later time.

MOTION PASSED: Mr. Becker (Not Present) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Cugini (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)

[Applause]

Special Committee Reports:

None

Special Orders:

None

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Announcements:

Mr. Cugini stated his appreciation to the public for their involvement and participation in the meetings including the Capital Projects Committee Meeting where the dam assessments were discussed. All the data and information will be brought forward in a single meeting for the public and the board so those decisions can be made.

Cugini acknowledged the emails received from the public including those from the Richfield Historical Society, interested parties, and FOCH. The input and information was appreciated.

Cugini stated that this is a challenging and fun time but it is also sometimes difficult due to monetary issues based on the wants from the residents.

Comments from the Floor:

The chair recognized Rick Hudak, Brecksville Road. Hudak stated that he was in attendance as one of seven council members and commended the well-run meeting. Hudak stated that he was in attendance due to the Executive Session listed on the agenda. Hudak asked if there would be action taken after the Executive Session.

Cugini stated that it depends on the Executive Session and Hudak stated his presumption that it dealt with certain financial matters and requested to direct a question to the RJRD Law Director. Cugini stated that this portion of the meeting was for public comment and not a Q&A.

Hudak stated that his question should be directed to Mr. Hanna rather than Mr. Cugini because he [Hudak] didn't think that Mr. Cugini would like the question. Continuing and without pause, Hudak stated that as a member of council and one who appoints the trustees on the board, he asked to be in attendance in the executive session. Mr. Hanna asked to be recognized by the Chair. Mr. Cugini stated that the executive session includes members of the board, paid employees and invitees per the board and then recognizing Mr. Hanna, Mr. Hanna concurred with the Chair. To answer the question, Mr. Hudak would not be included in the executive session.

The Chair recognized Marty Kruzynski, Berkeley Road. Mr. Kruzynski stated that any inventory item that has been exposed or infested with vermin waste is considered a biohazard. Kruzynski offered the services of his son, a woodworker, for signs.

The Chair recognized Pat Hayes, Buckeye Trail, Medina, Ohio. Due to the closing of the upper dam bridge and the impact on the BTA, Mr. Hayes requested a contact person on the matter. BTW was instructed to direct all communication on the matter to the Chairperson Cugini. Problems exist with the disconnection of half of the trail, blazes that have been removed and timeframe for the repair.

The Chair recognized Mayor Beshara. Mayor Beshara thanked the board for the assistance in purchasing the safety and rescue equipment. All in attendance were reminded to sign-up for 911 cellular so when you are on the property safety services can locate you. Beshara suggested that moving scrap items that contain biohazard is dangerous.

The Chair recognized Cynthia McWilliams, Hinckley, Ohio. McWilliams urged the board to include horses on the Eagle Bridge versus two bridges.

The Chair recognized Corey Ringle, Shaker Heights. Ringle stated her appreciation for Cugini's statement about their letter and continued to read into the record their letter urging the board to save the lower lake dam.

The Chair recognized Karen Smik, Richfield Historical Society. Smik read into the record a letter urging the board to save the lower lake dam.

[Applause]

The Chair recognized Peter Schueler. Schueler stated that the board's decisions could be irreversible encouraged to preserve the heritage. Schueler directly questioned the Chair for the status of the master plan. Cugini stated that the Master Plan is under review and will be coming out for public discussion late this month or early next month.

[Applause]

The Chair recognized Judy Soroczak. Soroczak requested the communication plan from the Board since the public is told to go to the website. Soroczak stated her frustrations about the

lack of information in the paper about RJRD, confusion on how the property name was developed and the timing of the board to make decisions.

Action Items & Agenda Items:

The next and upcoming meetings are September 26, 2016 and October 10, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

MOTION made by Mr. Cugini and seconded by Mr. Norris to go into Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. discuss pending or imminent court action and to consider the compensation of a public employee per ORC 121.22(g).

DISCUSSION: None

ROLL CALL VOTE PASSED: Mr. Becker (Not Present) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Cugini (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)

Also in attendance in the Executive Session: Mr. Keith Shy, Mr. Bill Hanna

The regular meeting resumed at 9:29 p.m. with the Board coming out of Executive Session.

MOTION made by Mr. Cugini and seconded by Ms. Clark to approve the RJRD Administrator job description as presented in Executive Session and with the annual average to be thirty (30) hours per week.

MOTION WITHDRAWN by Mr. Cugini


MOTION made by Mr. Cugini and seconded by Ms. Clark to approve as written the RJRD Administrator to the Board of Trustees Job Description and approve the hours per week from twenty (20) to thirty (30) hours on average per week.

DISCUSSION: None

MOTION PASSED: Mr. Becker (Not Present) Ms. Clark (Yea), Mr. Cugini (Yea), Mr. Fleming (Yea), Mr. McNerney (Yea), Mr. Norris (Yea), and Mr. Taylor (Yea)

Adjournment: Ms. Clark moved to adjourn and it was seconded by Mr. Norris at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Debbie Bluso Rogers, Administrator to RJRD Board



Richfield Joint Recreation District,
Chairperson



Richfield Joint Recreation District,
Secretary

**ITEMS READ INTO THE RECORD FOLLOW
THE RJRD RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS**

Debbie Bluso-Rogers

From: Corey Ringle <corey.ringle@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 12, 2016 12:40 AM
To: Bob Becker; Kelly Clark; Dominic Cugini; Rich Fleming; Ralph McNerney; Pat Norris; Bill Taylor
Cc: Debbie Bluso-Rogers
Subject: FoCH: Amicus Brief on the Lower Lake
Attachments: 2016-09-12 FoCH Amicus Brief Lower Lake.pdf

To: The board of the Richfield Joint Recreation District,

As you begin to make decisions about the dams which form the historic lakes of Richfield Heritage Preserve, we submit the following Amicus brief for your review to assist you in making informed choices.

Historic Significance of the Lower Dam and Lake at Richfield Heritage Preserve

- The majority of the Preserve was once the home of inventor James B. Kirby. Kirby believed that women should not be forced into relentless rounds of repetitive chores. To that end, he invented devices to help relieve the burden of housework drudgery.
- Once Kirby made his fortune, he sought a property he could make into a home as well as a testing ground for his theories on civil engineering. The 100-acre Oviatt farm suited his purposes.
- Construction of the two intake dams and the large retaining dam to create the Lower Lake were Kirby's first projects on the property.
- The resulting lake, which Kirby called "Lake Jinelle" (combining his wife's name with his); was designed to keep the water clear. He patented this design.
- It is the world's only known patented lake.
- Kirby built his house to face the lake.
- Kirby's spring-loaded dance hall overlooks the lake.
- Kirby's Mill requires the lake in order to function.

As a regional destination, Kirby's estate has enormous potential for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) education. Kirby applied technology to a beautiful natural setting, creating a truly unique place. His structures are rustic, whimsical, and brilliant. Their workings are simple enough and approachable enough that with simple explanations, a child can understand the basic concepts. Kirby's story and his estate have the ability to inspire the next generation of engineers and scientists in a way that no laboratory could. The Lower Lake is the focal point for the estate, both for its aesthetics and for the innovative hydraulics with which it was constructed.

Other significant historic factors:

- The first permanent settlers on the Preserve were the Oviatts. The Oviatts constructed a dam to create millpond - in roughly the same place as the current dam.

- The Oviatts operated a sawmill. They milled the boards for their house in that sawmill in 1834.
- Nathaniel Oviatt, one of the first Township trustees, also had lumber milled at that saw mill on that millpond.
- The Neals moved from Broadview Rd to what we now call Amity and North House on the shores of Lake Linea because Kirby built his second lake with the know-how he gained from the Lower Lake.
- The Cleveland Girl Scouts bought the land - which kept it undeveloped for all these years- so they could swim and boat on the Lower Lake.
- A pair of Bald Eagles have built a nest overlooking the Lower Lake, and they catch fish from the waters of the Lower Lake.
- In 2014, the Coalition for Greater Richfield described the property as having two lakes and a historically significant background.
- In setting the amount of the bond issue, the RJRD projected that a significant amount of initial funding beyond the purchase price would be needed for major repairs. The taxpayers approved this in a bond issue.
- You have a Friends group who raised in excess of \$100,000.00 in their first iteration prior to 2014; who since that time have been responsible for over \$92,000.00 in combined goods and services contributed to the Coalition for Greater Richfield and the RJRD; and who are eagerly waiting for the opportunity to begin active fundraising for the Preserve which will translate into considerable cost savings for the RJRD.
- In 2015, the RJRD began the process of having the property placed on the National Registry of Historic Places – in large part to be eligible for historic preservation grants.
- This property has the potential for garnering national interest (and funding) not only for its history, but for STEAM education opportunities, and from camp alumni who wish to preserve their memories.

Respectfully submitted,

Friends of Crowell Hilaka

Corey Ann Ringle
corey.ringle@gmail.com
 216.299.1051

Preserve Ohio's Hidden Treasure...Crowell Hilaka
www.friendsofcrowellhilaka.org

Debbie Bluso-Rogers

From: paulswan@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, September 11, 2016 1:42 PM
To: Dominic Cugini; Ralph McNerney; Bill Taylor; Pat Norris; Bob Becker; Kelly Clark; Rich Fleming; volunteer-info (RJRD); Debbie Bluso-Rogers
Cc: sejloughry@aol.com
Subject: Historical Society letter to RJRD Board

To the RJRD Board members and Secretary;

As president of the Richfield Historical Society I have been directed by the Board of the RHS to forward this letter to each of you individually, and request that it be read at the September 12, 2016 Board meeting. At our September 6, 2016 Board meeting we approved the content of this letter.

Thank you in advance,
Paul K. Swan
President RHS

To RJRD

Regarding the Lower Lake at Richfield Heritage Preserve, formerly Crowell Hilaka

The lower lake is the central historical element in that whole property. It's the world's only known patented lake. Kirby's house, the mill, the boat landing, and the dance hall are all oriented around the lake. Kirby loved it. His bedroom windows and his workshop loft all overlooked the lake. It was a source of inspiration and tranquility for him.

If you remove the lower dam, then you lose the lake. If you lose the lake, you lose the immediacy of Kirby's story. Kirby's story is what makes this property unique. Kirby's home blended technology and nature- a lesson needed for our time

Lose the lake and you lose Kirby's 20th century spin on the ancient combination of lake, dam, mill, and bridge that existed around the world for over a thousand years. These four elements were all components of an integrated system that was the main source of power generation for over a thousand years.

Lose the lake and the mill won't ever work. Sure you can "save" it, but what for? It's got an overshot wheel. That means the water has to come in over the top and it needs a millpond in order to work. Kirby's wheel design was an innovative experiment. Kirby's Mill was placed on the National

Historic Register in 1978 largely because the wheel was the first of its kind. You can't convert it to an undershot wheel without losing the essence of what Kirby built. In addition, we are just finding out now how experimental the whole mill design was. It appears as though Kirby re-engineered his original concept for the millhouse structure. That too, is part of the story. What a great thing to demonstrate to children: if your first try fails, then re-design your solution. Kirby's Mill shows that. But only if it has the power of falling water to drive it.

The repair of the lower dam will cost money. But that's why the RJRD set the amount of the bond issue higher than just the cost of the land purchase. RJRD still has millions of dollars for capital repairs on the property— most of which must be spent in the next two years. You have the Friends of Crowell Hilaka to raise awareness, excitement, and needed funds for historic building restoration later on.

RJRD voted to call the place "Richfield Heritage Preserve" because they wanted to preserve Richfield heritage. Keeping the lakes by repairing the dams is a necessary first step.

Total Control Panel

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To: dbluso-rogers@richfieldvillageohio.org

[Remove](#) this sender from my allow list

From: paulswan@aol.com

You received this message because the sender is on your allow list.