

NLFCZD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 22, 2014
Spokane County Public Works Building 3:00pm-5:15pm

Present –

Attendees: Marianne Barrentine, Jane Clark, Karen Kruger, Wendy Burley, Mike Frasco, Laurie Keaton, Kelli Lemley, Barry Moore, Tom Stebbins

Introductions

Guest Policy:

Discussion about Guest Policy Participation Protocol. District staff submitted for discussion: “All guests are welcome to attend Advisory Board meetings. If there is room at the table for all guests in attendance, guests are welcome to sit at the table. If there is not enough room at the table, all guests are welcome to sit in extra chairs available near the wall in the room.”

- Comments made that we need further discussion regarding the participation protocol of visitors. Visitors can provide feedback after board members have had a chance to vet their issues.
- Would like to see more control in the meetings and more formality about visitor participation and protocol.

District News:

- **Lake Level:** Jane reported that the lake level as of this morning was 2125.30 feet and the channel roll gates are closed. Memorial Day goal is 2125.60
 - Question was asked about the possibility of lowering the lake level to reduce erosion: What would be the process?
 - What would happen if we did not have the lake level go to the current peak level, so we can keep the level lower overall?
 - Barry reminded us of the fact that the people at the south end of the lake want the lake to be kept higher, and the people at the north end of the lake want it to be lower. Also reminded us of the lawsuit in the past due to the District having no policy and lake level target.
 - Marianne indicated that the upper level starting point for the lake level affects where you end up due to evaporation. It is difficult to determine how much evaporation will take place or how much, if any precipitation will be added to the system.
 - Further Lake level discussion will have to be discussed via e-mail.
- **Newsletter:** Newsletter released in April, and was printed and sent out by Copy-Rite. We used to have Garland Printing print the newsletter, then staff volunteers would fold, tape, and place address labels. Without staff volunteers working on the Newsletter, the change will be reflected in the budget.
- **Alum and Oxygenation Systems:** Oxygenator has been on for about one month and we have had four Alum deliveries.
- **NRCS Dike Inspection:** On-site meeting with NRCS for dike/dam inspection will take place Thursday, May 29th at 9:00am. Email was sent by Jane, asking for a volunteer from Advisory Committee to go along. Mike Frasco volunteered. Request was made to reach out to Kim Jones and invite him, as he was concerned about what, if any requirements we would have to follow from NRCS.
 - Question was asked as to what options are we going to discuss?
 - Staff response was that we would be looking at where the NRCS previously drove pile and placed boards to fix a portion of the dike back in 1988. Most concerned with looking at where dike has settled along the Starr Rd. side and discussing the options for correction.
 - Flood Control District will be paying for any repairs.
- **Summer Meeting Agenda:** Draft Summer Meeting Agenda was emailed to Advisory Committee. There will not be a need to discuss the Adopt-A-Shoreline Program since we have grant money and it is currently a moot point.

- Question about what is the action for Lake water level change?
Actions will be to have a public meeting, will need to go through the SEPA process, and the Board of County Commissioners will have to sign off.
- Staff will pull out info of what was done the last time this issue was raised and went to the Commissioners, and info will be emailed to committee.
- Question as to whether we want to include the lake level subject at the summer meeting?

- **Budget – Overview of 2013**

- Comment was made that a visual of the flow of milfoil expenses would be helpful.
- District spent \$18,463 from Water Quality reserves in 2013. Most of that amount satisfied the District's match portion of the \$50,000 Ecology grant.
- On the Flood Control side, we added \$11,670.
- Budgeted \$9,500 for milfoil control – spent \$11,500 over and above the budgeted \$9,500.
- Ecology grant designated that we specifically spend all \$50,000 on herbicide treatments.

- **Budget – 2014 Expense Summary**

- Expense Summary shows expenses as of May 12, 2014 - Highlighted portions show what we are expecting for income.
- Anticipating \$51,000 for milfoil control measures. This money will be reimbursed by the following two grants:

Ecology =	\$30,000
DNR =	\$21,000
- Preliminary numbers for adding to Reserves =

Adding \$1,500.00 to Flood Control Reserves
Adding \$13,000.00 to Water Quality Reserves
- Question regarding where the \$9,500.00 is showing that is usually budgeted on milfoil each year? Where should we be showing that money is going? If it is not spent on milfoil, it should be put in reserves to save for milfoil control when grant money is gone.
- Jane will look at spreadsheets and give an answer about the \$9,500.00

- **2015 Proposed Budget and Milfoil Sheet**

- Propose a 2% increase in Assessments.
- Assume that Commissioners do not give the \$8,000.00 requested due to the Benefit Assessment shortage.
- Had temporarily cut staff time for 2014 by one week each for Jane and Karen. As staff is asked to do more (i.e. Shoreline Survey, Lake level research, TMDL), that time will need to be returned to staff for 2015.
- Comment was made that the \$9,500.00 for milfoil should be showing in water quality reserves.
- Shoreline survey in 2004 was completed by Judy-Gibbs-Foy. Since that was ten years ago, it should be completed again to compare the two studies. Difficult to quantify the problem of shoreline erosion.
- Insurance costs seem very high – about \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00 too high. Insurance is acquired through a County insurance pool.
- Jane will inquire about insurance costs.
- No increase in Barry's time.
- Information from Marianne that there are overhead costs for the County that are never charged to the Newman Lake budget such as: Accounting, billing, facilities costs, Commissioners time, etc.
- Jane will review the proposed 2015 budget and respond to comments via e-mail.

- **Milfoil Report**

- Spring survey to be performed next week to determine if there is milfoil we missed last fall.
- WSU students completed a hydro-acoustic survey for 2014 showing macrophytes.
- DNR needs to know exactly where alternative control measures will take place.
- Alternative control measures will be demonstration projects used as examples of options that lakefront residents will be able to use to control milfoil within their areas.
- Staff will be working with contractor (Aqua Technex), and DNR to choose areas for the alternative control measures of Diver Suction Weeding, and Benthic Barrier Mats.
- Herbicide treatment will take place June 3rd and possibly finish up on June 4th.
- Follow up treatment will be up to 20 acres and cost approximately \$10,000.00, reimbursed with DNR grant funds.
- Question: How are we going to proceed after grant money runs out?
- There may be new future opportunities from DNR.

- **Next Meeting**

- Elected not to have a June meeting. Will work out issues by email.
- Please give Laurie Keaton a phone call when emails are sent so she can set up time to check emails.
- Next meeting should be at the Lake after Labor Day, and before Laurie Keaton leaves on September 15th to head south. Jane will look at calendar and let all know by email.
- Staff will follow up with Budget and Lake Level info by email.

Comment was made that it is difficult to manage issues at the Lake when we don't control what outside visitors do to the lake, and they don't pay to correct the problems.

We need signage! No signs about invasive species or erosion when people come in to Newman Lake, only small signs at the Boat Launch that do not get attention of the public.

We received an invasive species sign from Ecology that had outdated Ecology contact information, and the Spokane County sign shop updated the logo to Spokane County and added the (509) 477-LAKE phone number. Think about where would be the best place to hang that sign.

Comment was made that we should work on creating and hanging a large banner that people can't miss. We can vet that out in email as we work on coming out with more education/outreach/communication.

Conservation Futures Program

- Question was asked if there has been any info received as to what happened with the Ingersoll Property, and if it was accepted into the Conservation Futures Program. Answer was that it's probably too soon for a determination, and that it would likely be in the newspaper when/if the deal is completed.

The next meeting is the Annual Summer Meeting, scheduled for Thursday, July 17, 2014 from 6:30 to 8:30pm.

Submitted by,
Karen Kruger