

NLFCZD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 3, 2013
Spokane County Public Works Building 3:00pm-5:15pm

Present –

Attendees: Marianne Barrentine, Jane Clark, Karen Kruger,
Wayne Block, Wendy Burley, Lorne Burley,
Ruedi Schuler, Tom Stebbins, Steven Ward

By phone: Kim Jones, Laurie Keaton

Introductions

District News:

- **Lake Level:** Jane reported that the lake level as of this morning was 2124.64 feet and the channel roll gate is closed. The channel inspection will be performed by staff the week of October 7th. Staff will mark where debris needs to be cleaned up before channel gates are opened and lake level is dropped to the winter elevation of 2123.9 feet.
- **Alum and Oxygenation Systems:** Eleven deliveries this season. We are working on injecting the final alum delivery. Once completed staff will flush the tank and blow out the alum lines. The oxygenator has been shut down since the end of August. Barry performed a dive inspection on the oxygenation system on August 22nd after completing a milfoil survey on the north end of the lake and noticed large “burping bubbles” from the oxygenator which signals that we may be pushing too much oxygen through the system, which inhibits adequate delivery of oxygen. In the spring, we will work with Barry to fine tune the oxygen amounts. He also took video along the alum lines and noticed that one of the clogged alum lines was pinched by a metal band on the distribution pipe. Barry fixed the pinched line on September 6th.
- **Commissioners Boat Tour Summary:** Laurie, Wayne, and Wendy were very helpful during the tour, explaining issues such as wakeboard boats and shoreline erosion to Commissioner Mielke. The tour took longer than planned and there wasn’t sufficient time to provide info on how the oxygenation and alum delivery systems have been working. All participants agreed the Marine Patrol Sheriff, Patrick Bloomer, was very helpful and honest about what he could and could not do. He indicated that some lakes have ordinances which say they can’t have wakeboard boats if the lake is less than 2,500 acres. The Commissioner said he would have the Sheriff continue to enforce existing regulations. The County has the ability to increase restrictions. A suggestion was made to have the Commissioner’s/Sheriff’s visit on an annual basis and before the meeting discuss our needed outcomes.
- **Tom requested a depth measurement be taken at the end of Ruedi’ s docks.**

Dam and Update with NRCS: The dike is considered an earth dam and is on the State Registry of Dams with Ecology. The O&M agreement with NRCS expires in 2028. It is considered low risk downstream. Rehab is needed, as low spots are below the 100-year base flood elevation along Starr Rd. Discussed different types of fill material to consider such as Hog Fuel, low density foam blocks, or material dredged from the south end of the lake. NRCS will send a letter discussing our meeting and offer technical assistance. We would need new modeling if we make changes to the original plan. The conditions of the original funding are to have the contract in effect until 2028. Once the contract is up – the dam/dike is entirely our responsibility.

- **Question:** Did we discuss flooding the land adjacent to the dike?
Answer: That was not discussed, and would need to have extensive studies for hydraulic analysis performed to enable flooding the wetlands next to the dike.
- **Question:** Were members of the Advisory Board invited to the meeting with NRCS?
Answer: No, the initial meeting was with engineering staff. The Advisory Board would like to be included in future meetings with NRCS. Staff will send an e-mail to the Advisory Board to let them know when next meeting is with NRCS.

- **Question:** Would Barry be able to take a sediment sample to see if composition of material would be appropriate to use for building up dike?
- **Question:** Has the original intent of the dike changed from the agreement that expires in 2028? We now have 350 acres designated for the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP). Property is located along the west side of Starr Rd was placed into WRP by Chris Miller at NRCS, and he is no longer there.
- **Question:** Will any upgrade we do extend the agreement? Concern expressed from the Advisory Board that the letter will come from NRCS and dictate what we have to do.

Concern was to have Staff coordinate with NRCS before the letter comes; to make the first move and negotiate before we get the letter. When the government is back in business, Jane will give them a call.

Marianne and Jane shared information about a new grant program through Ecology for multi-benefit flood hazard reduction projects. There may be some future funds for projects on the east side of the state. Ecology is currently working on the details and staff will find out details and let the Advisory Board know.

Lake Level: The last time the lake level was discussed with the community, the subject made it all the way to the Commissioner's level. They tabled the idea of changing the lake level at that time.

A comment was made that we could likely use more lead time for increased public involvement.

- **Question:** Do we have to be within that lake level chart exactly? Realistic lake level will vary every year. If we bring the lake level down too low, will the lake level be able to recover?
- **Question:** Is there wording in the agreement with NRCS to follow the chart?

We should be looking at all options in the original agreement as far as lake level. Jane will look up and send an e-mail to the Advisory Board. Marianne also explained that there are no SEPA categorical exemptions (WAC 197-11-800) to for a change in the Policy and Procedures Manual operating procedures for the lake level.

Shoreline Erosion: Comment was made that "lots of things can be done to mitigate erosion", and we should speak to Fish and Wildlife and Ecology about what can be done at Newman. The Tyler's project is already in trouble. Comment was made that even if there were a 300 foot no wake zone within the narrow part of the lake, it would not keep erosion from happening. Laurie indicated that she read the TMDL summary and noted there is a lot written about preventing erosion, but no real solutions given. It was recommended that the Advisory Board brainstorm solutions over the winter. Comment was made that we should solve one problem at a time instead of trying to solve ten. The Advisory Board agreed to have a follow-up meeting and between now and the next meeting the Advisory Board will:

- Write down pros and cons of lake level and shoreline erosion.
- Write down five solutions and prioritize.
- Send the above solutions to Jane

Ruedi's Discussion on Whole Lake Restoration: Suggestion was made that we work to form a draft plan to fix the lake as a whole. Address all issues such as: dredging, mitigate incoming sediment, sewer and water. Have the plan ready on the shelf when the time comes for grant money to be available. Ruedi spoke with MOAB Irrigation District and they are on board with sewer and water for the District. The current Lake Restoration Plan and Watershed Plan will be reviewed by the Advisory Board to see where updates can be incorporated and solutions can be initiated.

Milfoil Report: County staff performed two milfoil surveys in August. Ecology staff (Aquatics Biologists) also performed a survey along the north shoreline, as milfoil was observed to be extremely damaged due to effects of the herbicide treatment completed on the south half of the lake in June. Ecology staff suggested a diving survey be performed to check conditions of plants and their root crowns up close. A diving survey was completed by Barry and two other divers on Thursday, August 22nd. County staff collected samples of milfoil plants during each survey, and determined most of the plants were not healthy enough to perform translocation or "uptake" of the chemical herbicide, so the September 10th treatment to target the north side of the lake was cancelled.

County staff will be going out week of October 7th to do a milfoil survey and to prepare maps for the June 2014 treatment. We are on the schedule with Aqua Technex for the week of June 2nd, 2014 for the next treatment. Maps will be shared with the Advisory Board by the end of November. A map of targeted treatment areas will be released to the public in February/March in the newsletter.

A comment was made that since we have the Ecology grant, we should place the \$9,500 targeted for milfoil treatment next year into reserves.

Comment was made that there is a problem with the milfoil plan and that it needs to be more complete.

Comment was made to have Terry McNabb with Aqua Technex survey the Nuphar areas for milfoil before treatment next year.

Expiring Terms for Advisory Board Members: Two current Advisory Board members' terms are expiring on January 1, 2014; Craig Aldworth, non-voting seasonal position and Kim Jones, voting seasonal position. We have received five applications so far.

- **Question:** How are the Advisory Board members chosen?

Answer: Staff reviews the applications and input is received from the Advisory Board. This is shared with the County Engineer and a recommendation is made to the Board of County Commissioners. It is important to note that responses from Advisory Board are public information and included in the recommendation packet to the Commissioners.

A suggestion was made to have all eight Advisory Board members vote. Jane indicated that she has e-mailed the County Attorney, James Emacio, and we are waiting for a response regarding the number of voting members allowed by state law. Jane will forward his response when it is received.

Comment made that the Advisory Board should be an odd number instead of eight so there is a tie breaker.

Marianne explained the purpose of the advisory committee is to have citizens involved in providing input and group decisions. All input, official vote or not is taken into account by staff in managing the District. Just because there's no vote, doesn't mean opinions aren't being heard or valued or that they aren't being taken into account into the staff decision. She indicated that "sometimes a vote will firm up staff's direction".

Submitted by,
Karen Kruger