

NLFCZD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Tuesday August 9, 2011
Spokane County Public Works Building 3:00pm-5:00pm

Present

Board Members: Lauretta Block, Laurie Keaton, Kim Jones, Jane Takai
Alternate Members: Craig Aldworth, Wendy Burley
Absent: Ruedi Schuler, Quincy Edmonds
Staff: Jane Anderson, Marianne Barrentine, Jacob McCann

News

Summer Meeting: The summer meeting went long. Methods were discussed to keep future meetings on track, including having one person as time keeper separate from the person running the meeting, following strict time limits for questions/statements, and placing the budget earlier in the agenda.

Lake Level: The Lake is at 24.90 with both gates cracked, which is pretty much on the goal target.

Milfoil: 20 acres of milfoil were treated on June 2 with a mixture of 2, 4-D and Diquat. So far it looks like treatment was successful, but the end of summer survey will provide more

Cleanup Day

Regarding organizing a clean-up day for abandoned docks. Motion carried to table this discussion until a later date.

Advisory Board Boat Tour

Motion carries for staff to prepare a letter inviting BOCC members on a boat tour of Newman Lake in 2012 to identify problem areas and better define issues faced. This will be discussed in greater detail Spring 2012.

Milfoil

With grant funding drying up and milfoil still not near eradication, the Advisory Board discussed ways to approach management going forward. To make serious progress, it is estimated that at least 60 acres should be treated annually for 2 to 3 seasons. The piecemeal methodology employed up to present has been satisfactory in keeping the plants from achieving nuisance levels, but with no funding it is likely that the infestation will worsen significantly. One way to potentially save money would be to have county staff get licensed and outfit the boat with an herbicide hopper. However, this would likely only be effective for follow-up treatments or smaller areas.

The bottom line, as discussed by the board and staff, is that this activity has been added to District operations without being funded. With no matching grant funding, it is nearly impossible to conduct an adequate control/eradication operation without raising assessments. This needs to be outlined more clearly to the NL public.

2012 Budget Discussion

Budget scenarios were presented to the Advisory Board, including a scenario that would keep present level of service with an assessment increase of 12%, a 2.5% increase with less milfoil treatment, fewer

alum deliveries, cut to one newsletter, and some reliance on reserves, or a 0% increase, which included the above cuts and takes more from reserves.

The Advisory Board approved the 2.5% increase with the caveat that .5% be taken from elsewhere to add to WQ reserves. It was noted that using reserves to offset assessment increases is not a sustainable practice. It was also noted that it could be helpful to separate out milfoil to demonstrate that it is a significant portion of the budget. Finally, the assessment/voluntary donation letter should be updated and sent to those that are under assessed. Jacob will finish the letter and send to the AB for review. The Budget Hearing before the Board of County Commissioners will be on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 in the Commissioners Hearing Room. All Advisory Board members are encouraged to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:05 PM. The next Advisory Board meeting date will be arranged via e-mail.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jacob McCann
NLFCZD Staff