

NLFCZD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 17, 2011
Spokane County Public Works Building 3:00pm-5:00pm

Present –

Board Members: Laretta Block, Ruedi Schuler, Jane Takai,
Via telephone: Laurie Keaton, Kim Jones
Alternate Members: Wendy Burley, Quincy Edmonds
Absent: Craig Aldworth
Staff: Jane Anderson, Marianne Barrentine, Jacob McCann
Other: Lorne Burley (NLPOA), Barry Moore (WSU)

News –

- **New Advisory Board Members:** The meeting began with introductions, and the welcoming of new board members Ruedi Schuler (voting) and Wendy Burley (alternate).
- **Lake Level:** As of 2/16/2011, the lake level was 2124.04 feet with the gates open 2 feet each. The lake level increased in January due to warmer temps paired with rain on snow. The gates were opened to maximum capacity for several weeks to lower and maintain at winter goal elevation.
- **Snow Pack:** Snow Report is attached, which demonstrates current snow pack at 109% of average. Ragged Ridge had a lower than normal percentage relative to the other snow courses, which could be due to an adjacent timber harvest which exposed more of the course to sunlight.
- **TMDL Project - McKenzie Property:** An update was provided on a Demonstration project on the McKenzie CA, which has been coordinated by the Watershed/Wetlands committee (Wendy Burley, Laurie Keaton, Linda Pool, and Margo Wolf) from the TMDL Advisory Group. One of the first priorities that they identified was to include local residents in planting projects with an educational component. Specifically, the McKenzie property was targeted as it is public property and could serve well for long term educational opportunities. In addition, the existence of a "boat house" on the shoreline with wet to upland site characteristics allows for a good approximation of the conditions many lake and watershed residents face when landscaping. Neither the site prep, nor planting plan are final at this point. More agency input (SCCD, Parks, Ecology, Building & Planning, Fish & Wildlife) is expected in the coming weeks. In addition, as the plans are becoming more defined and therefore easier to explain, community input will be sought from the TMDL Advisory Group. A tentative schedule has been set for late-August site prep and mid-to-late September planting.

The project is expecting funds and technical assistance from County Parks, materials and technical assistance from Spokane County Conservation District, and Laurie Keaton is working on applying for Husseman funds from Ecology. Other donations are being sought in addition. The District has committed funds from the Watershed Activities portion of the budget to pay for plants (the only thing currently ordered), but it is hoped that the output will be minimal. The above fund was created to provide for watershed education and source reduction projects as required by the NPDES permit for the alum injection system and the District Comp Plan.

Advisory Board members voiced concerns that the project was undertaken and District funds had been leveraged without prior consultation with the Board. Jacob stated that almost all of the activity on this project has been conducted by volunteers, and that the only funds utilized fall within those dedicated to Watershed Activities and are only related to the plantings, which worse case scenario

can be stored for the next season if funding for the rest of the materials has not been 100% secured by the scheduled planting date. It was also emphasized that other agencies have committed funds and materials. Still, the Advisory Board could have been involved earlier in the planning process to keep them informed and gather further input. This will occur in the future on this project, especially as more details are known.

Old News –

- **Funding Options – RCW Change:** Proposed language changes to the Benefit Map Revision portion of the Flood Control District RCW have been submitted by the BOCC and are being circulated by the County lobbyist. The proposal would remove the petition requirement for initiation of base map revision if a land use change has occurred within map boundaries. The proposal has not been sponsored or created into a bill form. The 1st cutoff date is Feb 21st, with the March 7 as the final day to consider bills. *UPDATE: As of 2/22/11, a bill had not been submitted. However, other bills are being sought in which to insert the language.*
- **Staff Duties List:** An updated list (attached) of staff duties and estimated percentages of time spent on each respective duty were submitted to the Advisory Board. It was noted by District staff that this is an approximation, as division of responsibilities between technician and engineer have changed over the past few years and may change in the future. It was suggested that the document should be dated and included in the District Policy and Procedures Manual.

Milfoil Control –

- **Overview:** District Staff presented a review of the final milfoil survey of 2010, summer 2010 treatment, and proposed areas for herbicide and hand pulling in 2011 (map attached). Discussion was also continued from the October 2010 AB Meeting. Topics discussed include:
- **Contact time issues:** The herbicides used to treat milfoil need 48-72 hours of contact time for adequate plant uptake and mortality. This is difficult to achieve in most areas of the lake due to boat activity. Possible solution is a temporary lake closure during and after treatments to boost herbicide efficacy. This can be accomplished by BOCC resolution and enforced by the Sheriff's Marine Division.
- **Ski slalom:** Also related to the contact time issue, the ski slalom is a vector for fragment dispersal as one of the heaviest concentrations of plants lies directly in the slalom path. While it is not permitted, the course has been installed annually and used by skier since the 80s. Though it is not legal, it is not likely to be removed unless the Sheriff's Dept is given direction to do so. It could also be moved to another area of the lake, but its unofficial status makes that difficult to accomplish without neighbor-to-neighbor conversations.
Action: The AB voted unanimously to send a letter to the BOCC requesting removal of the ski course. Quincy will draft the letter and Jacob will help edit.
- **Timing of herbicide application:** Herbicide, especially systemic formulations like 2, 4-D, need to be applied in the active growing season to be effective. This generally is late-May to late-October. There has been research utilizing a contact herbicide in combination with a systemic as soon as ice-off. This has not been tested thoroughly in the Northwest. With the current herbicide formulation, staff still recommends treating in early to mid June, as this seems to be the earliest one can assume active plant growth while still hoping for minimal boat traffic. The idea of a late-summer/early-fall treatment was also discussed. While plant mortality can be achieved this late

in the season, allowing the plants to grow unhindered throughout the summer was seen as risky due to increased chance for fragmentation and spread.

- Variation in treatments: It was noted that several areas have been treated yearly since 2004, with few areas having complete mortality/eradication. Options discussed included looking for different types of treatments such as using a contact/systemic mix, researching “slow release” type forms to keep contact longer, following hand pulling with herbicide application, and using a mix of strategies depending on lake area and level of infestation.
- Tentative Proposal: Staff proposes treating the larger concentrations of plants with herbicide, especially by the slalom course, while utilizing hand pulling around docks and in areas with smaller and less dense plant populations. The provided map outlines the areas for potential herbicide use, but acres treated could change as the contractor is likely raising cost per acre and as a result the project may need to go back to bid. The use of trained volunteers for the pulling activity may help reduce costs in areas of light infestations that are appropriately safe.

Lake Level –

- Background: The current lake level was set during facility upgrades with the SCS (NRCS) in the early 80s. The curve that is currently used was deemed to be the best to balance the needs of water lines, agriculture, and recreation. In light of increased erosion and the resulting release of excess nutrients into the lake, the AB is requesting a one year alteration to the lake level curve to assess the impact on a lower lake level to the erosion problem. More specifically, the proposal will have the curve shift so that full pool is achieved May 1 rather than May 31, with a steeper curve achieving 6 inches lower by July 4.
- Public Involvement: This issue was discussed at the 2010 NLFCZD Summer Meeting, the October 2010 Advisory Board Meeting, and in the Fall NLFCZD Newsletter. Comments were solicited. Three comments were received in opposition to the proposed changes, and opposition to the issue was also brought before the BOCC in an Open Public Forum.
- Process: The process for moving forward with a proposal was discussed. When an alteration to the lake level was last attempted in 2001, the District did not yet have an approved lake level curve in the Policy and Procedures. As such, changing the operation of the lake level, even for one season, will need to be heard before the County Commissioners, who serve as District Administrators. In addition, as the proposal is an “action” that could result in effects for other stakeholders, it will need to go through the SEPA process, which requires the creation of an Environmental Checklist, Public Notification, and a 14 day comment period.
- Discussion: Laurie Keaton and Kim Jones reiterated the erosive impacts of high boat wakes on Peninsula properties, citing the need to mitigate the impacts with lower water levels during peak boat usage times (i.e. July). Laretta Block supports the lowering of the lake level because high water impacts groundwater levels on the north end of the lake and makes access difficult for agricultural uses. Ruedi Schuler opposes the lowering of the lake level, as his portion of the lake is already very shallow and almost unusable by the end of the summer. If the lake is lowered, he requests assistance with dredging to mitigate the loss of dock use for the resort.
- Action: The motion to carry on with the proposal to lower the lake by 6 inches for one year passed with 3 yea, 1 nay, and 1 abstaining. Staff will prepare the required environmental documents (SEPA) and add this issue to a BOCC Public Hearing – more than likely in April.

Boat Wake–

- **Discussion:** This topic has considerable overlap with the Lake Level proposal, as such much of the discussion of high wakes occurred under the previous agenda item. Regulating boats that produce high wakes was discussed, as was passing an ordinance allowing buoys to be installed further out. It was also stated that the Sheriff’s Office does have authority to regulate boat activity, but are not a constant presence on the lake. The Advisory Board and NLPOA sent letters to the BOCC expressing concerns over high boat wakes last year, and this could be again brought to their attention with a proposal for enforcement.
- **Mitigation:** There was a brief discussion on bioengineering techniques for shoreline stabilization or wave dissipation. More research will be done on improving/streamlining the permitting process for “soft” engineering fixes to make it easier and less costly for lake residents to protect and repair their shorelines.
- **Action:** As time ran out, this item will appear on the next meeting’s agenda.

Other –

- Lorne suggested a boat tour on the NLFCZD pontoon boat, where different parts of the lake can be examined to discuss the problems associated with each particular area. This was thought of as a good idea by meeting attendees and received verbal approval, but no formal vote was called. This will be followed up at a future meeting.
- The next Advisory Board meeting agenda will include a follow up on Boat Wake topic and is scheduled for Wed, May 25th. This will be confirmed via e-mail. A more detailed agenda will be submitted prior to the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jacob McCann
NLFCZD Staff