

# **NLFCZD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**February 20, 2008**

**Spokane County Public Works Building 3pm-5pm**

## **Present:**

Board Members: Warren Heylman, Lorne Burley, Wendy Burley, Laretta Block,  
Judy Gibbs-Foy  
Alternate Members: Jane Takai, Sharon Cusic  
Staff: Marianne Barrentine, Barry Moore, Jacob McCann, Jane Anderson  
Absent: Mary Weller-Souza

## **Items Discussed:**

### Lake Level & Snow Pack –

As of 2/20/08 the lake level is right at the winter goal elevation of 2123.9 feet with the gates open to 0.5 feet each. The first snow course monitoring was completed on January 28<sup>th</sup> in the Newman Lake watershed. The snow water equivalent of Thompson Creek, Ragged Ridge and Quartz Peak were all well above average for this time of year. Round Top was inaccessible due to the deep powder snow. The HSPF model runoff forecasting for Newman Lake estimates 13,500 acre-feet of runoff based on an average precipitation the rest of the season. This is based on the snow depth at Quartz Peak on February 1<sup>st</sup>. This is about 11.25 feet of water spread out over the entire lake surface. With the above average snowpack and long range forecast predicting average precipitation, we have to maximize the lake capacity and keep the lake level as near to normal winter elevation as possible at this point.

### Spring Newsletter –

The spring newsletter is in the final edits stage. This edition will be heavy on District content, including detailed discussion on the TMDL and Funding/Assessment issues. An “Extreme Makeover-Lakeside Edition” will be included to gather a worthy homeowner in need of a natural landscaping makeover on their shoreline lot.

### Budget -

As of February 20<sup>th</sup>, the 2007 expenses were extremely close to the budget. The equipment maintenance was over by about \$9,600 due to the cost of the diving company to install the oxygenator pump back into the lake in March 2007 as well as an oxygen flow meter to monitor the oxygen flow to the lake. Jane is working with the accountant to clarify a few of the numbers and will have a final 2007 budget vs. expenses printout prior to the next Advisory Board Meeting.

### Benefit Assessments & Funding Re-evaluations -

NLFCZD Staff and County Legal Staff coordinated efforts to review the current Benefit Assessment funding mechanism and other options. After the analysis was complete, it was presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) for review and direction. NLFCZD Staff presented information on updating the Base Maps, using an ad valorem tax in addition to current methods, and the use of Stormwater Charges as a funding mechanism. Though inherent inequities exist within the current system, it was decided by the BOCC that the cost of going through the process of updating the Base Maps or implementing different options currently outweighs the benefits. As the TMDL progresses into Implementation, and District responsibilities potentially expand to represent more watershed issues, this discussion may resume in the future.

### Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Update –

- Dispute Resolution- At the request of the BOCC, District Staff has initiated the official Dispute Resolution Process with Ecology. Central to the dispute is the TMDL document’s inclusion of analysis related to the operation of the oxygenator and its relation to destratification. Also

pertinent to the dispute is the use of very limited data sets in the Final Report's model. Dr. Barry Moore also sent a letter to Ecology outlining several deficiencies in the presented analysis and providing WSU's data interpretation. Ecology's response is due in 60 days.

- TMDL Task Force- Members of the Newman Lake community met in January and February to discuss TMDL Implementation and the organizational structure that can best accomplish watershed management goals. The many members of the Advisory Board expressed severe reservations about the method in which the group was assembled, and the perceived bias against the Flood Control Zone District. They noted that the original members invited to said meetings were consulted via written invitation and that the members were picked by a few people and selected with a bias. This initial contact caused certain distress among parties that were not notified and the notice of meetings was expanded to the entire TMDL e-mail list (Warren did not, however, receive the notification). In addition, the formation of a seven member TMDL Task Force was also received with consternation by the Advisory Board, as the majority of the members were perceived by the Advisory Board to be biased against the District. Judy Gibbs-Foy however stated that she did not feel that the group represented a hostile force, but rather an opportunity for communication. District Staff also stated that bringing in members of the community who were uninformed or misinformed about District activities was important and vital to the success of future watershed and lake efforts. Also discussed was the first meeting (2/26/08) of the Task Force of which Wendy Burley was to be the sole NLFCZD representative. However, it was stated the Jacob McCann would also be attending to speak on behalf of the District and that the meeting itself was not closed to interested parties. It should then be noted that Warren requested that the record should show that he did not think that District Staff should be devoting resources to these external groups, but rather focus on the Advisory Board as the sole community contact.

Other –

The next Advisory Board meeting will be in May.

Submitted by,

Jane Anderson  
NLFCZD Staff