

NLFCZD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 14, 2010
Spokane County Public Works Building 3:00pm-5:00pm

Present –

Board Members: Jane Takai, Lorne Burley, Judy Gibbs-Foy, Laurie Keaton (via telephone),
Lauretta Block
Alternate Members: Quincy Edmonds, Kim Jones (via telephone)
Absent: Sharon Cusic
Staff: Marianne Barrentine, Jacob McCann, Jane Anderson

News –

The lake level as of 1/13/10 is 2123.96 feet with both gates open 1/10th. This is about 0.04 feet above the goal winter elevation. Thompson Creek is flowing pretty steady. Snow pack is about 70% of normal. Jacob will be going out at the end of January to conduct the first snow survey of the season. Jacob is working on the newsletter and hopes to have it out in February.

Milfoil –

We received a new grant of \$30,000 from the Department of Ecology (DOE), which is less than the amount requested, but nonetheless helps for the next few seasons. We received a lesser amount due to the fact that we have received quite a bit of grant money from them in the past, but they wanted us to continue our efforts. Jacob discussed the 2009 treatment maps, highlighting the areas that were treated as well as an October in-depth end of year survey. The October survey revealed numerous small, single stock plants over a great portion of the shoreline of the lake. An early June liquid treatment is proposed, as it provides greater efficacy and the irrigation/recreation impacts can potentially be mitigated by the early season treatment. Quincy asked about dropping the lake level to freeze the milfoil, however, this would require a very hard freeze and the unknown factor of the runoff in the spring to bring it back to the goal summer elevations. In addition, much of the littoral zone would still be submerged even if the level was dropped to the minimum. It was suggested to have a notice about NOT CUTTING THE MILFOIL in the newsletter and in the treatment notices. Laurie suggested the creation of an inspection station at the boat launch, and inquired how this was done in Idaho. Currently, this would be implemented by WDFW, which does not have the funding or the program for inspection station projects at this time.

Boat Wakes & Shoreline Erosion –

The NLPOA wrote a letter to the BOCC addressing boat wakes and shoreline erosion. Jacob has a companion letter to be signed by the NLFCZD Advisory Board. Kim will put an article in the Newsletter about this topic as well. There may be an opportunity to utilize the new kiosk at the WDFW boat launch for signage relating to boat wakes and littering. It was noted that BOCC Public Hearings have open mic periods, which may be a good time for Advisory Board members or others to speak to the boat wake/erosion issue.

Funding Options –

At the request of the BOCC, NLFCZD staff has been researching ways to potentially make the current funding/assessment methodology more equitable. The Commissioners wanted this to be a priority last year, but unfortunately scheduling conflicts delayed meeting until this year. At the center of this issue is the benefit assessment methodology, which by statute dictates that the areas designated on the original maps cannot be changed/alterd without a very complicated and potentially costly process. Within the current District boundaries, about 20 parcels are currently underpaying due to land use changes. The main options available under the RCW include implementing a stormwater or service charge, utilizing a flat ad valorem tax, redrawing the benefit maps per the RCW, or utilizing utility improvement district assessments. Of these

options, the stormwater/service charge or the ad valorem tax are the easiest to adopt. Lorne expressed that it should be based on taxes and not be contribution focused as that is too subjective. Kim recommended that it be left the way it is and make corrections that need to be made. Laurie noted that the problem with leaving it the way it is would be pressures for development and the usage of the lake increasing with no more additional funding or the existing people would need to pay more. Judy agreed with Laurie. It was noted that stormwater charges can be based upon contribution or benefit. Most Stormwater Districts charge based on assumed impervious surface. In addition, stormwater credits can be given with swales and other stormwater improvements, to help offset assessment for those properties using BMPs. Jane Takai asked who would administer and noted that it would require a lot of staff time. Judy requested additional information on what constitutes a stormwater credit. Quincy said the affect on the tax payer would go up with an added tax and recommended leaving it the same. He also requested a concise summary of what will be presented to the BOCC on the 18th. Lauretta shared that a flat tax is not a fair tax. Lorne suggested that secondary lots ratio be raised.

The February meeting with the BOCC consists of a presentation to the Board for initial discussion resulting in direction from the BOCC to staff on how to proceed. The public may choose to come if they wish. Jacob will provide an update on the meeting's results to the Advisory Board.

Dike Repair Discussion –

NRCS has a signed operational agreement with Spokane County for 50 years to maintain the flood control facilities out at Newman Lake. Currently, the agreement is into year 30 of the agreement. Yearly inspections are performed on the facilities and the report is sent to NRCS. The inspections indicate that the dike will need to be repaired or the watershed plan revisited with discussions/ideas of possible changes to the dike as several factors such as land use have changed since the watershed plan was drafted. Any change would require a detailed hydraulic analysis to identify any impacts. Sally Bredeweg with NRCS provided a letter to the Advisory Board outlining the concerns with the dike and ideas for repair and/or wetland enhancement. The Advisory Board requested that staff send a response to Sally thanking her for the letter and what we are proposing to do. Laurie expressed her support for exploring new ideas. Concerns with the lake level can possibly tie in with design of the dike.

Other –

At the next Advisory Board meeting Kim requested that the lake level be discussed.

Reminders –

The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for April/May 2010 and a date will be sent out via e-mail.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jane Anderson
NLFCZD Staff