

**NLFCZD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Thursday, May 20, 2010**  
**Spokane County Public Works Building 3:00pm-5:00pm**

**Present –**

Board Members: Lorne Burley, Laurie Keaton, Laretta Block  
Alternate Members: Kim Jones  
Absent: Jane Takai, Judy Gibbs-Foy, Quincy Edmonds, Sharon Cusic  
Staff: Marianne Barrentine, Jacob McCann, Jane Anderson  
Other: Barry Moore (WSU), Wendy Burley (NLPOA)

**News –**

The lake level as of 5/19/10 is 2125.46 feet with both gates closed. This is right on track for the goal Memorial Day elevation of 2125.60 feet. Thompson Creek is flowing steady and as of last week Mountain View and Temple inlets were flowing. The Quartz Peak Snotel Site (elevation 4,700 ft) had no snow as of 5/16/10. Staff checked the sump last week and it didn't appear that much water, if any, made it to the sump. It looks very good after scarification last fall.

The alum has been running smoothly this year with no problems. We have had eight deliveries to date starting on April 5<sup>th</sup>. We have approximately six deliveries left in the budget.

Six new buoys have been purchased and placed around the aerator for a cost of \$985. The Advisory Board recommended that these be marked with NLFCZD or other such identification marks as soon as possible.

Over the past weekend the battery was stolen from the boat. A new battery was purchased as well as wire cable and a lock to act as a deterrent for the future.

Barry requested that staff purchase new anchors for the boat to better hold the boat while sampling.

**Milfoil –**

Jacob provided a proposed milfoil treatment map that was based on the October 2009 survey, which found several areas containing small single strand plants along the shoreline, but very few big concentrations. Jacob would like to stretch the new \$30,000 grant for three treatment seasons. Last year the herbicide concentration was upped from 2ppm at an average 5ft depth to 3.5ppm at an average depth of 8ft. The higher rate of application demonstrated good plant control. This year will be a shallower treatment, keeping the higher concentration, with a 5ft average depth which should allow treatment of more acreage. The applicator will be Tom Wimpy who is contracting with Lakeland Restoration. This year's treatment is scheduled for approximately June 14<sup>th</sup> as growing season is early to mid June. By doing an earlier treatment, the effect of irrigation restrictions should be minimized. Last year 30 acres were treated and Jacob is proposing approximately 50 acres.

Laurie asked about a wash station at the boat launch. Jacob noted WDFW, which would be the likely agency for such a project, is focusing on education, as funding and staffing a wash station is not likely under current State budget.

**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. Both short term and long term solutions were discussed with the BOCC in two meetings held 2/18/10 and 3/17/10. Short term solutions include accepting voluntary assessments and/or donations from the under-assessed. Voluntary donations can be accepted via a resolution but cannot be included in the annual assessment roll and cannot be employed to reduce overall assessments. Voluntary assessment payments would become permanent once established (on the title of the property) and could be added to the roll and used to reduce overall charges to those who pay assessments. If the approximate 20 parcels were charged what they should it would be approximately \$7,000 collected. Kim suggested sending a letter notifying owners that they are not paying their fair share and outlining the donation/voluntary assessments. It would be education to those property owners even if no one responds. Jacob will draft a letter and send to the Advisory Board for review. The second short term option, Creating a Local Improvement District (LID) overlay on the existing map, is not feasible because it is based on funding new facilities/services specific to that area. Moreover, the authority to create subzones is reserved to countywide FCZDs, which Spokane County does not contain.

Long term solutions include introducing legislation to effect changes within RCW 86.09.418 to allow benefit maps to be changed with greater ease. District staff will identify shortcomings within the RCW specific to subdivision changes and conceptualize a language change that would allow properties affected to be adopted into benefit areas upon subdivision without a full map update. The proposed amendment will be coordinated with the BOCC, the Assessor's office, the Prosecuting Attorney's office, and the County Lobbyist before eventual submittal as a bill in an upcoming Legislative Session in Olympia. This action requires a change in the law. It would allow us to redraw shading/benefit areas to match the current parcel boundaries. No change to benefit definitions or rates. Jacob will keep the Advisory Board informed on proposed language changes, but no timeline has yet been established. The two-tier system utilizing stormwater fees in addition the current methodology is not being proposed due to increased administrative costs, high implementation costs and the lack of public support.

#### 2009 Expenses –

The 2009 expenses were fairly close to those budgeted. The investment interest was a bit shy of that budget. A little more was pulled out of the Flood Control (FC) reserves than budgeted. NL Engineer salary was higher than anticipated due to dike repair discussions and adjusting the gates for runoff in the spring while the lake was still frozen. While FC salaries were over, WQ salaries were about that same amount under budget. The NRCS for snow gage site was over by \$1,875 due to an accounting error that placed \$1,875 from the 2010 expenses into 2009, so in the 2010 expenses only \$625 is billed to this line item. FC maintenance/repairs didn't spend as much as was budgeted. The sump was cleaned in November 2009 at an expense of \$877. This was lower than anticipated as it was a change order to a county project. Noxious weed control was rebid in 2009 and less area was treated thus lower than budgeted. Funds spent on milfoil treatment, testing, and posting was right on target as well as alum purchases, equipment maintenance, and water service. Only one newsletter was done in 2009 and sent via bulk mailing so postage costs were lower. WQ training included WALPA registrations for the conference that was held in Spokane. Overall, for FC \$15,640 was pulled out of the reserves which is \$3,486 more than budgeted in large due to \$1,875 of the 2010 NRCS snow gage site fee that should have been charged to the 2010 budget. For WQ, \$22,773 was added to the WQ reserves instead of \$10,798 that was budgeted thus bringing up the WQ reserves faster than projected.

#### 2010 Expenses to Date –

The expense line items are the only thing to look at on the handout and include January 1, 2010 – May 13, 2010 expenses. Both FC and WQ salaries are expected to be on track. The FC salaries may go over due to the dike design. WSU has not billed yet for the year, but expect it to be right on target. Watershed activities include a \$150 sponsorship for the 2010 Eastern Washington Lakes Conference. Most of the bill for the NRCS snow gage site was billed in 2009, so this year will be under but will be all caught up in 2011. Electricity includes January through April. Alum purchases include 7 alum delivery invoices. Equipment maintenance covers the \$450 for the boat slip at Sutton Bay Resort. The material and supplies includes the new aerator buoys, boat gas, and supplies for the buoys. Adv, print, post includes January and March mail

bills only. Watershed newsletter includes the billing of the newsletter. It is hard to tell this early in the year, but assuming no major equipment issues, we should be on track. Dike repair design/discussions and outlet gate repairs may the FC side over by some.

#### 2011 Budget Discussion –

The past several years the budget has been pulling money out of the FC reserves to draw it down closer to the \$40,000 goal. However, with the dike design/repairs it would be best not to draw it down anymore. For 2011 staff is proposing to increase the assessments for FC to allow the FC reserves to hold steady. As for WQ the past budgets have been trying to increase the WQ reserves, but this year staff is proposing to keep it steady without pulling or adding a large amount thus allowing a reduction in WQ assessments. Overall, this is a 2.5% increase in assessments. Due to the new milfoil grant, \$18,750 is budgeted for reimbursement. Salaries are increasing only for the step increase. Staff proposes to bump up Other Assistance as it has been very close or over previously. Propose to keep Lake WQ Monitoring the same. The NPDES for Alum will be going up. Notice has been given that BPA will be increasing its rates in excess of 10% so Electricity has been bumped up to account for that. Water service has been increasing slow but steady so it has been bumped up. Insurance rates for 2011 have not been released yet, but estimating it will go back up. In summary, FC will have \$59 added to reserves and WQ will have \$1,315 added to reserves. Lorne requested a breakdown of how Staff has allocated their time recently by category or topic of responsibility. Barry is looking to purchase hydro-acoustic equipment which would take transects across the lake. It could take bathymetry, provide a more accurate lake volume, fish population estimates, map macrophytes, and potentially locate big milfoil plants. He is looking for funding aid and asked the Advisory Board if that is something they would be interested in for Newman Lake. He provided a rough estimate of \$6,000. Jane asked the Advisory Board to think about this, look at the budget and we will discuss again at the next meeting.

#### Other –

At the next Advisory Board meeting Kim requested that the lake level be discussed. Wendy suggested discussing dead dock removal and ideas with what to do with them at the summer meeting.

#### Reminders –

The next Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for June 17, 2010 and the NLFCZD summer meeting is scheduled for July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Tri-Community Grange from 6:30pm-8:30pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jane Anderson  
NLFCZD Staff