

NLFCZD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

May 29, 2008

Spokane County Public Works Building 3pm-5pm

Present:

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

Items Discussed:

Lake Level –

As of 5/28/08 the lake level was 2125.28 with the gates open to 0.3 feet each, which is just under the Memorial Day goal elevation of 2125.6 feet. Thompson Creek is still running full.

Oxygenator & Alum System –

The oxygenator system was turned on 5/27/08. Everything is running smoothly. The alum system was started in late April. The cold weather caused problems with clogged lines; however, a combination of staff time, Roto-Rooter, and warmer weather helped and the lines are now running smoothly. Costs associated with the fix: Roto-Rooter approx. \$400, minor equipment purchases, and staff time.

Alum System NPDES Permit –

The NPDES Permit for the alum injection system expired June 27, 2007. The Dept. of Ecology (DOE) received our renewal application on Dec. 20, 2006 and a renewal of our permit is in progress. We received an extension letter from DOE dated July 25, 2007 allowing us to continue with the terms and conditions of our old permit until a new permit can be issued.

Spring Newsletter –

The spring newsletter was sent out. An “Extreme Makeover-Lakeside Edition” was included to gather a worthy homeowner in need of a natural landscaping makeover on their shoreline lot. So far Quincy Edmonds and the Tylers (located over on the Peninsula) have shown interest. The Conservation District is still up in the air as to how costs will be shared for this pilot project.

Boat –

Gathered quotes from three different outboard boat vendors. We will be buying a new 25HP Tohatsu four-stroke outboard. The motor itself is \$3,800 and with tax and installation is just about \$5,000. There is a two week lead time for the outboard and install.

Milfoil –

June 17th Inland Water Pest Control and Consulting will be treating 6 acres of milfoil on the southern end of the lake near Cherokee with granular 2,4-D. The idea is to knock out the large plants early this year that didn't get knocked down last year. We would like to treat Sutton Bay with this treatment as well. Granular 2,4-D is more expensive, but has less water restrictions and hopefully a better mortality rate for Newman Lake than the liquid 2,4-D.

Budget -

2007 Budget

The 2007 expenses were extremely close to the budget. Just over \$2,200 was added to reserves. We are drawing down the FC reserves and building up the WQ reserves. 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. Gas prices going up and problems with boat caused the Materials and Supplies line item to go over. Sharon questioned why the 2007 grant survey was more expensive (approx. \$7,000 for the grant reimbursement) than the 2003 survey (which was approx. half of costs of the 2007 survey). Jane will look into this for the next meeting. Lorne asked why FC/Aerator Tech was over. Overhead costs are currently being charged on this position; however, this position does not receive benefits. We need to talk with auditors to get the overhead credited back. Sharon mentioned the agreement with SCS for the NLFCZD to maintain the flood control facilities was approx. \$14,000 however, the assessments for the Flood Control portion is approx. \$28,000. She asked what is being done by the staff for Flood Control for \$16,000? Monitoring, annual inspections, and maintenance done by the staff. Sump cleaning is included in the budget. Sharon mentioned asking the County to contribute funds since the sump is benefiting the County. The NLFCZD is obligated to maintain the outlet gate facilities and channel per the agreement with SCS. Reminder – if the money is not spent, it goes into the reserves. We are under-assessing FC because the reserves are built up. Currently, the FC assessment are paying less so the reserves will get used up. The WQ assessments are paying more so that they will build up the reserves. We are not projecting any capital purchases for next year so therefore we don't have a capital purchases line item.

2009 Budget

The 2009 budget is very similar to the 2008. Propose to increase the WQ assessments to cover the increased costs for the year allowing us to continue to build up the WQ reserves. Salary step increases and COLA will increase the staff salaries. WQ Monitoring and Lab Services will increase as cost of gas and materials goes up. WSU has been absorbing the costs the past few years. The permit fee for the alum is increasing to \$3,166. Equipment maintenance bumped up \$250 to cover additional minor maintenance. Approx. \$6,000 in staff time is estimated for staff time to treat milfoil. Warren commended the proposed 2009 budget is only up 3.3%. Outstanding job according to Warren. The budget will be presented at the Summer Meeting. In August it will be entered into the County system and it goes to the Commissioners at the end of September, early October. In December it goes to hearing for approval. Sharon stated that as a taxpayer, this budget is too high.

TMDL Summary –

Following the EPA's approval of the TMDL Report and subsequent Dispute Resolution Panel finding, District staff contacted a West side attorney that specializes in TMDLs for advice on the next step. Recommended the District be proactive and involved in implementation plan, documenting BMP's and monitoring water quality. Barry noted DOE is using a data set that bears almost no resemblance to what he has, but feels there is agreement on the goal and we should move forward. Loretta is very gracious to Barry for being so kind and professional over the TMDL process.

Water Quality Task Force –

Mike Davis, Simone Ramel, Quincy Edmonds represented the Task Force to talk about their goals and working with the District. The Task force was formed when 17 people voted for 7 individuals to meet together to generate ideas and bring it back to the community and the District. Key to the mission of the newly formed group is to keep the community involved and generate smart, cost effective ideas that can make a difference. The Task Force would like to use the NLFCZD as well as other Newman Lake community groups to advance and implement these ideas.

Community Summer Meeting –

Staff presented the idea of an Open House style meeting to accommodate residents who would like to stop in for a short time. Booths could be set up making the meeting more interactive. If the meeting is an NLFCZD meeting and a Newman Lake Property Owners Association meeting, costs need to be shared. Warren proposed to the voting Advisory Board members the summer meeting include both the NLFCZD and NLPOA – four of four members agreed.

Other –

Due to the extensive amount of material to be covered in such a short time, the selection of Advisory Board members will be discussed at the next meeting as well as more discussion of the Community Summer Meeting. The next meeting will be held June 19th at 3pm.

Submitted by,

Jane Anderson
NLFCZD Staff