

Lake Quality Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2021

Via Zoom

Janet called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.

A. Attendance

Committee Members – Kimberly Clow, Linda Flores, Rick Flores, Janet Fulks, John Glaze, and Fred Hicks

Staff - Debbie Papac, Recreation Manager and Butch Reyburn, Board Member
SOLitude Representative – Ben Chen

B. Approval of Agenda – A motion to approve the agenda was made by Kimberly, seconded by Linda, and approved by the committee.

C. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the January meeting had previously been approved electronically, via email.

D. New Items

1. Fred advised that everything has been updated to our current status in the 5-Year Plan. Minor changes have been made; the document is self-explanatory, alternating between goals and outcomes. Goals on the first page of a topic are linked to the outcomes on the second page. Clicking on the link takes you to outcomes and clicking again returns you to goals. Although it's possible that we will be making changes as we go along, he suggested that we "officially" review the 5-Year Plan annually and make any necessary adjustments. After some discussion, it was decided that December would be the best month to make any revisions, in order to have plenty of time to submit the finalized version to the BVSA Board (in January/February,) when they are beginning budget discussions for the upcoming Fiscal Year.

Rick suggested that a hierarchy for the Google Docs, on the LQAC Google Drive be created, with a folder for the most important (active) items at the top and supporting documents below. Fred agreed to work on that, and also reminded everyone to access the Google Drive through their personal account (vs. the BVLQAC account.)

Rick made a motion to submit our most recent version of the 5-Year Plan to the Board, for their approval. It was seconded by Kimberly, and approved by the committee.

2. Fred covered the three fish stocking options. Janet advised the committee that the choices were based on UC Davis projections, the Sportsman's Club, and the current fly fishermen (who have supported not using trout, as they are not 'natural' to the habitat.) Janet said the plan was that (ultimately) we would not need to restock fish every year, but that we would manage the number and species, and possibly be able to use that money for other uses.

The question of whether or not to stock trout was discussed, as approximately 50% of the respondents (to the fishing survey) indicated that they would like to have trout. As they can only survive during the colder months however, their time in the lake would be limited. Kimberly said the trout anglers (that she had spoken to) wanted us to do whatever was *best for the lake*. However, they did indicate they would like some information on other types of fishing. Fred offered to work on a Bear Tracks article, discussing angling for crappies. Debbie said that she supported the reasons for NOT stocking trout, at least for now; that we can always revisit the topic in the future.

Fred and Ben feel that the Fall of 2022 would be the best time for ‘electrofishing,’ to give us a baseline of current fish populations in both Cub and 4-Island Lakes. (John had previously emailed the committee a video explaining how electrofishing works.) Rather than doing it this year, they want the bass to be able to reproduce for one season, to give us a better idea of how to move forward in 5-year increments.

3. Fred made a motion to recommend Fish Stocking Plan #1 to the Board (which does not include trout) for FY2021-2025, but does include plans for fishing derbies. (Debbie advised that the cost of the derbies could be adjusted, based on the lake health, as well as available monies.) Kimberly seconded the motion, and **it was approved by the committee.**
4. Rick updated the committee on the current status of procuring additional water lilies. As Fred is currently in Florida, he has offered to bring them back to California when he returns (at the end of February.) They have been in discussion with Rick (Mountain Gardens Nursery,) who agreed to a 10% finders’ fee. Fred had previously emailed the committee a spreadsheet, comparing the costs of purchasing the lilies in Florida at wholesale cost (and having him bring them back); or purchasing them in California. (The latter is about twice the cost.) There was also a question about whether or not to spend all of our available plant budget (including additional monies which are available due to cancellation of the fish fry.)

Kimberly questioned the legality of bringing plants across the border, into California, as well as bringing an invasive species from Florida water into our water. Fred advised that the plants will have been purchased through Mountain Garden’s wholesaler. They will have been “certified” as *free* of invasive aquatic pests, complete with inspection documentation that he can present at the border crossing. He has reached out to the USDA (with no response yet,) although the local wholesaler advised him that it was a non-issue.

Butch asked about the status of the current lilies in the 7th hole pond, and was told that they are still there, but currently dormant. The plan is to remove the current lily trays (approximately 45,) recondition them, split – if necessary, and replant them on April 21st.

Kimberly motioned that we adopt the \$1500 (less expensive) Florida water lily option, which includes trays and fertilizer. Janet seconded the motion, and it was approved.

5. Janet reported that all of the BVS lakes are currently testing at zero phosphate levels. The Jamaica Dunes drainage (at the overpass,) however, tested at .08 (well above the acceptable level of .03,) and standing water in the ditch (prior to entering the lake) tested at .04. This reduction (0.08 to 0.04) is most likely due to filtration from cattails and other plants, as well as the fact that the golf course is not being fertilized yet. She also reported that there are several bullrushes beginning to grow around the ditch (which also absorb a lot of nutrients.) Brandon has agreed not to cut any plants without prior coordination with the LQAC.

Fred reported that the lakes are still about 30 inches below their normal levels. Even with the recent rain and snow events, the levels were only raised by about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. John reported that Pump #10 is on and running.

Janet would like to get the word out to dissuade lakeshore property owners from using Roundup.

6. Fred explained the testing calendar, which is on the Google Docs, and spans (approximately) one year's time. Alkalinity and hardness will be tested quarterly (Ben had suggested that we needed to know the alkalinity and hardness of the water, in case we have an 'event' and need to adjust the levels.) Total phosphorous levels will be tested once a month, from March through October; the Sonde and Secchi disc measurements will be taken once a month during the cold season (November through March,) and twice a month during the warm water season (April through October.)

Coliform levels will be tested twice a month, during May and September and weekly through the summer months. It is hoped that we will be able to come up with a more affordable way of testing, as opposed to driving to Bakersfield each time. Eventually, Fred plans to include standard operating procedures (SOP) for the various tests.

7. Ben explained the data table containing our water measurements, which he reformatted. As a result, he has been able to create graphs and look at historical trends. One observation had to do with the relationship between pH and DO (dissolved oxygen.) He also compared various temperature readings; the hotter surface temperatures were possible indications of algal blooms. Ben has compared phosphate data, based on specific dates and readings. Results, so far, do not indicate any conclusive evidence. But he feels that further data collection will help identify future trends.
8. The effluent has not been redirected to the ball fields yet; however, there are currently no plans to use it to water the golf course. Fred reported that, although no date has been set, plans are to use it to water the driving range. Janet said the project will

depend on available manpower. Fred and Brandon are in the process of redoing the fertilizer reporting for the golf course required by the CA Waterboard in conjunction with the effluent use. Fred is also coordinating with the CSD and BVSA, regarding common area and easement boundaries, etc.

9. Ben had previously emailed information to the committee about “artificial floating islands (AFIs),” a concept that began in Japan. They are generally used for: water purification, fish habitat enhancement, shoreline erosion protection, and aesthetics.

Fred said that a 250-300 square foot AFI was the equivalent of one acre of wetland, for filtration. Ben shared some photos of AFIs, and discussed how they worked. He reported that they are not cheap; could range from \$30-40 per square foot. But that they could also be purchased cheaper, if bought in bulk. Fred & Ben will research quotes and send out to committee members.

10. There have been some problems with residents making donations (toward LQAC projects) via the BVSCRFF. Until the situation is cleared up, Janet suggested that any financial gifts be donated directly toward a budget line item, and the monies will go specifically for it. (They will not, however, be tax deductible.)

F. Follow-Up Items

1. Janet will forward our 5-Year Plan to the BVSA Board.
2. Fred plans to do another Bear Tracks article (possibly in May) explaining how to angle for crappie.
3. Fred will work on creating a hierarchy system for the Google Docs.
4. Janet Fred and Kim will create a notice on Facebook and NextDoor, advising lakeshore residents not to use ‘Roundup.’
5. Fred will get California Agriculture certificate to transport lilies.
6. Fred and Ben will email AFI information to committee members.
7. We need to agree on an acceptable date for Ben to visit BVS; doesn’t have to be decided right away.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on March 10th at 1:00 p.m., via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Linda Flores

Minutes approved by: Janet Fulks