

Lake Quality Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2021

Via Zoom

Janet called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

A. Attendance

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

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 February meeting had previously been approved electronically, via email.

D. New Items

1. Although Eric Bonilla expressed interest in joining the LQAC, he has yet to attend a committee meeting (it's been three months.) Therefore, he will officially be removed as a committee member and removed from the google drive.
2. The updated Draft 5-Year Plan, as well as the recommended fish stocking plan (which does not include trout,) were sent to the BVSA Board this month for approval. The only update was that bass had been planted in 4-Island.
3. Fred has been reorganizing the Google Drive, to make it more user friendly, and control unintended modifications. All photos have now been moved into one folder, for ease of management. There will be a 'public folder' where all committee members can continue to upload documents. Administrative access with editing capability, however, will be limited to three members: Janet, Fred, and Linda. They will be responsible for navigating the uploads into the correct folders. Janet asked everyone (as they view the documents) to keep a list of any that are difficult to locate, to determine if they needed to be moved, cross-referenced, etc.
4. Posts on Facebook and NextDoor seem to have been effective in getting the word out, discouraging the use of "Roundup," particularly for those homeowners who have lakeshore property. The April Bear Tracks article will discuss the use of fertilizers, as well as Roundup, etc...around the valley.
5. Fred purchased and transported 125 lilies (back from Florida) to BVS in his vehicle (along with the appropriate documentation) thereby saving us a considerable amount of \$. Rick pruned them, and they are back in hibernation

mode, being stored in the garage, until they are planted – at the end of March. The plan is to place the new plants in the middle of the 7th hole pond (see attached map.)

The plants which are already in aquatic baskets in the 7th Hole Pond (45) will be removed on April 21st, when the golf course is closed for maintenance. At that time, they will be divided, replanted in trays, and placed back in the same location (near the bridge.) The lilies (37) which were planted directly into the soil cannot be easily removed without damaging the tubers. Therefore, any additional lily plantings will need to go in a tray, for ease of removal, dividing, etc.

Additional costs include a 10% “finder’s fee” to Rick (Mountain Gardens Nursery,) planting containers, fertilizer, and sand.

6. Janet reported that the lakes are still testing at zero phosphate levels; however, the ditches aren’t as healthy. Fred reported that he has not been able to get samples from the majority of *natural* drainage ditches, as there is no water flowing through them. One natural drainage that tested high in phosphate was on Lower Fawn Way #4, just above a road drainage that filters in; this was most likely due to stagnant pools. The Rolling Oak and Jamaica Dunes drainages are already forming algae mats, despite the cold weather. Janet reminded that, although we want to be proactive, we don’t want to spend money on any remediation steps until we’re sure of the exact cause, thereby trying to prevent the cause rather than putting band aids on recurring issues, such as residents using round up and fertilizer near the lake.

Fred said that there is a large difference in DO and pH levels between the three lakes. He reminded the committee that there were significant increases in those two measurements last year, when 4-Island began displaying high algae blooms.

The transfer station site still has runoff; however, due to the lack of rain, it is not yet draining into Jack’s Hole, and hasn’t been sampled. There is still no filtration system from the transfer site. Cub Lake has been extremely green lately, which could be due to the (warmer) well water, which is coming into it. Fred suggested a concern about algae growth. Ben advised that it was unusual for this time of year, but not completely unheard of, to have cyanobacteria blooms; however, he did say that it was unusual to see algae mats now – especially with our snow and low temperatures. He thinks that it could just be due to green algae, and suggested that the algae be examined under a microscope. Right now, our options are somewhat limited. Since fresh water is already being introduced into Cub Lake, the next step would be to treat it with algaecides or nutrient-binding products. Fred also identified a difference in the DO in the water column (depth). Ben suggested this is important information to understand the potential issues developing. Ben also said that the samples taken on the surface could be significantly different than the ones taken in deep water, particularly if there are a lot of nutrients at the bottom in an oxygen deficient environment. Fred agreed that he would begin taking samples from the lake bottom also.

Butch asked if cleaning the drains, especially V-drains which lead into the lakes, would help, and Ben said that it would. He cautioned against using chemicals however, such as chlorine. Ben said that the best method, if there are several inches of mud, would be to scoop it out with a shovel, then dispose of it. This also prevents silting in the lake itself. If there's less than an inch of mud, it would probably be safe to wash away. He said that putting plants in the ditches would help, as long as they didn't clog the water flow, which was their primary purpose of the ditches; regular maintenance would be required.

Fred expressed concern about the stream of nutrients being fed into the concrete V-ditches through the shallow runoff, which would require a never-ending cleaning process. He believes that part of the reason we're seeing an increase in algae blooms is due to the sun heating up the concrete which, in turn, heats up the water – allowing the algae to bloom.

Rick asked about an earlier suggestion of using barley straw bales in the V-ditches, to help remove nutrients. But there is a potential problem that they could dam up the water. Butch asked if the reeds could be transplanted to needed areas, to help remove nutrients from the water. Fred said that there are floating tules in the lake which could easily be moved. There are issues about the Jamaica Dunes drainage ditch at the lake. Fred and Butch will discuss these offline and get back to the committee. Butch suggested that the BVSA Board will discuss actions if homeowners continue to use harmful products for the lake, such as fertilizers and roundup, in close proximity to the lake and drainage ditches.

Janet reminded committee that research has shown concrete V-ditches are not helpful, and most (outside of BVS) are being removed in areas where there is a lake quality issue. In spite of our communication, the CSD has recently installed another one.

F. Follow-Up Items

1. Fred is exploring the possibility of building our own Artificial Floating Islands (relatively cheap,) using draining pipes filled with empty water bottles. He will work with Ben on possible prototypes. Janet will spearhead the effort to involve local youth in the project.
2. Ben (SOLitude Rep) will visit BVS again on the weekend of April 23rd.
3. Janet will work on a “trending chart” to keep BVS residents informed about the current lake quality status.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22 p.m.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 14th at 1:00 p.m., via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Linda Flores

Minutes approved by: Janet Fulks

