

Lake Quality Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

January 13, 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, Alisha Loken, and Scott Ostrem

Staff - Debbie Papac, Recreation Manager

SOLitude Representative – Ben Chen

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

C. Approval of Minutes – A motion to approve the minutes of the December meeting was made by Rick, seconded by Kimberly, and approved by the committee.

D. New Items

1. Alisha Loken is now an official new member on the committee. Another new member was not present, Janet will reach out to be sure messages are getting through.

2. Fred has spent **many** hours converting the Draft 5-Year plan from a Word document into an Excel spreadsheet. Janet briefed the committee on some of the features, including the more user-friendly aspects. The Draft Plan ‘categories’ were discussed as follows:

Watershed – BVS has had a couple of snow events; however, due to the dry soil, the water was running down the street (vs. into the ditches.) We may need to rethink our previous course of action as far as drainages/measuring the water flow. [Note After the meeting the following reports were received relevant to this issue: From 12-14-20 to 1-1-21 we received total 1 ¾’ precipitation \(forms of rain, snow, hail\) at west end of valley ¾ mi from 4 Island.](#)

Water Quality – Janet has worked to condense the information; make it briefer. It is linked to all of the outcomes.

John questioned why there was no plan to treat the lake this year, prior to a fish die-off. Fred advised that, currently, the phosphate levels in the lake are down, but we don’t know what’s driving it; therefore, treating it is pointless. This year’s goal is to mitigate the cyanobacteria, and we need to stay ahead of that. Janet reminded that our strategy is to first try and accomplish our goals *naturally* and *sustainably* (before using chemical treatment.) And that our decisions will be based on data,

not just on what happened in prior years. We have done 3 things that should positively influence lake conditions: 1) removed thousands of pounds of bullhead, 2) tried to minimize recycled water nutrient effects, 3) began using well-water to increase lake volume. Also, the problems in the Jamaica Dunes ditch were the result of CSD leaking pipes which resulted in cyanobacteria blooms in a ditch which is currently dry.

Fish Stocking – Fred advised that we were able to get 4-6” Florida Strain large-mouth bass, at \$5/each (cheaper than normal rate) from Willow Creek. Therefore, one-year’s worth of bass (approximately 2200) was ordered, and is scheduled to be delivered on Friday, all into 4-Island Lake. Kern River Fly Fishers donated \$500 (in exchange for two fishing events here in BVS,) increasing our budget by almost 5%. This was coordinated through the Sportsman Club channels with votes to accept funding. Catfish derbies will be held next year. Hopefully, we will be able to hold warm water and bass derbies the following year.

To rebuild the fish population, the fishing policy is still “catch and release,” with the exception of catfish. The (potential) plan is to use electrofishing next year, to get an idea of the fish population. Based on that, a decision will be made on which fish need to be harvested, etc. The goal is to eventually get away from long-term stocking. It is hoped that a Town Hall meeting can be held within the next few months, to educate the residents on what LQAC has been doing, and future plans. Debbie Papac reported that a new ranger was hired, totaling 2 full-time, and they will continue to enforce and educate about fishing rules.

Plants – Ben advised that, although aquatic plants provide habitat and help clear up the water, there are some challenges with introducing them artificially, especially with the poor water clarity of our lakes. If the conditions aren’t just right, the plants won’t establish. Ben also said that if the plants are allowed to come in naturally, we may not necessarily get the kind that we want. The best-case scenario is to *create an environment that is suitable for plants to establish*, then do some ‘selective planting’ to get the plants that we want and give them an advantage over the unwanted plants. He clarified that conditions don’t have to be ‘perfect’; just good.

Fred added that many trees (trunks, limbs, etc.) had been left in the water and along the shoreline; to provide a ‘substitute’ habitat, until we’re able to get some aquatic vegetation in the lakes. (Once that occurs, some of those pieces can be removed.) Janet said that our best bet was to get the water quality back, and then allow the plants to come in naturally, underneath the surface.

Rick advised that the above would need to be written into the 5-year plan, as the current one is focused on water lilies and drainage improvement. He and Fred have discussed the strategy for moving forward, with the emphasis on small, incremental changes. This year’s focus is on the 7th hole pond, adding more lilies, reconditioning the ones that are in there now, and extending the lilies to the drainage

area which leads into the 7th hole pond. He also advised that next year's plan involved building up the area/ditch behind John's house, as well as working with Ben to formulate a plan for populating the lake with aquatic plants.

John questioned the plan for the area behind his house, as it's a flood control ditch, and why there was such a rush to action and was concerned about liability issues, concerning his property. Although previously John had been in favor of actions in the ditch. Fred explained that part of his role was to coordinate with the CSD, BVSA, and LQAC on the drainage improvement. But that the first step was collecting data to determine and prioritize courses of action. Janet assured that there was no rush to action, that we would continue as we had been doing: collecting data, pilot testing things, and making decisions based on committee input. The committee decided that Fred would remove specification of the Jamaica Dunes drainage project from the draft 5-Year Plan, pending further investigation and restructure the applicable plant section, as well.

Rick reported that the water lilies have really taken root, but that he recently had to move some of them, due to the lower water level. He would like some members of the committee to help with reconditioning the (45) plants that are in there now (dividing them, etc.) Brandon said that April 21st would be a good day to do that, as the golf course will be closed for maintenance. The plan is to also purchase *additional* water lilies (approximately 60) to be added a month or so later.

Questions were raised as to the continued focus of using water lilies to reduce nutrients. Ben said that he wasn't *against* using them. But that the question should be "how many nutrients is a particular plant removing?", as the whole idea is to reduce our nutrient load. He suggested testing the water before/after the treatment area, to see if there is a noticeable/statistical difference. Janet reminded the committee that Jessie (from the USDA) had recommended using the water lilies. And that, right now, they're the most beneficial thing that we've done. In addition to riparian benefits, the lilies also provide an aesthetic appeal, as well as an animal habitat. Ben advised that, as far as riparian border plant choices, he would prioritize the **fastest growing plants**, as those are the ones that metabolize the highest number of nutrients. He said the *rule of thumb* is that whatever produces the most biomass is probably the one that absorbs the most nutrients.

Recreation – Kimberly has added notes to clarify the role of the RAC, Debbie's role, and the 4th of July activities. She feels that we're going in the right direction and would like to see the lakeshore homeowners have a better understanding of what their property/boundaries are, as well as their responsibilities. She reminded us that 4-Island Lake is only 1/12th of the RAC; that they have other priorities, in addition to our suggestions. She feels that the best location for an LQAC booth (4th of July) would be at Cub Lake and agrees that a fish fry would be a good idea, but that Food Services should be incorporated in the plan.

Janet reminded that, as a lake quality committee, we forwarded the shoreline responsibility to the RAC, the GM, and to the Board, so they could make the ultimate decisions about it. Our primary concern is the lake quality but Kimberly will follow up as RAC chair with GM for updates.

3. 2021 meeting dates were not reviewed, due to time constraints.
4. Draft Fish Stocking Plan - Fred has worked with Ben, to come up with three different fish stocking options for the next five years, which he has emailed to the committee for feedback by January 27 to come up with the best plan to recommend to the BVSA Board which will direct LQAC on how to proceed. The three options are basically: Warm Water Fishery with Bass, Warm Water Fishery with Bass and Trout (in Cub Lake only,) or doing nothing...status quo. The options, along with estimated costs, are available to view on the Google Drive.
5. Current Lake Conditions – Fred advised that we have not had any appreciable rainfall, and that both 4-Island and Cub Lake are several inches below their normal level. The non-potable wells had gotten shut off, but Brandon has been running them for the past three weeks. There is a possibility that Jack’s Hole will be pumped sooner than normal (April?) if we don’t get more rain, to raise the lake water levels. Wes is on board with the plan. Janet will coordinate with Fred, so that the committee can do some phosphate testing while he is gone.

There was discussion about Ben’s first quarterly (in-person) visit (possibly late April, early May.) He will check his calendar and advise us of available dates.

F. Follow-Up Items

1. Fred will submit an article for the (March) Bear Tracks on bass stocking and fish population. Janet will submit an article for the April Tailwaggers newsletter.
2. Fred will draft a blurb about the fish stocking and catch and release policy, which Alisha will proof, that can be put on Facebook and NextDoor.
3. Committee members should review the three fish stocking plan options and provide input to Fred.
4. Janet would also like members to come prepared to discuss positive and/or negative feedback about electrofishing at our next meeting.
5. Ben will research riparian plants, and also reach out to SOLitude aquatic botanists, for input/recommendations.
6. Janet will email the committee a copy of the draft 5-Year Plan today. Members are encouraged to review it thoroughly, make sure that the links are working correctly, and submit any comments - *before* we submit it to the BVSA Board. Instead of changing the document, suggestions should be emailed to Janet and Fred, indicating the appropriate sheet and cell number by January 27.

7. Fred will pursue the question of the area behind John's house: easements, common access, liability issues, etc. and report back at the next meeting. This process will take time to complete. *clarification below
 8. Fred will work with Ben on the monitoring/testing calendar (redoing test sampling points, etc) and share the information with the committee next month.
- Clarification on point 7 - Fred will begin looking at the Jamaica Dunes drainage along the Four Island parking lot starting with potential liability issues that could arise on the homeowners side of any drainage improvement project within that area. Fred will also begin reaching out to the association & CSD regarding the common area, and easements around/within this specific area. One thing to remember is this process will take months not weeks to complete."

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

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

Minutes submitted by: Linda Flores Minutes approved by: Janet Fulks 1/29/21