

# **Lake Quality Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

October 11, 2021

Green Room, Whiting Center and also via Zoom

The meeting to order at 6:02PM.

## **A. Attendance**

Committee Members – Kimberly Clow, Linda Flores, Rick Flores, Janet Fulks, Fred Hicks, Alisha Loken, and Vicky Rausch.

Staff - Debbie Papac, Recreation Manager and Butch Reyburn, BVSA Board Member

**B. Approval of Agenda** – Kimberly made a motion to approve the agenda; it was seconded by Vicky and approved by the committee.

**C. Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the September meeting had previously been approved via email and sent to Anita (BVSA.)

## **D. New Items**

1. Artificial Floating Islands (AFI) – Fred summarized the project history, including size, number, and materials. Currently, there have been three islands built, with about 80 water lilies. A portion of about 100 lilies left in the 7<sup>th</sup> Hole Pond, will be transferred to two new AFIs, which Fred and Rick are preparing. Today, they transferred all the remaining lilies in the pond, with the exception of about a dozen remaining bins. Approximately 550 lilies will be harvested this year.

Lilies have been relocated into Cub Lake for the winter and will be moved back in the spring, depending on the water level, etc. Almost all AFI plants seem to be doing ok; however, but plans are to use bare root plants from now on. The first three AFIs were relocated into the non-swimming area of 4-Island Lake. Approximately 240 lilies were planted in Cub Lake today, every three feet beginning at the first tree on the left (north tree) all the way down past the curve of the shoreline to the south. 80 tubers were also planted in the sand bar. Kimberly asked about the possibility of using cheap clay pots for shore planting, but the problem is the receding water level, which is the reason that we're using the AFIs.

2. SOLitude – since SOLitude has not provided adequate timely services and answers to our questions, etc...the decision was made to terminate our consulting contract with them, effective this month, instead to use SOLitude on an as-needed basis. Janet shared that SOLitude's service to this point was very helpful (e.g., phoslock and other additional testing and identification of lack of aquatic plants) but we are not benefitting from contractual consulting services now.

3. Water Quality Results – Water quality is good, Phoslock has done its job. We have increasing nitrate levels and we are looking at nitrate sources and mitigation possibilities.

4. Experimental Alum treatment for Flocculation in 4-Island - Fred reported that a marine biochemist came out to do an aeration bid for BVS and Stallion Springs. While here, they

agreed to do a sample Alum treatment (55-gallon drum, spread in front of the beach at 4-Island.) It did clarify the water, reducing pH levels from 8.9 down to 6.5. However, after about six hours, levels returned to the low 8's. Fred feels that there is some viability to the treatment; however, he feels that we should deal with the sediment issue first, before trying to clean the water with a flocculent (something that aggregates/binds chemicals and settles to the bottom.)

5. Experimental Cattail treatment – Fred still hasn't gotten access to the permit which expires soon and needs to be renewed. An experimental application of a chemical was used in a limited area as a test. At Cub Lake, a couple of holes were created by digging out dead cattails, to allow access to fishing. The plan is to cut out cattails as they die off, they will be cut out, allowing better shoreline access and animal habitat. The process cost will approximately \$1400, and the permit will be up in February. A new one will be approximately \$4K and will cover the next five years.

Kimberly advised that some lakeshore residents have questioned the use of Roundup for the cattails, as we are advising them NOT to use it. Fred responded that the major difference is that we are using state-licensed applicators vs. private residents (who might *overapply* the product). Kimberly voiced concern about adding chemicals to the lake and about removing cattails that do help water quality. Vicky suggested looking into controlled burns, a process she has experience with, as an alternative to eradicating some of the cattails. Debbie reported that the KCFD has been doing a lot of training in BVS, and often uses controlled burns as part of that training.

6. BVSA-CSD Liaison Committee Meeting – No action since last meeting.

7. Jack's Hole – An experimental hole was dug and dirt moved to create a peninsula that extends into the lake. Only topsoil is being moved; however, it will make the pond deeper and increase the plant habitat. Water is coming in through the hole.

8. Probe Maintenance Report – Fred reported that an annual maintenance contract has been taken out (\$700/year) on the probe, so we will be sending it in every three months to get tuned and checked out. Currently in the process of working out a deal with Stallion Springs (SS) in which they will transport our lab test results (normally \$300/trip,) to help offset some of the maintenance and testing costs in exchange for Fred measuring water quality with probe.

9. Cooperation and Collaboration with SS – Fred said that they are getting an incredible amount of cooperation from Stallion Springs, as well as from the Tehachapi Park District (and most of the other neighboring districts). He is currently in the process of coordinating a deal, where the \$2K cost (of fish delivery) can be *shared*, vs. each district paying for separate deliveries. This could potentially be a cost savings on water purchases, water treatment applications and other shared services.

10. Christmas Tree Project / Fish Habitat – There was a long discussion about using donated Christmas trees (vs. premade or artificial options) to create fish habitats in both 4-Island and Cub Lakes. Fred believes that the former method is preferable, as it would be a lot cheaper

than the latter. The idea is to receive and place the trees into the lake in January, so they're in the water for the spawning cycle, and will begin generating food soon after.

Kimberly felt that the other options should be explored, as she thinks that the added vegetation will degrade the water quality even more, adding unwanted nutrients, etc. She also feels that, due to the low water level, the trees would be a hindrance to those who use the lake for recreation. However, Kim felt that if the trees were placed in strategic locations, and clearly marked (for avoidance,) that it might be acceptable.

Alisha spoke in support of the trees to facilitate the other type of recreation (aside from swimming/paddle boarding and kayaking) that occurs in the lake-fishing.

Although there is no data regarding the effect of pine trees being submerged as fish habitats and nutrient increase or silting, Fred said that almost every state's Fish & Wildlife agency uses Christmas trees for that purpose. And that although we do have *some* muck on the lake bottom, we are not accumulating it at the rate that we're supposed to each year; based on normal organic matter breakdown he surmised that the pine trees would add very little to that. Debbie reported that approximately 120 Christmas trees had been placed in 4-Island Lake about 20 years ago, as a one-time project.

Butch shared that he represented residents and whichever option was cheapest and benefitted the greatest number of residents was the one that we should go with. It was also agreed that the trees will be submerged at full pool and placed in areas of lowest impact, as far as recreational use. Butch suggested that tree donations be accepted at Jack's Hole, due to its proximity to the transfer station. Fred made a motion to proceed with the fish habitat project, seconded by Alisha and it was approved by the committee.

Fred will submit an article for the December Bear Tracks that edits the previous one shared via email, explaining the program in more explicit detail, asking for tree donations (after the holidays,) and advising that location maps will be provided, once we know how many trees we have.

11. LQAC Membership Form/List – Janet queried members as to whether or not they are interested in remaining on the committee. The list is due in December.

### **E. Follow-Up Items**

1. Fred is hosting a BBQ for LQAC members and their families at his home, on October 23<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00PM.
2. The Cummings Valley Water District will host their annual bus tour on October 21<sup>st</sup> Butch and Fred will participate and report next meeting.
3. Upcoming meeting dates: November 8<sup>th</sup>, and December 13<sup>th</sup>; in the Green Room at the Whiting Center, as well as on Zoom.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:00PM, in the Whiting Center Green Room and also via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Linda Flores

Minutes approved by: Janet Fulks