

# **Lake Quality Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**

February 7, 2022

Whiting Center Green Room and also via Zoom

Janet called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

## **A. Attendance**

Committee Members – Kimberly Clow, Linda Flores, Rick Flores, Janet Fulks (Chair,) Fred Hicks, and Scott Ostrem.

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 Fred, and approved by the committee.

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

## **D. New Items**

1. **LQAC 5-Year Plan status** – due to illness and travel plans of various members, this item has been pushed to the March meeting. Kimberly raised a concern that there might be a conflict with our 5-year plan and a proposal coming from the Wildlife Coalition group in BVS, which is against any development in the area that includes Jack's Hole. Fred reminded us that the 140-acre parcel is Common Area, leased by the BVSA (from the CSD.) Butch added that it was an *amenity* which was set aside for recreation, and that the group could not do anything without board approval.

2. **Water Quality** – Fred tested the lakes in January. He reported that the readings were all good; no problematic test values. Best values were the visibility ratings. 4-Island measured 42", Jack's Hole – 24", and Cub Lake – 18". Dissolved oxygen level was high. There was zero indication of ortho phosphate in any of the three water bodies.

Butch reported that the aerator (SolarBee) in Cub Lake has been broken for some time, and that a new one is in the process of being ordered. (This was discussed in more depth under Item #5.) Janet said that there is a slight amount of green algae in the ditch near Cub Lake, but it is not cyanobacteria.

Fred also reported that he has met with Wes, Brandon, and Mark – and that the plan is to start pumping water from Jack's Hole into Cub Lake, assuming that Jack's Hole fills up.

3. **Fish Habitat Project** – Fred reported that on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, approximately 15 volunteers from LQAC, the BVS community, and the Kern River Fly Fishing group (from BFL) gathered to work on the project. There were approximately 137 Christmas

trees (which had been donated by residents) which were attached to 125 cement blocks, and placed in 27 locations in 4-Island and Cub Lake. These 'fish habitats' each measure about 5'x5', would cost approximately \$1100 each if purchased, and should last from three to five years. Our cost was less than \$500. The locations may need to be adjusted, and will be mapped later on (with an associated article in the Bear Tracks.)

Fred also reported that someone had reached out to him regarding five to seven dead crappies that they noticed in Cub Lake. He asked them to drop a sample off at his house, so he could analyze it, but they didn't. Fred does not believe that the small number of dead fish are a concern; says that it's to be expected due to lack of food, stress, the winter, etc.

Butch reported that he had sent thank you notes from the BVSA board to the volunteers who generously donated their time, boats, etc...to the Fish Habitat Project.

**4. Recreation & Collaboration with Partners Goals** – Although they are more of a RAC item, Kimberly reported that neither she nor Heidi will be here for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities. Debbie advised that a lot of volunteers are dropping out, so they will just be *winging it* this year. She also proposed waiting until the fish situation in the lakes improved, before sponsoring a fish fry. Fred reported that he had been in contact with Cope's Rod & Tackle in Bakersfield. They are Hobie kayak dealers, and are potentially interested in demo'ing kayaks here at 4-Island, for residents. It's also possible that they might be interested in sponsoring the boat parade. There was some discussion about moving the LQAC booth to 4-Island, but the consensus was that it would serve us better to keep it at Cub Lake (more foot traffic, easier access, etc.) A final decision does not have to be made right away.

**5. Aeration Quotes for Cub Lake** – Fred secured quotes from three companies for a new aerator for Cub Lake, to present to the BVSA board (see attachments for specific details from Kasco, Marine Biotech, and SOLitude.) He had advised them that he wanted three bids: (1) for a new (small) Cub Lake unit, (2) for a larger compressor unit, and (3) for moving the compressor that's currently in 4-Island to Cub Lake – then installing the new, larger compressor in 4-Island (adding 4 additional aeration heads.) Fred feels that the latter option would be the preferred one, as it gives us more flexibility; would allow us to shut off the aeration as needed, making the system more energy efficient. The cheaper systems would not allow for this.

A new, larger compressor would cycle the water in 4-Island approximately one and a half times a day. In Cub, using the compressor from 4-Island, we would cycle it seven times a day. This is based on running the compressors 24/7; however, Fred doesn't think that would be necessary. The cheaper units would require approximately \$2K/year in maintenance fees; the more expensive ones, about \$200/year. The small units only last about 3-4 years; the larger ones – about 10+.

Butch questioned how moving (pumping) water into both 4-Island and Cub Lakes, as well as evaporation, would affect the aeration. He wanted to know if there were any alternative options to the ones that Fred had presented.

There is currently \$66,000 (Fred to verify with Jim Panek) within the reserve fund for Cub lake aeration. There was discussion about whether or not money in the General Funds budget could be used for the upgrade project, since it would involve equipment (and associated reserve amounts) being moved from one lake to another, as well as added equipment (aeration heads) at 4-Island. Butch advised that budgeting for all departments would be coming up in March and suggested that would be a good time to request/justify the new equipment. Rather than the committee voting on an option, Butch suggested that Fred personally speak to Wesley and Brandon.

Scott suggested that, instead of investing a lot of money into aerating the lakes, we focus on a system that would continuously flow the water between the lakes. Fred advised that there isn't enough water to keep the lakes full, or to build an effective cycling system. There was additional discussion about other alternatives to move the water.

Fred reported that the water level in 4-Island fluctuates (from high to low water) up to six foot a season; Cub Lake is more stable. He feels that the shoreline needs to be stabilized, before we think about planting on the slopes, as discussed at an earlier meeting.

**6. Update on contract with Mountain View Consulting** – Butch reported that the BVSA board was unanimous in that they do not want to lose Fred. A 3-year contract was agreed upon, as well an optional \$10K bonus, based on performance.

**7. Request for Speaker** – Although Jane was absent from the meeting, she had asked Janet if an LQAC representative could speak at the BVS Women's Club at their June 14<sup>th</sup> meeting (5:00PM) about the status of the lakes. Fred and Scott volunteered to attend.

**8. Membership & upcoming meeting times** – LQAC meetings will be held at 6:00PM on the first Monday of the month in the Green Room at the Whiting Center, as well as via Zoom. The Zoom link will be the same for all meetings. The group will not meet in July or September, due to holiday conflicts as well as other LQAC activities.

**9. Volunteer Release of Liability Forms** – Janet collected forms from some members and asked the others to submit them. She also asked us to consider serving as the committee chair next year. She has other obligations coming up towards the end of the year and will probably not have time to continue in her current position.

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

1. Our next LQAC article (that Janet wrote) should appear in the March Bear Tracks; Fred is also working on one about crappie for the April edition.
2. Fred is coordinating a possible speaker to come and talk to residents regarding mosquito abatement.
3. The golf course will be closed on April 13<sup>th</sup>, and Fred is planning to use that date to transplant lilies from Cub Lake to the 7<sup>th</sup> Hole Pond. Fred and Rick will meet to come up with a plan regarding volunteers, LQAC members help. Debbie and Butch will contact youth from local Boy Scout groups, as well as 4-H clubs, to see about securing their help with the lily project.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Our next meeting will be held at 6:00PM on March 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Whiting Center and also via Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89893914793?pwd=TIlzSFpRTHdUTWVzMlh5dUk4cGFodz09>

Meeting ID: 898 9391 4793    Passcode: 292198

Minutes submitted by: Linda Flores

Minutes approved by: Janet Fulks