

# ***Lake Quality Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes***

December 13, 2021

Whiting Center Green Room and also via Zoom

Janet called the meeting to order at 6:05PM.

## **A. Attendance**

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

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

Guest/Potential Committee Member – Jane Hanley

**B. Approval of Agenda** – Fred pointed out that ‘Fish’ was omitted from the 5-Year Plan reviews, so it was added. Scott made a motion to approve the updated agenda; it was seconded by Kimberly and approved by the committee.

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

## **D. New Items**

1. Brief update on new information – Debbie reported that the Sonde is back from maintenance. Fred advised that there is a slight uptick in total phosphorous levels in the lakes, although still within acceptable levels. He believes that it is probably due to the algae dying off and releasing phosphorous, before it reaches the sediment where it can be bound. None of the effluent being used was released adjacent to the lakes.

Janet reminded us that the 5 Year Plan is a “living document,” which is continually updated as plans/information change. Fred proposed that we change our plan’s timeline from July-June to January-December. This would allow us to close out line items in December, without having to split columns, and make the updating a lot easier. Kimberly motioned that we accept the proposal, Rick seconded, and it was approved. Fred will adjust the dates with the updated document.

2. 5 Year Plan / **Watershed** – Fred feels that the core plan is good, and that the biggest focus should be on clearing up the workplan for Jack’s Hole, as well as setting up standard operating procedures for how we want to rate the various drainages: figuring out a classification system, prioritizing the drainages, and getting the various groups to work together.

John expressed a concern about potential nutrient contamination from manure at 4-Island. We will hold off on any articles about the topic until the spring or summer.

Janet suggested that runoff between the transfer station and Jack’s Hole be monitored closely, and Fred advised that it is being monitored and analyzed. Butch suggested redirecting that water flow down the side road so that excess nutrients wouldn’t flow directly into Jack’s Hole. Fred will look into mitigating runoff from the dump area. Since Jack’s is considered a BVSA ‘recreation area’ now, he suggested that

we could enlarge the current hole and add plants (to help control runoff,) as well as doing some type of catchment up stream.

John reminded the committee that we should cooperate and collaborate with the CSD, before embarking on any plans that involve the lake. Butch assured him that we have and would continue to. The next BVSA/CSD Liaison meeting is on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:00AM, at the CSD Office.

3. 5 Year Plan / **Water Quality** – Janet summarized our past partnership with SOLitude, and subsequent contract termination (at the end of September.) We will continue to use SOLitude as consultants when deemed necessary. She reported that 4-Island Lake is *one of the only lakes* in this area that didn't have cyanobacteria blooms this year, resulting in lake closures.

Fred reported that the biggest thing we learned this past year is the amount of water that we use in a dry year, and how that reduction (due to evaporative loss) increases the nutrient load. He feels that we need to look at the wells and figure out how to improve that water quality *before* it gets to the lakes, as that seems to be one of the biggest problems. Fred would like to send water from Cub Lake to the East towards Surprise lake to have plants in the drainage ditches “clean/filter” the water.

Janet reported that the nitrogen content in this geographical area is a problem. Frasier Park has had to shut down their only well (due to high nitrogen readings,) and resort to using bottled water. Their levels are considerably higher than ours, however.

Butch and Fred reported on a potential project that is being looked at, to naturally filter water from the 7<sup>th</sup> Hole Pond via existing infrastructure. Modifications would have to be made to the end sprinkler head; but the only added cost would be electricity. The involved drainage ditch belongs to the CSD, who have not been consulted about the idea yet. However, they would not do the work; it would be funded by the BVSA.

Butch also advised that we are still trying to get the water permit settled with the state; the current permit expired nearly two years ago. Efforts to negotiate with the CSD have been unsuccessful, as they want a new permit which gives CSD total control over the permit. The BVSA objects, as it differs from current procedure, in CSD and BVSA must collaborate.

4. 5 Year Plan / **Fish** – Fred said that the majority of fish we currently have are self-sustaining; however, we may need to supplement the Bluegills. In the past, trout were stocked during the cold months; however, once the weather turned warm, they all died. Therefore, they will no longer be stocked for the time being; we will reassess the decision in two years. He recommends that we avoid electrofishing at this point, and instead use our current resources more wisely – such as shoreline stabilization. In the spring, we need to revisit fish harvesting goals. Fred also reported on a DIY fish habitat project, which uses 5-gallon buckets and could work in deeper water, that he plans to pursue.

5. 5 Year Plan / **Plants** – Rick summarized the committee's course of action over the past two years and explained how we arrived at the decision to focus our efforts on water lilies. (They are hardy plants which multiply fast, and also help to filter out unwanted nutrients.) It has become a time-consuming effort to maintain them, however, so we have begun to shift the process to one that doesn't require as much maintenance: Artificial Floating Islands (AFIs.) Rick also feels that we should begin planting some lilies

around the lake slope perimeters, and that the 5-Year objectives need to be somewhat altered. Use the AFI's in the drainage runoff areas as water comes into lakes to filter unwanted nutrients.

Fred reported that the water level in 4-Island fluctuates (from high to low water) between four and six feet a season; Cub Lake is more stable. He feels that the shoreline needs to be stabilized before we think about planting on the slopes.

6. 5-Year Plan / **Recreation and Collaboration with Partners Goals** – Kimberly reported that we have met most of our R&C goals; however, several volunteers have signed up to help, but that we need specific projects and/or dates when contacting them.

When the date is set up Kimberly will contact volunteers for help doing the Christmas Tree Fish Habitats.

Debbie said that the Bear Tracks articles, as well as the LQAC booths at the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and Halloween events, have been a great help in educating the residents. She hopes that we will eventually be able to sponsor a fish fry for the community, once the lakes are producing healthy fish. The Fishing Derbies have been successful and fun for the families.

As the result of a 4<sup>th</sup> of July booth recommendation, Fred would like us to offer some type of fish and education course including "How to Fish" through the Whiting Center, before summer.

7. 5-Year Plan / **Google Drive** – Fred reported that the system is working fine. There was agreement among the committee members. The only people with editing capacity are Janet, Fred and Linda.

8. Membership & upcoming meeting times – Janet will email some possible meeting dates/times for LQAC members to vote on.

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

1. Jane will coordinate an LQAC presentation to the Garden Club, explaining our goals, how we might use volunteers, etc.
2. Bring ideas to our next meeting about: an 'open lake' event, possibly Memorial Day weekend, ideas on a fish and education course, as well as another resident survey – since BVS demographics have already changed since our last one.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

We will not meet in January. Our next meeting will be held in February, date and location TBD.

Minutes submitted by: Linda Flores    Minutes approved by: Janet Fulks