

Lake Quality Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

May 2nd, 2022

Whiting Center Green Room and also via Zoom

Fred called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

A. Attendance

Committee Members – Kimberly Clow, Linda Flores, Rick Flores, Jane Custer, Fred Hicks, and Alisha Loken

Staff – Debbie Papac, Recreation Manager

Guests – Jeff Gadzia, Jerry Pittenger, Nick Beske

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

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

D. New Items

1. **LQAC Committee Size & Meeting Structure** – Fred suggested that we limit the size of the LQAC to a *maximum of nine voting members*. Kimberly made a motion to recommend (to the BVSA Board) that our guideline numbers be adjusted to indicate that, Alisha seconded, and it was approved. We will continue to meet on the first Monday of the month, at the Whiting Center and via Zoom, except for July and September (when we will be involved with special events those months.)
2. **Water quality and lanthanum sample disposal** – Fred reported that we still have lanthanum samples which were collected after last year's Phoslock treatment. They have a shelf life of six months (which has passed) and they have not been requested, so he would like to dispose of them. Jane made a motion to do so, Kimberly seconded, and it was approved.

Fred reported that water quality sampling was done this past weekend. 4-Island Lake has lost a lot of *visibility* over the past few weeks. It is at approximately 12-15", down from 36-40". Cub Lake's visibility has improved, and Jack's Hole is still exceptionally clear. The orthophosphate levels have recently gone up at Cub Lake, which could cause potential algae blooms. The water temperature in all three lakes was above 60 degrees. Nitrates are still below the threshold level. The Sonde will be sent in for quarterly servicing; should be back in approximately three weeks.

Fred said that he's not sure why the orthophosphate levels have gone up; that it could be caused by a variety of things: spraying, runoff, and drainage, etc. An article was published in the May Bear Tracks (by LQAC) addressing alternative (homemade) weed killers, that do not use phosphates. The Surprise Lake drainage

will be addressed at the next Liaison committee meeting, to determine if there are any drainage obstruction issues.

Jerry P. expressed an interest in the amount of uranium that is in the lake sediment. Fred advised him that he would email him personally, and get together with him to discuss the issue when he's back in town.

Fred is working with Jennifer W. to update the LQAC data on the BVSA website. He is also working on a document of charts that will track the water quality results for a year, that can be given out on a monthly basis. It will note acceptable and/or threshold limits, and he's hoping to use this to supplement the 'dashboard' that's on the website.

3. **Rolling Oak drainage update** – 4-Island Lake is approximately 9.3', and is just now getting below 'full pool.' Most of the drainage from the Rolling Oak is being diverted into Sycamore Canyon. It is still testing high in orthophosphates, so there's no point in sending it to the lake. The Eutrosorb product has not arrived yet (hopefully, within a couple of weeks.) Fred would like to begin treatment by June.
4. **Update on water recirculation (Fawn Way)** – The plan is to start recirculating water around June 1st. Brandon will begin adding rock to the drainage ditch near the discharge site within the next couple of weeks. This will help to prevent erosion where the water is discharged into the ditch after being sucked out of the lake. Sometime afterwards, they will start sampling data from the lake throughout the drainage system, to determine how much nitrogen absorption is occurring.
5. **Plants / Floating Island update / 2022** – Fred reported that he and Rick have been in contact with a company down in LA (Pro Ponds West in Sun Valley) that provides aquatic plants. The company is willing to deal with us on a wholesale level; however, they do not like doing *small* orders. The plan is to repair one and enhance two FIs this spring. Rick and he selected (and ordered) approximately 30 plants, which they felt would do well in the FIs. The plants should be in around May 9th, and the plan is to work on the FIs on May 14th.

Rick reported that the floating islands under discussion are the water lily FIs. The purpose of the new plants is to attach them along the perimeter of the two islands, in an attempt to hide the frames, and promote water purification with the added plants. The recovery plan, should the island enhancement not function as designed, will be to construct a standard island, and plant the newly purchased plants into it. There are currently five FIs in 4-Island, and two small FI in the 7th pond; one will be repaired and two will be enhanced within 4-Island.

6. **Habitat project update** – Fred installed the first 'spawning bed' in 4-Island Lake, in the 'No Swim Zone.' (The cost was less than \$200.) It's basically a 5x10' box with a plastic pond liner filled with pea gravel. The pond liner prevents the gravel

from settling into the sediment beneath the spawning bed. He will eventually install more in 4-Island, as well as in Cub Lake also.

7. **Fishing Derbies** – will be held on Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day weekends. The BVS Rangers will remove the fish which are placed in the barrels around the lakes. The primary purpose is to harvest the Bullhead **catfish**, which we are still trying to get rid of. Prizes will be similar to our past derbies, based on the submitted photos. The BT article and flyer will indicate that if participants submit a photo, that is *implied consent* to publish the photos. (Fred is waiting on final approval from Jennifer Whitney.) This will alleviate having to go back and forth, via email, with multiple people.

Fishery Status update- Fred reported that the bass which were planted in 4-Island Lake nearly 1 ½ years ago, spawned last summer/fall; the juveniles are now 3-4". Based on sample harvesting, they are doing what we wanted them to do. The crappies are 4-7". He suggested that we switch to an 'open crappie' harvest around June 1st, where we allow people to harvest any which are *below 8"* (at both lakes.) The larger ones (which grow the fastest) have the best 'genetics,' and are the ones that we want to continue populating.

Fred recommends that we continue with the 'no harvest' policy for blue gills and large-mouth bass, as he wants to keep the crappie population in check. The Golden shiners are doing well; they were going up the culvert from 4-Island, and spawning in the Jack's Hole drainage. The plan is to harvest the Shiners in the 7th hole pond (every year,) and transfer them back into 4-Island,

There will be no fish stocking until at least 2023, or until we have a *need* (i.e., when we see the effects on fish growth.) Instead, the fish will be moved around *within* BVS.

Jerry P. suggested that LQAC sponsor a fishing clinic.

8. **4th of July planning** – This year's BVS 4th of July activities will run from Friday through Monday, although we are only planning to staff our booth on Sat., Sun., and *maybe* Mon. Fred will create a sign-up schedule for volunteers, and we will discuss it at the June meeting; determine if we have enough people to staff the booth, which days/hours, and other specifics about the booth. It was also suggested that we enter Fred's LQAC boat in the 4th of July parade (on Monday,) for advertisement.

E. Follow-Up Items

1. Debbie will do an article for the June Bear Tracks about the new fishing policies.

2. Alisha will do an article for the July Bear Tracks, about LQAC's 4th of July activities and the water quality dashboard.
3. Fred will do an article for the August Bear Tracks.
4. September – will be a one-page flyer about the Labor Day fishing derby.
5. Rick will do an article for October – about the water lilies/floating islands.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:11 PM.

Our next meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on June 6th, at the Whiting Center and also via Zoom.

Minutes submitted by: Linda Flores

Minutes approved by: Fred Hicks