

Birch Bay Lakes Committee Meeting

Wednesday May 6, 2015

7pm
BBVCC Clubhouse

Committee Members:

Ken Hecker, Gary Levy, Rick Whitaker, Gene Carr, Larry Eide, Harry Yasako,
Welcome to new member: Ross Davisson

Present:

Ken Hecker, Gary Levy, Rick Whitaker, Gene Carr, Larry Eide, Ross Davidson
Ken Hoffer, Terry Sullivan, Ueli Nussbaum

Meeting Called to order: 7pm

Minutes from October 1, 2014 meeting were discussed and approved.

2015 Integrated Lakes Management Plan

All agreed: The basic plan we have been executing is working, no need to change anything.

Our goal is to limit the amount of Phosphorus as a "food-source" for the algae.

The carp have done an excellent job since they have been introduced.

The current mix of chemicals is generally working well, based on water levels and water temps during the summer season.

There was a late algae bloom at the end of 2014 (brown) T-Bird more than in Kwan.

Current water source is 40% outside the neighborhood and 60% from within BBV

Carp Update:

Since the introduction, the carp have met expectations. Permits are on file for the re-stocking of the Golf Course Ponds. By consensus, the committee prefers to wait to 2017 to add additional Carp to the ponds (about half way to the Lakes next allocation).

Discussed adding more blue gill, or stickleback, however, all agreed no need at this time.

Chemical Applications Update:

As of this meeting, none have been applied.

All Chemicals are in stock and ready for deployment

Lake/Pond Condition

The water level in Thunderbird is extremely low for this time of year. In addition, higher spring temperatures have caused algae levels to be very high.

No Chemical treatments year to date, so we agreed to do the first herbicide treatment (SONAR) in early May as always and to skip the second herbicide treatment (SONAR) scheduled for late May. In the place of the second herbicide treatment, and algaecide treatment was recommended to eradicate the algae before it becomes out of hand. (Should a second herbicide treatment be necessary later in the year, it would not be the SONAR treatment as SONAR is a slow release so it would be replaced by a contact herbicide).

The golf course ponds appear to be generally in good shape for this time of year. When the course maintenance staff is cutting around the ponds, we need to have the least amount of debris put into the water. In addition, when "dredging" the ponds, we would like to be advised to make sure they do not eliminate current fish that have been placed in the ponds.

Aeration Compressors:

Ueli has taken a comprehensive look at the units, and due to aging and normal wear and tear suggested we begin to replace the units as their "useful life" is coming to an end.

Originally installed in 2006, 10 units were rebuilt in 2009

There are 14 units that need replacing. (4 x 220's and 10 x 110's)

We all agreed to budget/replace them at a rate of 3-4 units per year

A test was performed on two compressors in Kwan Lake in the fall/winter of 2014. The idea was to determine if there would be significant cost savings (electrical) without compromising the water quality and functioning of the pumps. There was lengthy discussion during the summer meetings as to this project. The Lakes Committee agreed that we always attempt to save the HOA money where we can, we felt strongly that the water quality we are achieving has been done on a reasonably low cost basis. The board overturned that decision and the test was done in late 2014. When asked as to the cost savings, we were told it was not clear. Maybe \$20 a month, but that the results were inconclusive. The pumps were turned back on and showed no signs of damage.

Thunderbird Lake Depth (Emergency Pump Policy)

During a State test of Birch Bay, Fecal counts were determined to be too high near the mouth of the BBV Channel. State required extra testing and a survey of possible sources from BBVCC. Steve Freitas (Compliance) and Barb May (Security) both wrote reports of procedures and recent activity in and around BBVCC. A week after the original tests (there were a number of sites around Birch Bay tested with all being between zero (0) and 20 except near the BBV Marina Channel where it was 550 or so) a second test was done by Ingrid Enschede (BBWARM), Terry Sullivan (BBVCC Board & sampling representative for Whatcom County Marine Resources Committee), and Ken Hoffer. The test came out negative (no level of fecal chloroform). The emergency pump was left on during this time frame to replicate the conditions of the original sampling and as a result, caused excessively low water levels in Thunderbird Lake for this time frame. Stormwater from rainfall has not been significant enough to replace the water removed at this time.

Note: The committee recommends being extremely cautious of leaving the emergency pump (s) running at this time of year to prevent lower lake levels in the future.

Next Meeting: June 3, 2015